

**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**RECOMMENDATION**

**WINTER 2020 GAMEABOVE FACULTY FIRST PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND INNOVATION AWARDS**

**ACTION REQUESTED**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents accept and place on file the report on the Winter 2020 GameAbove Faculty First Professional Development and Innovation awards.

**STAFF SUMMARY**

The GameAbove Faculty First Professional Development and Innovation awards for Winter 2020 have been identified. Information on the award recipients and their winning projects is found on the following pages. We expect that as a result of the awards provided, we will be able to come back to you in future meetings to report on subsequent research activity by these faculty, whether it be in receiving internal or external grant awards, patents, or other recognition for their scholarship. In this manner we hope to portray a continuum of faculty research activity.

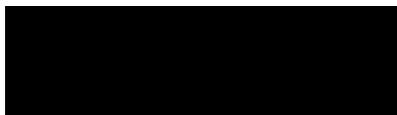
The purpose of the fund is to facilitate faculty professional development and innovation through a broad range of activities, including but not limited to, things such as (1) reassigned time from teaching for scholarly, creative, and innovative endeavor; (2) conference presentations; (3) travel; (4) hiring of research assistants; (5) purchase of special equipment or supplies for teaching, scholarly, research, creative, or innovative activities; (6) development of a grant proposal for external funding; and (7) similar or related academic activities.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None. The cost of awards is covered by an expendable fund associated with the GameAbove Faculty First Professional Development and Innovation funds.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.



June 1, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
**University Executive Officer**  
**Rhonda Longworth, Ph.D.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

# **E** GameAbove Faculty Professional Development and Innovation Fund

As a result of generous support from the GameAbove program, the Provost's Office is eager to announce that it is funding 10 faculty projects for Winter 2020. GameAbove is a diverse group of passionate Eastern Michigan Alumni who desire to give back to the University through supporting campus initiatives focused on research, entrepreneurship, and innovation. To learn more about GameAbove, please see their website and contact information here. The purpose of the GameAbove Faculty Professional Development and Innovation Fund award program is to facilitate faculty professional development through activities such as research, curriculum development, community service, and professional travel and training. The awards, totaling **\$50,112**, are presented to faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences (six), the College of Business (two), the College of Health and Human Services (three), the College of Education (one), and the College of Engineering and Technology (one).

***We congratulate the following faculty for their Faculty First projects!***



**Fathi Amsaad (School of Information Security & Applied Computing). "Strengthening Autonomous Vehicles Cybersecurity with Hardware-Based Biometrics" \$5,000.** Autonomous vehicles show promise for advancing transportation through improving travel time, traffic flow, and crash avoidance. However, this technology lacks system security and user authentication processes, making it susceptible to cyberattacks. Dr. Amsaad's project aims to develop secure autonomous vehicle services that integrate human/hardware-based biometric authentication processes. Funding for this project will be used for technical materials and salary support for an undergraduate student.

**Karen Ann Craig and Ivan Rodriguez (Department of Accounting and Finance). "Active Learning in Finance Utilizing a Stock Ticker" \$7,726.**

Stock tickers provide real-time access to market fluctuations throughout the day. Dr. Craig and Dr. Rodriguez will be using this award to purchase a ticker for the Bloomberg Lab and plan to integrate this tool into courses starting Fall 2020. The ticker will promote active learning in the classroom through implementing exercises in collecting and analyzing ticker readings in connection with possible catalysts, such as world events, that may cause the stock price fluctuation.



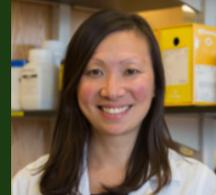
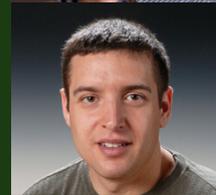
**Audrey Farrugia (Department of Special Education). "The Starting Line: Beginning the Conversation About Autism Spectrum Disorders in Early Intervention" \$4,700.**

Dr. Farrugia will be investigating how early intervention speech-language pathologists discuss the initial diagnosis of autism to families. This project will continue building upon previous work of Dr. Farrugia regarding the need for adequate training and resources to prepare early speech-language pathologists to hold these conversations with families. After completing literature reviews and in-depth interviewing, Dr. Farrugia will be developing best-practices training resources, including a free webinar, for early interventionists in Michigan.



**Aaron Liepman and Paul Price (Department of Biology) and Brittany Albaugh (Department of Chemistry). "An HPLC Autosampler to Enable Innovative Biology and Chemistry Research" \$9,125.**

The funding from this award will be used to purchase an autosampler module for a high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) system utilized by several research groups in Cellular/Molecular Biology & Biochemistry. The autosampler will triple to quadruple the number of samples analyzed per day/night through automated sample analyses as opposed to the current system of manual sample input after the previous one is completed. This will allow for efficient sample analysis by increasing productivity and decreasing user error. Data collected from this device will be used in scientific publications and presentations by lab members.





**Joel Schoenhals (Department of Music and Dance). "Bach and Chopin on the Arno 284" \$4,000.**

Professor Joel Schoenhals is the first pianist ever to record on the Arno 284, an historic instrument that has changed the way pianos are designed. In 2018 and 2019, Professor Schoenhals recorded works of Johann Sebastian Bach and Frédéric Chopin on the Arno 284. This award will allow for professional digital editing and publication of the recordings through three CDs distributed by Naxos, the largest distributor of classical music recordings in the world.

**Jeff Schulz (School of Health Promotion and Human Performance). "Forest Bathing Training and Research", \$4,036.**

Forest bathing is a purposeful immersion into nature that establishes mindful use of all five senses. This practice has been shown to have positive impacts on stress levels but has not been widely researched in the United States. Dr. Schulz will be attending Forest Therapy Guide Certification training in the fall and, upon return, will be developing forest bathing coursework and workshop opportunities for the EMU community. Additionally, Dr. Schulz plans to collaborate with the Collegiate Recovery Programs and Dawn Farm to implement these practices for those in recovery from Substance Use Disorder.



**Tucker Staley (Department of Political Science). "Online Training for Nonprofit Professionals", \$3,825.**

Staley will be designing eight online nonprofit training courses available to the general public. These courses will be non-credit bearing and available starting Fall 2020 semester. Additionally, they will be promoted and administered by Professional Programs & Training (Engage@EMU), while members of the Political Science Department will lead instruction. These courses will provide professional nonprofit knowledge and resources to the community as well as EMU students.



**John Staunton (Department of English Language and Literature). "On the Trail of Champlain's 'Parrot' —Developing Interdisciplinary Inquiry Modules for NEH Summer Seminar for Teachers" 3,825.**

Dr. Staunton will be developing three interdisciplinary pedagogical inquiry modules that examine gaps in American literature. Specifically, Dr. Staunton will be investigating a 400-year-old unsolved mystery of New World explorer Samuel de Champlain's encounter with an unidentified bird that led to his separation from his companions in the woods. Dr. Staunton will use these modules to explore how we question texts, judge possible solutions to historical puzzles, and interpret findings. The completion of these modules will support the core curriculum towards a full proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities' Summer Seminar/Institute for K-12 Educators program.



**Sarah Walsh (School of Health Sciences). "ICPSR Workshop Registration: Longitudinal Data Analysis" \$1,800.**

Dr. Walsh will be attending a week-long intensive training program titled "Longitudinal Data Analysis, Including Categorical Outcomes" in August 2020. This program is offered through the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) and will provide the necessary tools and knowledge to complete robust analyses of data. Dr. Walsh is exploring strategies to help older adults maintain their independence through analysis of data from the publicly available National Health and Aging Trends Study of approximately 8,500 Medicare enrollees since 2011. By completing the training program, Dr. Walsh will be able to complete longitudinal analysis of this complex dataset.



**Stephanie Wladkowski (School of Social Work) "Improving Service Delivery: Evaluation of a Protocol for Live Discharge From Hospice" \$6,075.**

Dr. Wladkowski, alongside a national advisory committee, is in the process of developing a live discharge protocol for hospice patients. There is currently no protocol in place to support both the patient and their primary caregiver at the time of live discharge. Funding from this award will allow Dr. Wladkowski to develop a training manual for hospice practitioners to implement the live discharge protocol and evaluate the practitioner's engagement during the live discharge process along with patients and caregivers. Additionally, Dr. Wladkowski will collect preliminary outcomes for patients and caregivers following discharge.

