THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Item for Information

Subject: Henry Russel Awards for 2007

I am pleased to inform you that the Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Janet A. Weiss, met recently and selected two faculty members to receive Henry Russel Awards for 2007. This award, which recognizes both exceptional scholarship and conspicuous ability as a teacher, is one of the highest honors the University bestows upon junior faculty members. The awards will be presented on the occasion of the Henry Russel Lecture, to be delivered March 13, 2007.

The faculty members selected to receive this award are:

Anne Curzan, Associate Professor of English Language and Literature, College of Literature, Science & Arts

Jerome Lynch, Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Sue Coleman
President

June 2006

Attachment

Anne Curzan

Professor Curzan, who received her M.A. (1995) and Ph.D. (1998) from the University of Michigan, joined our faculty in the Department of English Language and Literature in the fall of 2002 after an appointment as Assistant Professor in both the Linguistics and English Departments at the University of Washington. With only two years at the associate professor rank, Professor Curzan already is a notable scholar with international recognition. Her work is characterized by innovation and commitment to outstanding quality.

Her importance as a scholar is evident in her influence on redefining the field of English historical linguistics in her scholarly generation. She is the author of *How English Works: A Linguistic Introduction* (2006) and *Gender Shifts in the History of English* (2003). The latter serves as a showcase for her ability to cross the boundaries of philology and linguistics and venture into the broader areas of sociology, feminism, and cultural politics. She is the senior co-editor of the *Journal of English Linguistics*.

As a teacher, Professor Curzan excels in engaging students in this highly technical and challenging area of study. She also is an exceedingly talented administrator. She currently serves with tact and efficiency as Director of Undergraduate Studies and Director of First and Second-Year Studies, guiding the department toward the first revision of the Undergraduate Program to be brought to fruition in fourteen years. Among her awards is the Gilbert Whitaker Fund Grant for the Improvement of Teaching.

Every aspect of Professor Curzan's record gives ample evidence of stellar intellectual and professional accomplishments. The high distinction that she has brought to the University of Michigan and the Department of English makes her exceptionally qualified to receive the Henry Russel Award.

Jerome Lynch

Professor Lynch earned his B.E. (1997) in Civil and Environmental Engineering from The Cooper Union, and then at Stanford University his M.S. (1998) and Ph.D. (2002) in the same field, as well as an M.S. (2003) in Electrical Engineering. In 2003 he joined the University of Michigan faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Although still in the early stage of his career, Professor Lynch has distinguished himself through his creative and productive research activity and his truly outstanding performance in the classroom.

Professor Lynch has become preeminent in the smart structure field as he crosses traditional engineering and scientific boundaries in his research. He cultivates an entirely new area of smart structures based upon wireless sensor networks, offering an exciting paradigm for the entire engineering community. In addition to his work in wireless structural monitoring, Professor Lynch is engaged in the challenges of nascent nanotechnology. This past year he was awarded funding from the National Science Foundation to explore the use of carbon nanotubes for the design of thin film wireless sensors.

His contributions as a teacher and mentor are certainly as impressive as his research achievements. As a result of his own multidisciplinary education, he is exceptionally positioned to expose his students to new technologies and applications. He often is praised by students for his contagious enthusiasm for the course material and a caring attitude inside and outside of the classroom. Professor Lynch emphasizes the value of his students interacting with other researchers, gaining broad exposure to their field, and mentorship through directed studies.

Professor Lynch's achievements testify to his value as a member of the academic community. The notable distinction that he brings to the University of Michigan and the College of Engineering make him exceptionally qualified to receive the Henry Russel Award.