THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Item for Information

Subject: Henry Russel Lecturer for 2024

The Henry Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Michael J. Solomon, met recently and upon their recommendation I am pleased to confirm that Karin Muraszko, the Julian T. Hoff Professor of Neurosurgery, Professor of Surgery, Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, and Professor of Plastic Surgery, University of Michigan Medical School, will be the Henry Russel Lecturer for 2024. Professor Muraszko will deliver the Russel Lecture in the Winter Term of 2024.

The Henry Russel Lectureship is the highest honor that the University bestows upon a senior member of its faculty. A description of the contributions of this extraordinary faculty member is attached.

Respectfully submitted:

Santa J. Ono
President

June 2023
Attachment
Karin Muraszko

Karin Muraszko, Julian T. Hoff professor of neurosurgery, professor of surgery in the department of pediatrics and the medical school, and professor of plastic surgery, has changed the lives of thousands of people. Specializing in developing new therapies for brain tumors and congenital anomalies in children, her work has been transformational to the field, and she has had an enormous impact on patients, students, resident trainees, junior faculty, staff, and colleagues. As a woman with physical disabilities in the male-dominated field of neurosurgery, she was told “no” innumerable times, yet she only heard “why not?”. Born with spina bifida, she has spent her career breaking barriers; it was fitting that she was the first woman to chair an academic neurosurgical department in the United States, serving for 17 and a half years in that position. She became Chief of the Pediatric Neurosurgery Service in 1995. She has directed the Pediatric Brain Tumor Clinic at the Rogel Cancer Center and is the co-founder of Project Shunt—a program that provides neurosurgical care to children in need in Guatemala, for which she received a Presidential Letter of Commendation from the President of Guatemala. In addition to the difference she has made as a physician, Professor Muraszko has served in numerous national leadership positions, including as the President of the Society of Neurological Surgeons, a member of the Physician’s Advisory Committee of the Spina Bifida Association, and a member of the March of Dimes. She was the first woman to serve as Director of the American Board of Neurological Surgeons, and the first woman to serve as a member of the Neurosurgery Residency Review Committee, which oversees all neurosurgery training programs in the United States. She has shaped the University of Michigan Medical School (UMMS) as well, including serving as the elected Vice Chair of the UM Health System Hospital Executive Board and the Chair of the Children and Women’s Hospital Executive Committee. She has chaired the UMMS Advisory Committee on Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure and has been a member of the Medical School Executive Committee and the Bioscience Initiative Executive Committee. She has authored of over 200 peer reviewed publications, as well as four books, with hundreds of scientific presentations. Clinically, she has cared for thousands of children with brain and spinal cord tumors, spina bifida, and other neurological diseases and injuries.

In recognition of her impact, Professor Muraszko has received the highest awards in her field. In 2020, she was inducted into the National Academy of Medicine. She has won the Inspirational Physician Award from the American Medical Association, the Distinguished Service Award from the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, and the Humanitarian Award from the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. Her impact has been richly recognized by a grateful U-M community: she has won the UMMS Community Service Award, the UMMS Career Development Award, the Harold R. Johnson Diversity Service Award UMHS, and the 2007 UM Sarah Goddard Power Award. Her impact has been so profound that she recently was awarded the first ever Women in Academic Medicine Impact Award from Michigan Medicine, which is now named the Karin Muraszko Women in Academic Medicine Impact Award. At the symposium in her honor, she was praised by colleagues, mentees, and national figures, while a faculty panel convened for the symposium drew attention to the ongoing contributions of women in medicine, as well as what work remains.

Throughout performing her research and clinical work for patients, Professor Muraszko has always been a powerful teacher, influencing numerous lives. Her example of toughness and
compassion has inspired the many students and colleagues Professor Muraszko has mentored through her career. She has participated in the UM Undergraduate Mentorship Program and served as a medical student advisor with the American Medical Women’s Association. She has lectured at medical schools across the country, including giving a National Institutes of Health Clinical Center “Great Teachers” Grand Rounds Lecture: “Leadership Development in a Neurosurgical Residency.” As the Program Director for the UM Neurosurgery Residency program and as Vice Chair for Education in the department, she has mentored and trained a generation of neurosurgical residents who have gone on to provide excellent neurosurgical care in all corners of the United States. She also worked to create a diverse generation of physicians by serving on the UMMS Admissions Committee, and she helped many students as the Coordinator for Medical Student Clerkships in Neurosurgery.

Professor Muraszko earned her B.S. (1977) from Yale University with a double major in history and biology and earned her M.D. (1981) from Columbia University. Before joining the faculty at the University of Michigan she held internships and residencies at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, and Babies Hospital of Columbia. She also held a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health. Appointed assistant professor in surgery in 1990 and assistant professor in pediatrics and communicable diseases in 1991, she was promoted to associate professor in surgery in 1996, in pediatrics and communicable diseases in 1999, and added appointments as associate professor with tenure in neurosurgery (2001) and plastic surgery (2003). In 2004, she was appointed professor with tenure in plastic surgery, pediatrics and communicable diseases, and neurosurgery.

As an inspirational mentor and trailblazing researcher who has shaped the field of pediatric neurosurgery, Professor Muraszko’s many contributions have brought distinction to the University of Michigan and the University of Michigan Medical School, and she is an exceptionally worthy selection as the 2024 Henry Russel Lecturer.
Subject: Henry Russel Awards for 2024

The Henry Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Michael J. Solomon, met recently and upon their recommendation I am pleased to confirm the selection of four faculty members to receive Henry Russel Awards for 2024. 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 in the Winter Term of 2024.

The faculty members selected to receive this award are:

Alison R. Davis Rabosky, Assistant Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Assistant Curator, Museum of Zoology, College of Literature, Science and the Arts

Oliver Haimson, Assistant Professor, School of Information

Justin Heinze, Associate Professor (with tenure) of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health

Elliott Rouse, Associate Professor of Robotics and Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering

Respectfully submitted:

Santa J. Ono
President

Attachment

June 2023
Alison R. Davis Rabosky

Alison R. Davis Rabosky earned her B.S. (2002) in biology at Pomona College and her Ph.D. (2009) in ecology and evolutionary biology at University of California, Santa Cruz. She was a postdoctoral research associate at the University of California, Berkeley, where she was a National Science Foundation (NSF) Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Biology (bioinformatics), and then an assistant research scientist at the University of Michigan in the department of ecology and evolutionary biology and Museum of Zoology (UMMZ). In 2016, she joined the faculty at the University of Michigan as an assistant professor and assistant curator in the department of ecology and evolutionary biology and UMMZ.

Professor Davis Rabosky’s scholarship has reinvented a classic topic of research, making a series of ground-breaking contributions and creating new avenues for investigation. Mimicry is the deceptive resemblance of one organism to another, such as when non-venomous snakes mimic their poisonous relatives to deter predators. Since 1861, scholars have acknowledged mimicry as a portal into understanding evolutionary processes, but Professor Davis Rabosky’s findings have comprehensively revised, updated, and innovated upon the evolutionary ground rules as previously understood. Her investigation into coral snakes and their non-venomous mimics was the first to show mimicry in natural populations as a complex evolutionary process, driving widespread color pattern diversification that is both easily altered and reversible. Professor Davis Rabosky’s work integrates genetic, theoretical, and comparative perspectives, revealing that geographic variation affecting mimicry might be maintained by predator behavior, and showing how mimicry color patterns co-evolve with traits like anti-predator behavior, soft tissue anatomy, and venom. One of two curators of amphibians and reptiles at the UMMZ herpetological collection, she has improved the Museum’s inclusion and outreach by making the world-class biodiversity information in its database freely available on the web and by participating in the NSF-funded “oVert: Open Exploration of Vertebrate Diversity in 3-D” project. With funding from an NSF CAREER Award, she will employ novel visualization techniques to nondestructively capture high-resolution full-body soft tissue anatomical details of collection specimens and study the foundational processes that drive the origin and maintenance of biodiversity in nature. She also serves as an associate editor of the Journal of Animal Ecology, the flagship journal of the British Ecological Society.

Professor Davis Rabosky has been an extraordinarily gifted and dedicated UM instructor, receiving a Program in Biology Teaching Excellence Award and recently nominated for the Provost’s Teaching Innovation Prize. Teaching both small-enrollment laboratory classes and larger lecture and discussion courses, Professor Davis Rabosky draws her students in through societally relevant health and natural history examples. Nominated by her students, she was the first pre-tenure professor to win the National Meritorious Teaching Award in Herpetology, a coveted award from the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. She was also an invited speaker at the Excellence in Herpetological Teaching Symposium at the 2022 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. She has mentored six Ph.D. students, eight master’s students, three postdoctoral scholars, and 20 undergraduate researchers (both UROP and thesis students), almost all of whom have been women and/or identified as belonging to groups underrepresented in science.

Professor Davis Rabosky’s accomplishments as an exceptional researcher, teacher, and mentor bring distinction to the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, the Museum of Zoology, and the University of Michigan and make her exceptionally qualified to receive the Henry Russel Award.
Oliver Haimson

Oliver Haimson earned his B.S. (2012) in economics from Carnegie Mellon University, and both his M.S. (2017) and Ph.D. (2018) in information and computer science from the University of California, Irvine. In 2018, he joined the faculty at the University of Michigan as a President’s Postdoctoral Fellow in the School of Information. He is currently an assistant professor in the School of Information, with affiliate faculty status in the Digital Studies Institute, the Center for Ethics, Society, and Computer, the Center for Social Media Responsibility, and the Institute for Research on Women and Gender.

Professor Haimson’s groundbreaking research provides empirical insights into marginalized individuals’ and communities’ experiences presenting and exploring identity via technologies, particularly during identity changes. He has investigated equitable social media content moderation for transgender people, racial minorities, and other marginalized groups, created a comprehensive taxonomy of major life transitions and events, and has constructed a theoretical lens to describe how people separate their online identities and networks during life transitions. A founder of the subfield of “Trans Human-Computer Interaction (HCI),” which considers HCI through a lens of transgender theory and issues, his work has contributed an in-depth intellectual understanding and conceptualization of “trans technology” that has helped researchers and practitioners understand how to connect trans experiences to platform design and to be aware of how design decisions create inequities. In 2020, Professor Haimson was selected as an inaugural senior fellow at the newly-formed Center for Applied Transgender Studies (CATS), an independent non-profit academic organization dedicated to scholarship on transgender life. In this role, he organized the Applied Transgender Technology Studies Symposium in January 2022—a high-profile event with over 500 attendees. His work has been covered in The New York Times, The Atlantic, Scientific American, MIT Technology Review, and WIRED. His research has also attracted substantial attention via discussion on the popular Reddit forum r/science and a community partnership with digital media platform, “Salty.” Meta’s Oversight Board and the Transgender Law Center have both cited his research in decisions and briefs, and he is a recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER award.

Professor Haimson’s teaching philosophy reflects the inclusive impact of his research. His curriculum revisions are designed to ensure access to learning opportunities for a diverse range of students with marginalized identities and who may be facing challenging life circumstances, to engage students in the classroom using active learning techniques, and to enable students to learn by reflecting on course concepts in the context of their own lives and experiences. In addition to undergraduate teaching, he advises five PhD students, has served on several dissertation committees and has supervised master’s theses. Through his mentorship, he demonstrates to his students that they are capable and welcome in the academic research and professional computing worlds, despite the systemic inequalities that often hinder them from succeeding academically and professionally. In 2021, Professor Haimson founded the Trans/Queer in HCI One-to-One Mentoring Program, which to date has facilitated 38 mentor-mentee matches, nurturing the field he helped to create.

Professor Haimson’s accomplishments as an exceptional researcher, teacher, and mentor bring distinction to the School of Information and the University of Michigan and make him exceptionally qualified to receive the Henry Russel Award.
Justin Heinze

Justin Heinze earned his B.A. (2003) in psychology and his M.A. (2004) in higher education administration at the University of Michigan. He earned his Ph.D. (2011) in educational psychology from the University of Illinois, Chicago. He has held positions as postdoctoral research associate at U-M’s Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, as research investigator and research assistant professor at the U-M School of Public Health, and as adjunct assistant professor in measurement, evaluation, statistics, and assessment at the University of Illinois. In 2017, he became an assistant professor in the department of health behavior and health education in the School of Public Health, was made faculty lead on Public Health IDEAS for Firearm Violence Prevention in 2021, and in 2022, was promoted to associate professor (with tenure).

Dr. Heinze’s influential scholarship focuses on factors that moderate growth and adaptation during adolescence by investigating two related themes: how youth exposure to substance use, mental duress, and violence affects educational and development outcomes and future risk behavior, and whether interpersonal and community resources mitigate these effects. His work emphasizes structural features of school context and policies that perpetuate inequity in violence and firearm outcomes, and how these institutions can serve as settings for prevention and health promotion. Underlying these projects is the public health approach that individual-level outcomes cannot be divorced from broader contextual influences. Professor Heinze has led multiple evaluations of programming designed to improve school climate, identify signs and symptoms of mental disorder, and reduce antecedents to violent behavior. His interventions engage school and community partners, recognizing the indispensable role of community member perspectives in the successful implementation of program design. This formative work has spawned an impressive, and burgeoning research program focused on preventing youth violence, with research support from federal, state, and foundation sources, including the Sandy Hook Promise (SHP) foundation, National Collaborative for Gun Violence Research, and National Institute of Justice.

Through teaching, mentoring, and public outreach, Professor Heinze also strives for the broadest impact of his work. Though early in his career, he has advised nearly a dozen Ph.D. candidates and postdoctoral scholars, as well as serving on additional dissertation committees and as faculty mentor for ten MPH students. At the undergraduate level, Dr. Heinze supervises undergraduate research opportunity program (UROP) students and works with the Office for Health Equity and Inclusion to sponsor students interested in promoting diversity in the health sciences through summer internships. In terms of public engagement, Professor Heinze is the Director of the National Center for School Safety (NCSS) housed out of the School of Public Health, where he aids in the dissemination of evidence-based practices to improve school safety via a variety of training opportunities. He has worked with stakeholders at the school, district, city, county, state, and national levels to make schools safer for students, staff, and their school communities. To date, the NCSS has offered over 70 trainings, reaching more than 50,000 participants in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, in addition to outreach for grantees. Professor Heinze also serves on study sections for the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Professor Heinze’s accomplishments as an exceptional researcher, teacher, and mentor bring distinction to the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education and the University of Michigan and make him exceptionally qualified to receive the Henry Russel Award.
Elliott Rouse

Elliott Rouse earned his B.S. (2007) in mechanical engineering at the Ohio State University, followed by his M.S. (2009) and Ph.D. (2012) in biomedical engineering at Northwestern University. He held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before serving as an assistant professor at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Shirley Ryan AbilityLab. In 2017, he joined the faculty at the University of Michigan as an assistant professor in the Department of Robotics and the Department of Mechanical Engineering and director of the Neurobionics Lab. He was promoted to associate professor in 2022.

Professor Elliott’s creative and groundbreaking research has changed the way scientists understand the mechanics of the human leg, opening new diagnostic and therapeutic options for patients with leg damage from trauma and for people with disabilities. His unique contributions are due in part to his years spent working as a mechanic in professional autoracing prior to pursuing academia. His research has been used to restore movement to a dancer injured in the Boston Marathon attack and to better diagnose loss of mobility following stroke. By illuminating new descriptions of how the nervous system controls the stiffness of leg joints during locomotion, Professor Elliott’s work has important implications in basic biomechanics, assessments of neuromotor diseases, and development of bio-inspired assistive technologies such as prosthetics and exoskeletons. As the lead PI on Open Source Bionic Leg, a collaborative National Science Foundation (NSF) National Robotics Initiative award, he is fostering a research community that will lead to more efficient solving of the field’s challenges and more expedient translation of this work into better bionic prosthetics. Within three years, over ten institutions in three countries are using his Open Source Bionic Leg technology, allowing research to be more easily compared across groups. He is an associate editor for Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Robotics and Automation Letters, IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering, and Cambridge University Press’s Wearable Technologies, and has organized several workshops on prosthetics and wearable robotics. He has received the Fast Company’s Most Innovative award in the Robotics Category, an NSF CAREER Award, named one of Illinois Technology Foundation’s “Fifty for the Future,” and has a long list of other external funding awards from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, and NSF.

Professor Elliott is passionate about teaching and educational outreach. He was instrumental in advocating for the creation the first robotics undergraduate program among top ten engineering schools. By inventing and reinvigorating robotics coursework, Professor Elliott is inspiring a new generation of engineers to change the world. As an advisor to undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, Elliott serves as an inspiring, welcoming mentor, drawing on his own varied academic background to bring non-traditional scholars into the UM community. In addition to his work as faculty, Elliott has provided important insight to extend the impact of his work beyond academia. Professor Elliott’s research has been featured twice at Amazon’s reMARS conference and in a TED Talk. Most recently, he spent a year co-founding a team at (Google) X showing that he is a known leader in his field with a reputation of opening doors to new opportunities.

Professor Elliott’s accomplishments as an exceptional researcher, teacher, and mentor bring distinction to the Department of Robotics and the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the University of Michigan and make him exceptionally qualified to receive the Henry Russel Award.