

2014 Southeastern Conference (SEC) Faculty Achievement Award Winners

University of Alabama



George C. Rable is the Charles Summersell Chair of Southern History at the University of Alabama. During the past 16 years, Rable has supervised the largest number of graduate students in the Department of History at the University of Alabama and his doctoral students have gone on to publish books with major publishers. He has received the University of Alabama's two most prestigious awards for teaching and scholarship, the Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award and the Blackmon-Moody Award. Rable is a three-time recipient of the Jefferson Davis Award, the only historian to be so recognized. His 2002 book, *Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg!* (University of North Carolina Press, 2002), is notable for winning both the 2003 Lincoln Prize and the Jefferson Davis Award. [Read more about Dr. Rable.](#)

University of Arkansas



Carol A. Reeves is a Professor and holder of the Cecil and Gwendolyn Cupp Applied Professorship in Entrepreneurship in the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas. Reeves has won two national awards for innovation in entrepreneurship pedagogy, was awarded a University of Arkansas Faculty Gold Medal, has received seven student mentoring awards, and received the prestigious University of Arkansas Alumni Association Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award for Teaching in 2010. She was named one of the 10 Most Powerful Women Entrepreneurs by *Fortune* magazine in 2011 and was named a Visionary Arkansan and one of the Most Powerful Women in Arkansas (in education) in 2013. She has been published in some of the top journals in management, including the *Academy of Management Review* and the *Academy of Management Perspectives*. [Read more about Dr. Reeves.](#)

Auburn University



Geoffrey E. Hill is a Professor and Curator of Birds in the Department of Biological Sciences at Auburn University. Hill arrived at Auburn in 1993 and has received a Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering from former President Bill Clinton, the Deans Research Award from the College of Sciences and Mathematics (COSAM) and the Creative Research Award from the Vice President for Research's Office. Hill has published 219 papers in peer-reviewed journals and his work has been cited more than 10,000 times. Until he took a temporary leave of absence to work as Deputy Director of the Division of Integrative Organismal Systems at the National Science Foundation in 2013, Hill enjoyed 16 years of continuous support by NSF and NIH. He also works with the Office of Outreach in the College of Science and Mathematics to help bring science training to Alabama children. [Read more about Dr. Hill.](#)

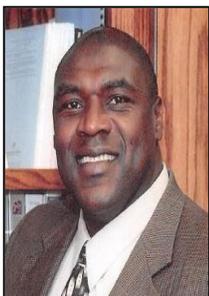
University of Florida



Peter J. Hirschfeld is a Professor of Physics at the University of Florida. Dr. Hirschfeld received his Ph.D. in physics from Princeton University in 1985 and held postdoctoral research appointments at the Technical University of Munich and Stanford University before joining the faculty at the University of Florida in 1988. He has devoted most of his research to the theory of superconductivity. His research has been reported in more than 175 publications with more than 6,000 citations. He was awarded the Friedrich-Bessel Prize of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in 2001 for his contributions to superconductivity theory, and became a fellow of the American

Physical Society in 2004. [Read more about Dr. Hirschfeld.](#)

University of Georgia



Gregory H. Robinson is the Foundation Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at the University of Georgia. After receiving his B.S. in chemistry and a standout football career at Jacksonville State University, Robinson attended graduate school at the University of Alabama, where he received his Ph.D. in 1984. Dr. Robinson synthesized the first compound possessing a gallium-gallium triple bond – a compound that has continued to fascinate chemists more than 15 years after it was reported. He has received numerous honors, including The Southern Chemist Award, the Charles H. Stone Award, and the Humboldt Research Award. Robinson also created a popular course at UGA entitled “Molecules That Changed History,” which studies molecules like ammonia, hydrocarbons and acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin) in an historic context. [Read more about Dr. Robinson.](#)

University of Kentucky



Jayakrishna Ambati is a Professor and Vice Chair of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Ambati’s laboratory has reported numerous seminal advances in ocular vascular biology and immunology in journals such as *Nature*, *Cell*, *Nature Medicine*; *New England Journal of Medicine*; and *eLife*. His foundational contributions have led to fundamental advances in improving the diagnosis and treatment of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), a disease that affects tens of millions of people worldwide. Research to Prevent Blindness has awarded him its Senior Scientific Investigator Award, Lew R. Wasserman Merit Award, and Physician-Scientist Award. He serves on the Editorial Board of *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science (IOVS)*, is an Associate Editor of *Ophthalmology*, an Associate Editor of *Translational Vision Science & Technology*, and is listed in “Best Doctors in America.” [Read more about Dr. Ambati.](#)

Louisiana State University



Mark A. Batzer is an LSU Boyd Professor and the Dr. Mary Lou Applewhite Distinguished Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Louisiana State University. Dr. Batzer joined the Department of Biological Sciences at LSU as a full Professor in 2001. He has been a member of multiple genome sequencing and analysis consortia, and has led the analysis of the mobile element portions of a number of complex genomes. The analysis of the platypus genome in 2008 and of human variation in the 1000 genomes project in 2012 were selected as top 100 science stories by *Discover Magazine*. He is the author of more than 270 scholarly publications, holds six patents and is the current or past advisor to 24 graduate students, 15 post-doctoral fellows and more than 50 undergraduates. [Read more about Dr. Batzer.](#)

University of Mississippi



John E. Hall is the Arthur C. Guyton Professor and Chair of Physiology and Biophysics, and Director of the Mississippi Center for Obesity Research at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). Hall's major research interests include cardiovascular and renal physiology, mechanisms of hypertension, obesity and metabolic disorders. His research has been funded continuously from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute since 1975 and he has been Director of an NIH Program Project grant since 1988. He has authored more than 530 publications and has written or edited 18 books, including the *Textbook of Medical Physiology*, which is the leading medical physiology textbook and is translated in 14 languages. Hall's awards include the Distinguished Achievement Award of the American Heart Association Council for High Blood Pressure Research, International Society of Hypertension Franz Volhard Award, and the American Heart Association Novartis Award for Hypertension Research. [Read more about Dr. Hall.](#)

Mississippi State University



Hossein Toghiani is a Professor in the Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering and the Thomas B. Nusz Endowed Professor of Chemical Engineering at Mississippi State University. Dr. Toghiani conducts independent and multidisciplinary research with faculty from the Swalm School of Chemical Engineering and the Departments of Aerospace Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Chemistry. He has served as director or co-director of 15 M.S. theses and eight Ph.D. dissertations, supervised three post-doctoral associates, and authored more than 80 journal articles, five book chapters, and holds one patent. Dr. Toghiani is currently conducting research in the areas of organic/inorganic composites for EMI shielding, ecofriendly nanoreinforcements for automotive, aerospace and wind turbine applications. [Read more about Dr. Toghiani.](#)

University of Missouri



Judy D. Wall is the Curators' Professor in the Biochemistry Division at the University of Missouri. Wall has distinguished herself in research of the genetics of microbes and is best known for her work with soil bacteria that produce the gas that smells like rotten eggs. Her research team has revealed much about how the bacteria must grow in the absence of oxygen. Through nearly 120 publications, her findings have contributed to environmental bioremediation, understanding microbial metal corrosion and the production of the neurotoxin methylmercury. Honors and awards for her research efforts include the Byler Distinguished Professor Award (1999), the Tribute to MU Women Award (2005), and the University of Missouri Curators' Professorship (2013).

[Read more about Dr. Wall.](#)

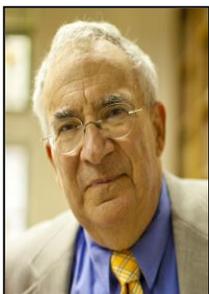
University of South Carolina



Kenneth L. Reifsnider is the University Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of the South Carolina SmartState™ Center for Solid Oxide Fuel Cells at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Reifsnider is an international expert on heterogeneous (composite) materials, and has pioneered their development and application to aerospace structures, fuel cells, jet engines, and turbines (as the Pratt & Whitney Chair at the University of Connecticut). His signature book on Material Systems (Wiley) is the foundation for two graduate courses taught at USC and is widely cited. His research interests include durability, damage tolerance and

strength-life relationships in material systems, performance and life prognosis, aging, material state changes, long term behavior, and fuel cell science and engineering. [Read more about Dr. Reifsnider.](#)

University of Tennessee



Daniel S. Simberloff is the Nancy Gore Hunger Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Tennessee. Simberloff is widely viewed as a leader in the development of the modern field of invasion biology and has been recognized for significant research accomplishments in ecology and conservation biology, including the use of rigorous statistical methods and large-scale field experiments in ecology and refuge design in conservation biology. His publications number nearly 500 and center on ecology, biogeography, evolution, and conservation biology. In 2006, Simberloff was named Eminent Ecologist by the Ecological Society of America, and in 2012 he won the Margalef Prize in Ecology and was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

[Read more about Dr. Simberloff.](#)

Texas A&M University



Stephen W. McDaniel is a Professor of Marketing in the Mays Business School at Texas A&M University. Dr. McDaniel has conducted or coordinated marketing research studies for more than 80 companies and nonprofit organizations in the following areas: government services, financial services, and new technologies, among others. He has published more than 50 articles in academic journals, including the *Journal of Marketing*, *Journal of Marketing Research*, and the *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*. He has been honored with several awards, including the Texas A&M University Bush Excellence Award for International Teaching and the

Mays Business School Service Excellence Award. [Read more about Dr. McDaniel.](#)

Vanderbilt University



Sandra J. Rosenthal is the Jack and Pamela Egan Professor of Chemistry, Professor of Physics, Pharmacology, and Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Vanderbilt University, and Joint Faculty at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Dr. Rosenthal's research interests include the synthesis, characterization, and application of semiconductor nanostructures in neuroscience, solid-state lighting, and photovoltaics. Rosenthal has authored or co-authored more than 130 publications and edited two volumes on NanoBiotechnology. She is the recipient of a National Science Foundation Career Award, a Distinguished Faculty Award, and the Popular

Mechanics Breakthrough Award. She also serves as the Director of the Vanderbilt Institute for Nanoscale Science and Engineering (VINSE), a trans-institutional institute to foster education, outreach, and discovery in nanoscience. [Read more about Dr. Rosenthal.](#)