



February 25, 2025

Association of Chinese Professors (UM-ACP) Hosts Inaugural UM Chinese Heritage and Scholarship Junior Faculty Awards Celebration



Provost McCauley provides opening remarks during the ACP's awards ceremony

The Association of Chinese Professors (ACP) proudly hosted the inaugural UM Chinese Heritage and Scholarship Junior Faculty Awards ceremony on Sunday, February 23, 2025, bringing together esteemed faculty, researchers, and professionals to celebrate excellence and innovation.

The evening opened with a "Year in Review" by ACP President Dr. Dawen Cai, who highlighted the organization's achievements over the past year and upcoming initiatives for 2025. Member achievements were showcased, including those of Drs. Eugene Chen, Oliver He, Xin Jing, Changyang Linghu, Paul Tang, Shaomeng Wang, Wenjing Wang, Gary Xu, and Zhen Xu.



Dr. Arthur Lupia provides closing remarks.

Provost Laurie McCauley delivered the ceremony's opening remarks, recognizing ACP's profound contributions to the university community in academic excellence, leadership, research, innovation, education, outreach, and service. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the UM Chinese Heritage and Scholarship Junior Faculty Awards to Drs. Guo, Lu, Qu, Hui, and Miao. The awards were presented by Associate Vice President Dr. Jacqueline Jeruss, International Center Director Dr. Judith Pennywell, Vice Provost Dr. Valeria Bertacco, and Interim Vice President Dr. Arthur Lupia, alongside Provost McCauley. Dr. Lupia concluded the ceremony with inspiring closing remarks, reflecting on ACP's achievements and reaffirming the bright future of its partnership with the University.

2025 University of Michigan Chinese Heritage and Scholarship Junior Faculty Awards

On February 23, 2025, the University of Michigan Association of Chinese Professors (UM-ACP) was pleased to inaugurate the UM Chinese Heritage & Scholarship Junior Faculty Awards, which celebrate emerging UM scholars who demonstrate excellence in teaching, research, and service. The award was open to UM junior faculty across all campuses, who are either scholars of Chinese heritage worldwide or those dedicated to advancing understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture, heritage, and scholarship. The awards were presented in the following 5 categories:

Life Sciences and Medicine Award - Dr. Longhua Guo, Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular & Integrative Physiology. Dr. Guo harnesses the regenerative abilities of planarians and geckoes to uncover fundamental mechanisms of cellular resilience. He was named a 2024 Pew Scholar, a Biological Sciences Scholar at U-M, and was the recipient of the NIH DP2 Director's New Innovator Award and the Glenn Foundation Junior Faculty Award.

Business, Humanities, Law, and Social Sciences Award- Dr. Hang Lu, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication and Media. His work examines how messages related to science, health, the environment, and risk shape public understanding, attitudes, and behaviors—advancing both theoretical frameworks and practical strategies to address pressing societal challenges. He has an impressive portfolio of 31 peer-reviewed publications, multiple top research paper awards, and a steadfast dedication to fostering inclusive learning environments.

Engineering and Applied Sciences Award- Dr. Qing Qu, Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. His research focuses on developing explainable and computationally efficient AI models, placing him at the forefront of technological advancement. Dr. Qu's outstanding work has been honored with several awards, including the NSF CAREER Award, the Amazon AWS AI Award, the Best Paper Award at the NeurIPs Diffusion Model Workshop, and the Best Poster at MMLS.

Theoretical and Performing Arts, Architecture, and Design Award- Dr. Fangfei Miao, Assistant Professor of Dance. Dr. Miao is a trailblazing dance theorist, choreographer, and the first dancer from China to earn a Ph.D. in the United States. Through both research and performance, Dr. Miao advances cross-cultural understanding and promotes authentic Chinese self-representation in academic and artistic spaces. Beyond academia, Dr. Miao's choreography has captivated audiences around the world, and she will soon embark on an artist residency in France with her work, *No Other*.

Math, Information, and Natural Sciences Award -Dr. Julie Hui, Assistant Professor in the School of Information. Her research focuses on bridging digital divides for resource-constrained populations, particularly supporting Black- and women-owned businesses in Detroit through community-based interventions. Dr. Hui developed Lettersmith, a digital tool that has supported over 8,000 underserved students, including Chinese-speaking students navigating professional opportunities in the U.S.



Pictured from left to right: Drs. Guo, Lu, Hui, Miao, and Qu