

Franklin College Awards Committee Nominees for 2015

Brief Biographies

Dr. John Knox:

John Knox is an associate professor of geography in the atmospheric sciences program at the University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens, Georgia. John received a B.S. in mathematics from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and earned a Ph.D. in atmospheric sciences in 1996 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. John then was a post-doctoral fellow in climate dynamics at Columbia University in conjunction with the NASA/Goddard Institute for Space Studies. Prior to coming to UGA in 2001, John was an assistant professor at Valparaiso University in Indiana.

Dr. Elizabeth Wright:

Dr. Elizabeth Wright is Associate Professor of Spanish and Romance Languages. She has received the M.G. Michael teaching award (2001), and numerous outside awards and grants including three NEH fellowships, a Fulbright, and a Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center residency.

Dr. Mary A. Bedell:

Dr. Mary Bedell is Associate Professor of Genetics. Her research was laboratory-based and focused on understanding the molecular basis of cell-to-cell signaling during development of germ cells. She was awarded two grants, the first from the NSF and the second from the NIH. She also served a four-year term on a grant review panel for the NIH. Her current research examines how the recent advances in molecular genetics and whole-genome analyses have altered the ways in which undergraduate genetics is taught.

In 2008, Dr. Bedell made the decision to end her laboratory research and consequently, her EFT was changed to 60% teaching and 15% research. All of her teaching is now in undergraduate courses, primarily GENE3200 and BIOL1107. Both of these are large enrollment courses (500 – 600 students per semester) that are required of all majors in the Biological Sciences. In addition, she teaches an upper level course in human genetics. Dr. Bedell was selected to be a Senior Teaching Fellow in the CTL in 2013 and was inducted into the Teaching Academy of UGA. In 2014, she was awarded a Sandy Beaver Excellence in Teaching Award from Franklin College.

Julie Spivey, MFA:

Julie Spivey is an Associate Professor of Graphic Design in the Lamar Dodd School of Art at the University of Georgia and also runs her a small design firm, Type-A Creative, where she specializes in publication design and all things typographic. Spivey discovered her interest in visual communication while earning her undergraduate degree in Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, then developed an obsession for letterforms and fine typography while pursuing an MFA in Communication Arts at East Carolina University. Spivey is currently collaborating with three extension units at UGA working to help coastal Georgia and NC communities prepare for sea level rise and increasing severe weather hazards. She also serves as Co-Chair of the Steering Committee for the AIGA Design Educators Community.

Dr. Steven Lewis:

Steven Lewis is an associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and has served as its associate department head for the last nine years. His research expertise is in theoretical and computational condensed matter physics, with an emphasis on nanostructured materials. He has taught a diverse array of courses at all levels of instruction during his time at UGA, and he has won three awards in recognition of his contributions to teaching.