

Outstanding Research & Creative Activity Award Winners

The winners are, in alphabetical order and by category:

Research Award: [Interdisciplinary Research]

Professor Sean F. Ellermeyer (Full Professor)

Professor of Mathematics

College of Science and Mathematics

Department of Mathematics

Sean Ellermeyer first joined Kennesaw State University in 1993 and is a tenured full professor. He received his Ph.D. and M.S. in Mathematics from Emory University, and a B.A. in Mathematics from Saint Vincent College. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed journal articles that have been cited hundreds of times and appeared in venues such as the *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, *Economic Inquiry*, and *Biology Letters*. Further, he has received externally-funded grants from the National Science Foundation. His current research focus is in Game Theory, where he and a colleague are attempting to address a fundamental game theory question: “*payoff equivalence between complete and incomplete information games.*”

Professor Ellermeyer’s contributions to interdisciplinary research can be summarized by the comments from one of his colleagues, who wrote “*In conclusion, my work with Sean is a true testament to the importance of interdisciplinary research. A mathematician who had never worked on auctions collaborated with two economists examining a government auction and we end up affecting a billion dollar industry; potentially saving hundreds of jobs, decreasing government spending, and ensuring the health of millions of seniors!*”

Research Award: [Artistic and Creative Pursuits]

Professor Linda Hightower (Full Professor)

Professor of Visual Arts

College of the Arts

School of Art and Design

Linda “Lin” Hightower joined Kennesaw State University in 2003 and is a tenured full professor. She received her Ed.D. in Art Education from the University of Georgia and a Master of Fine Arts from Georgia State University. She has served as an artist art product designer for low-income artisans in Turkey, Nepal, India, Thailand, Egypt, Morocco and Peru, and leads art and business workshops and trainings for the collectives’ artisans and art communities. She has received both national and international recognition for her art design work and research, and has been awarded three Fulbright Awards in a period of only four years. Her creative pursuit “*serves to preserve our global visual arts cultural heritage and to create sustainable income to alleviate the poverty of the crafts persons involved...*” Her designs are sold throughout the world.

According to her colleagues, “*Lin is an amazing asset to the United States and to the international community. She builds a bridge of understanding among our communities and cultures through her designs and her contributions are making positive economic and social changes to the world.*”

Research Award: [Natural and Physical Sciences]

Professor Nikolaos Kidonakis (Full Professor)

Professor of Physics

College of Science and Mathematics

Department of Physics

Nikolaos Kidonakis joined Kennesaw State University in 2004 and is a tenured full professor. He received his Ph.D. from the Institute for Theoretical Physics (SUNY Stony Brook), his Master of Advanced Study (Theoretical Physics) from University of Cambridge and his B.S. in Physics from California Institute of Technology. He has authored 123 physics research publications, over half of which were written while at KSU, which have received over 7,300 citations. Additionally, he has received numerous awards and research grants from the National Science Foundation. He has performed theoretical calculations for use in the world's largest particle colliders, including the Large Hadron Collider at CERN.

Professor Kidonakis is a well-respected researcher. One of his colleagues states “*In summary, Dr. Kidonakis is an active and well-known researcher with an international reputation in the very competitive field of particle physics. He is extremely well qualified for the Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award and I am pleased to be able to enthusiastically give him my strongest recommendation.*”

Research Award: [Business and Industry Application]

Professor Jomon Paul (Associate Professor)

Associate Professor of Economics

Coles College of Business

Jomon Paul joined KSU in Fall 2006. He received his Ph.D. and M.S. in Industrial Engineering from the University at Buffalo, and his B.E. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Baroda. Since joining KSU, he has authored twenty nine publications that have received nearly 400 citations and has received numerous research grants from Coles College of Business. His research areas include natural disaster planning, counterterrorism, humanitarian logistics, and healthcare.

One of Professor Paul's colleagues stated "*in my opinion, our field is really fortunate to have Jomon as a scholar. Giving him the Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award, which he richly deserves, will recognize the excellent work he has already done and is continuing to undertake.*"