

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAFA DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC AWARDS, 2020

(EDMONTON) – The Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA), the provincial organization representing academic staff associations at the University of Alberta, the University of Lethbridge, Mount Royal University, Grant MacEwan University and Athabasca University, is pleased to announce the recipients of the CAFA Distinguished Academic Awards for 2020.

The CAFA Distinguished Academic Awards recognize academic staff members at Alberta’s research and undergraduate universities, who through their research and/or other scholarly, creative or professional activities have made an outstanding contribution to the wider community beyond the university. This year, CAFA has introduced a new award to recognize the teaching excellence in Alberta’s university: the CAFA Distinguished Teaching Award.

The recipient of the **2020 CAFA Distinguished Academic Award** is **Dr. Maya L. Evenden**, Professor of Biological Sciences at University of Alberta, in recognition of both her influential research in the field of insect behaviour and chemical ecology, and specifically on developing pheromone-based monitoring and control tools for the Mountain Pine Beetle that is threatening Alberta’s forests.

Dr. Erin Sutherland, Assistant Professor of Cultural Studies at University of Alberta Augustana Campus, has been chosen to receive the **2020 CAFA Distinguished Academic Early Career Award** for her innovative, interdisciplinary research and artistic practices in the fields of indigenous art, reconciliation, and diplomacies.

CAFA is pleased to award the inaugural **2020 CAFA Distinguished Teaching Award** to **Dr. Kristine A. Peace**, Association Professor of Psychology at MacEwan University. While Dr. Peace has a formidable research and service track record, what really sets her apart from her peers is her commitment to undergraduate teaching: especially her long track record of researching and publishing with her undergraduate students.

“The annual CAFA Distinguished Academic Awards for over ten years have celebrated the contributions of our members to the community beyond the academy through their research, scholarly teaching, and creative pursuits” notes Dr. Kevin Kane, President of CAFA. “On behalf of CAFA, I extend warmest congratulations to Dr. Kristine Peace, Dr. Erin Sutherland and Dr. Maya Evenden, deserving recipients of our awards for 2020.”

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 CAFA Distinguished Academic Awards will be presented in a video presentation. The video will be launched on Wednesday, **October 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** A link to the video will be posted on <https://cafa-ab.ca/>.

For further information on the work of this year’s Award recipients, please see the attached backgrounders.

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<https://cafa-ab.ca/>

BACKGROUNDER
CAFA DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC AWARD 2020
Dr. Maya L. Evenden

Dr. Maya L. Evenden, Professor of Biological Sciences at University of Alberta, has been chosen to receive the 2020 CAFA Distinguished Academic Award. We are pleased to recognize Dr. Evenden's outstanding contributions to the wider community of Alberta through her teaching and scholarship in the field of entomology.

Her research focuses on insect behaviour and chemical ecology and has led to the development and adoption of pheromone-based monitoring and control tools for insect pests in a variety of managed ecosystems in Alberta. Most recently, Dr. Evenden has assessed the impact of flight on chemical communication in the Mountain Pine Beetle that is threatening Alberta's forests. This research has contributed to understanding the dispersal and colonization behaviour of this devastating forest pest. She has published 93 refereed journal articles on a huge range of applied and theoretical aspects of arthropod biology. She and her co-applicants have brought in over \$3.6 million in research funds from 59 competitive grants. Much of these funds have gone to support the research of graduate and undergraduate students. Since 2003, Dr. Evenden has supervised or co-supervised more than 20 M.Sc. and Ph.D. students, and 105 undergraduate students. On top of that, Dr. Evenden has created a globally available Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) called Bugs 101. In the one year since it has been launched, over 20,000 students have registered for the course—demonstrating her belief that teaching entomology to Albertans goes beyond her classroom.

CAFA DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC EARLY CAREER AWARD 2020
Dr. Erin Sutherland

Dr. Erin Sutherland, Assistant Professor of Cultural Studies at University of Alberta Augustana Campus, has been awarded the CAFA 2020 Distinguished Early Career Award in recognition of academic and artistic achievements in the field of indigenous art.

Dr. Sutherland is a settler and Métis decent and a member of the Metis Nation of Alberta, and her talent and passion for Indigenous art has made it more accessible to the Canadian and Albertan public. She curates many performances and exhibitions every year, highlights include: the opening of Ociciwan Contemporary Art Centre in Edmonton, *Her Body Will Remember* at Kelowna Art Gallery, *Parallel Excavations* at the Art Gallery of Alberta, and the performance series *Talkin' Back to Johnny Mac* at various sites in Kingston, Ontario. Dr. Sutherland is a collaborator on a major, SSRHC funded, initiative called North American Cultural Diplomacy Initiative: this project provides a platform for individuals engaged in the study and practice of expressive culture, policy and diplomacy to advance activity directed to the mitigation of global cultural conflict through intercultural exchange. Specifically, her contribution to this project focuses on advancing recognition of the deep history and contemporary relevance for Indigenous diplomacies. These activities are an impressive achievement for an early career scholar, and CAFA knows more will be on the way in Dr. Sutherland's career.

CAFA DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD 2020

Dr. Kristine A. Peace

This year, CAFA has introduced a new award to recognize the teaching excellence in Alberta's university, and we are pleased to award Dr. Kristine A. Peace, Association Professor of Psychology at MacEwan University the inaugural CAFA Distinguished Teaching Award.

While Dr. Peace has a formidable research and service track record, what really sets her apart from her peers is her commitment to undergraduate teaching. She regularly has exceptional scores on her student evaluations, has developed online classes (before it was necessary in a COVID-19 world), and incorporated a blended pedagogical approach in many of her courses. She also works diligently as a mentor for her honours and independent study students, guiding them through projects from inception and design to write up and dissemination. To this end, she has included approximately 25 students on publications and over 50 students on conference presentations and posters. Her real passion lies in creating connections by making course concepts accessible, memorable, and applicable to the real world outside the classroom. Dr. Peace regularly participates in teaching-related seminars and workshops, and has provided information sessions on ways to develop new types of assignments and engage students in any forum. Because of these achievements and many more, CAFA is delighted to honour Dr. Peace with our first ever Distinguished Teaching Award.