

**MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CAFA DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC AWARDS, 2022**

(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 2022.

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.

The recipient of the **2022 CAFA Distinguished Academic Award** is **Dr. Temitope Oriola**, Professor of Sociology at University of Alberta, in recognition of his contributions to the fields of terrorism studies, African security and the role of policing and protests in Canada. His contributions extend far past just academic literature and include serving as Special Advisor to the Government of Alberta on Police Act Reform in 2021 and a public intellectual contributing to the national discussion through over 100 op-eds on these topics.

**Dr. Crystal Gail Fraser**, Assistant Professor of Native Studies at University of Alberta, has been chosen to receive the **2022 CAFA Distinguished Academic Early Career Award** for her innovative and important contributions to Canadian history and the history of residential schools in Canada. Her scholarship has centered around community-engaged research in her academic values, research, and pursuits: and recently she has won two SSHRC Partnership Engagement Grants (in 2020, she was awarded SSHRC COVID-19 Partnership Engagement Grant with the Gwich’in Tribal Council and in 2021, she was awarded the SSHRC Partnership Engagement Grant, this time partnering with the Northwest Territories Recreation and Parks Association).

CAFA is pleased to award the **2022 CAFA Distinguished Teaching Award** to **Dr. Sarah Hewitt**, Associate Professor of Biology at Mount Royal University. While Dr. Hewitt has a formidable research and service track record, what really sets her apart from her peers is her commitment to science communication and the scholarship of teaching and learning. Dr. Hewitt has developed a model for science communication that she calls “Adventure Science”—focusing on telling behind-the-scenes stories of researchers and the work they do in the field, synthesizing this information, and presenting it in multimedia narratives to engage the general public.

“The annual CAFA Distinguished Academic Awards for over sixteen years have celebrated the contributions of our members to the community beyond the academy through their research, scholarly teaching, and creative pursuits” notes Dr. Jon Doan, President of CAFA. “On behalf of CAFA, I extend warmest congratulations to Dr. Temitope Oriola, Dr. Crystal Fraser and Dr. Sarah Hewitt, deserving recipients of our awards for 2022.”

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

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**Dr. Sarah Hewitt - CAFA's 2022 Distinguished Academic Teaching Award**  
**Associate Professor, Mount Royal University, Dept of Biology**

While Dr. Hewitt is a professor with a diverse range of expertise—including in the sciences (e.g., neuroscience and physiology), science communication to general audiences, and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL)—this award focuses on her pedagogical practices and innovative contributions to course & curriculum design, knowledge mobilization, and scholarship of teaching and learning.

Dr. Hewitt has developed a model for science communications that she calls “Adventure Science”. This exciting new modality focuses on telling action-packed, behind-the-scenes stories of researchers and the work they do in the field, synthesizing this information and presenting it in multimedia narratives that are engaging to the general public. Dr. Hewitt’s work has appeared in *Discover Magazine*, *BBC Earth*, *Scientific American*, *Canadian Geographic*, and *Explore Magazine*. Outside the standard peer-reviewed academic publishing process, Dr. Hewitt has published 29 written stories, 9 multimedia stories, 6 book chapters and edited one postsecondary biology textbook. On top of this and her regular academic publishing, she has been innovative in the classroom by creating over 100 teaching videos, 50 concept maps, and guided her students through the creation of MRU’s first two science magazines. The pedagogical achievements are impressive since they both focus on her students’ experience and communicating to the general public, as well as contributing to the wider scholarship on teaching and learning.

**Dr Crystal Gail Fraser – CAFA's 2022 Distinguished Academic Early Career Award**  
**Assistant Professor, University of Alberta, Faculty of Native Studies**

Dr. Crystal Gail Fraser is a Gwichyà Gwich’in scholar (and of English and Scottish ancestry) and originally from Inuvik, Northwest Territories, has centered community-engaged research in her academic values, research, and pursuits. Her scholarly career began with her award-winning doctoral dissertation (John Bullen Prize, 2019) that drew upon the expertise of residential school survivors through oral histories, while theorizing sophisticated concepts of strength and resilience. This work demonstrates an important and novel contribution to Canadian history and to the history of residential schools in Canada.

Dr. Crystal Gail Fraser is the co-author of *150 Acts of Reconciliation*, and she has presented on this material in academic conferences, forums for the general public, and providing professional development about reconciliation for a variety of governments, businesses and non-profits. This work has led her to undertake over a hundred international media interviews and articles (including appearing on *CBS National News New York* and *The Women’s Hour for BBC Radio London* and writing for *Le Monde* in France). In the first two years of her appointment at the U of A, Dr. Fraser has successfully built community partnerships and relationships that have led to a significant research and funding opportunities: in 2020, she collaborated with the Gwich’in Tribal Council and was awarded a SSHRC COVID-19 Partnership Engagement Grant (PEG) and in 2021, she was again successful in securing a SSHRC Partnership Engagement Grant, this time partnering with the Northwest Territories Recreation and Parks Association, to study the history of residential school Survivor strength through the lens of sport and recreation.

**Dr. Temitope Oriola - CAFA's 2022 Distinguished Academic Award**  
**Professor, University of Alberta, Dept of Sociology**

Dr. Oriola is an exemplary scholar, known for field-defining sociological research on terrorism and policing, for leadership and service to his discipline, and for his commitment to mobilizing knowledge in support of informed public debate. Internationally, he is known for his work on sociological terrorism studies and as a leading scholar on African security (specifically on resource-related political kidnappings in Nigeria and the Nigerian state's war against Boko Haram). In Canada, Dr. Oriola's scholarship has focused on policing and his work on protest and policing against Black and other minority groups has earned him a well-deserved reputation as a leading expert on police reform.

Dr. Oriola serves as a Special Advisor to the Government of Alberta on Police Act Reform: participating in several townhalls, and citizen engagement sessions that have led into his development of recommendations for reforming Alberta's Police Act. His community work on policing reform has led him to being one of the most sought-after public intellectuals, in Canada, on policing. He has written over 100 op-eds and news commentaries on these issues, bringing many new elements into public discussion. In 2022 alone, Dr. Oriola has received two research grants of over half a million dollars: the SSHRC Insight Grant (principal applicant) and the Government of Canada's New Frontiers Research Grant (co-applicant). In addition, Dr. Oriola contributes as a leader within the academy and his discipline: he is a Joint Editor-in-Chief of *the International Journal African Security*, Past President of the *Canadian Association of African Studies*, President-elect of *The Canadian Sociological Association*, serves on the Board of Directors of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, and is Chair of the University of Alberta Press Committee.