

March 30, 2009

Lyons, Wang receive faculty awards during Honors Day Convocation

Students weren't the only ones recognized for achievement during the Albany State University Honors Day Convocation held Friday, March 27, in the HPER Gymnasium. Two outstanding members of the Albany State University faculty were also recognized.

President Everette J. Freeman presented the Teacher of the Year Award to Dr. Florence Lyons, associate professor in the Department of Fine Arts, and the Researcher of the Year Award to Dr. Yixuan Wang, assistant professor in the Department of Natural Sciences.

Lyons received a bachelor's degree in dramatics and speech from Fisk University, a master's degree in speech and theatre from Oklahoma City University, and a doctorate in theatre criticism from Louisiana State University. As a doctoral student, Lyons studied in London and was a scholar-in-resident at New York University.

The award selection committee noted Lyons' commitment to fostering strong research skills in her students by providing opportunities for them to present papers at conferences.

Lyons is the coordinator of the Speech and Theatre Division of the Department of Fine Arts as the project director for the Rhetoric and Music Learning Community, in which students apply the rhetorical skills learned in public speaking class to learning activities in the music appreciation class.

As Researcher of the Year, Wang is known for his success as a grant writer, especially his two current grants – one for \$431,714 from the National Institutes of Health and another for \$40,000 from the American Chemical Society. During the past three years, Wang has also received four ASU Faculty Research Development Awards totaling \$38,500.

An assistant professor of chemistry, Wang is also a prolific researcher and writer. Since 2005 he co-edited one book, published more than 15 peer-reviewed articles, delivered 12 invited talks and lectures, and made presentations at many conferences.

Wang's many accolades include serving three times as a guest scientist at the Max-Planck Institute for Physics of Complex Systems in Dresden, Germany, and four times as visiting professor at the Institute of Theoretical Chemistry at Shandong University in China.



Photo caption: During the Honors Day Convocation held March 27, Dr. Yixuan Wang (left) was named 2009 Researcher of the Year and Dr. Florence Lyons was named 2009 Teacher of the Year.