



Susan Bulkeley Butler Center  
for Leadership Excellence

2023  
AWARDS RECEPTION

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*


*3:00 - 4:30 PM*

*PMU West Faculty Lounge*

2023 LEADERSHIP IN ACTION AWARDS

2023-24 RESEARCH PROJECT GRANT FOR  
ASSISTANT AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING VIOLET HAAS MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP



3:00 PM  
RECEPTION

3:15 PM  
**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**  
Sang Eun Woo, Professor of Psychological Sciences,  
Chair & Director, Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership Excellence

3:20 PM  
**PRESENTATION OF LEADERSHIP IN ACTION AWARDS**  
Sunil Prabhakar, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Professor of Computer Science


Faculty category:  
*Preeti Sivasankar, Professor and Department Head of Speech, Language,  
and Hearing Sciences and Assistant Vice-President for Strategic Health Research*

Staff category:  
*Pamela K. Sari, Director of the Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center, and Affiliate  
Faculty/Staff in Asian American Studies*

Student category:  
*Lexy Chiwete Arinze, Graduate Student, Civil Engineering and Engineering Education  
Morgan Murff, Student, Plant Science*

3:40 PM  
**PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH PROJECT GRANT  
FOR ASSISTANT AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS**  
KETAN AND TANUJA SHETH FAMILY ENDOWMENT AND  
THE MEGHANA AND VINAYAK RANADE FAMILY ENDOWMENT  
Sunil Prabhakar, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Professor of Computer Science

*Caroline K. Marete, (PI) Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Aviation and Transportation Technology  
Debra Henneberry, (Co-PI) Assistant Professor, School of Aviation and Transportation Technology  
Cheng Wang, (Co-PI) Assistant Professor, Aviation, Minnesota State University  
Ashley Habig, (Co-PI) Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Aviation and Transportation Technology*




3:45 PM  
**VIOLET HAAS MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP**  
AWARDED BY COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING  
Remarks by Luna Lu, Associate Dean of Faculty

3:50 PM  
**PRESENTATION OF VIOLET HAAS MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP**  
Sunil Prabhakar, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Professor of Computer Science

*Elsje Pienaar, Assistant Professor, Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering*

**CLOSING REMARKS**  
Sang Eun Woo, Professor of Psychological Sciences,  
Chair & Director, Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership Excellence



# LEADERSHIP IN ACTION HONOREES



**Preeti Sivasankar** is Professor and Department Head of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences and Assistant Vice-President for Strategic Health Research in the Office of Research. Preeti conducts programmatic research in upper airway pathophysiology. Her research group asks innovative questions about how voice disorders develop and how they can be treated effectively. Preeti's research has been continually funded by the National Institutes of Health since 2008. Preeti has a strong commitment to mentoring graduate and undergraduate students and is a recipient of department and college teaching awards. She actively engages with her discipline through roles as a Journal Editor, Grant Reviewer, Academic Program Reviewer, Research Mentor, and International Issues Committee Chair.



**Pamela K. Sari** is Director of the Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center (AAARCC) and Affiliate Faculty/Staff in the Asian American Studies program at Purdue University. In her leadership role, she focuses on the pedagogical, cultural, and advocacy initiatives of the AAARCC. She is also involved in efforts to build better systemic support for Purdue's Asian American and Asian communities by supporting the founding processes of Asian/American faculty and staff caucus (PAAAC), alumni network (PAAN), and graduate student association (AAAGraSA). Currently, Pam is co-leading a research project on Asian American and Asian adolescents in rural Midwest.



**Lexy Chiwete Arinze** is a first-generation graduate student from Nigeria who is currently pursuing both a master's program in Civil Engineering and a Ph.D. program in Engineering Education at Purdue University. He earned his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He later participated in a student exchange program in Spain. He is actively involved in mentoring graduate and undergraduate students and serves as a graduate assistant in the College of Engineering's Office of Graduate Education. In this role, he manages two programs, Pathways Scholars and GradTrack, and coordinates various events to assist students in their academic and professional journeys. Notably, under his guidance, the GradTrack program received the 2023 CoNECD Program of the Year Award.



**Morgan Murff** is a native of Indianapolis, IN, and a junior in Plant Science with a minor in Fermentation Science. She is the Public Relations Coordinator for the MANRRS-Purdue University chapter, Chancellor of Alpha Zeta fraternity, a department ambassador, and web developer. Morgan works as a teaching assistant for BTNY 110 and 262. She is an undergraduate researcher who conducts research in plant genetics and microscopy. Morgan serves as the student undergraduate representative on several committees while also coordinating outreach within her community. Morgan enjoys listening to music and traveling. In the future, Morgan aspires to be a professor of Plant Biology.

# RESEARCH PROJECT GRANT HONOREES



**Caroline K. Marete** (PI) is a visiting Assistant Professor in the School of Aviation and Transportation Technology at Purdue University. Dr. Marete earned a MS in Aviation and Aerospace Management and Ph.D. in Technology from Purdue University. Her research focuses on the design and planning of sustainable air transportation systems. Specifically, sustainable airport planning and inclusion on women and minorities in the aviation workforce and aviation education. Dr. Marete together with a team of three other researchers will conduct the research titled “Fostering Camaraderie and Mentorship for Student and Faculty Success in a Collegiate Aviation Program”.

**Co-PIs:** Debra Henneberry, Assistant Professor, School of Aviation and Transportation Technology; Cheng Wang, Assistant Professor, Aviation, Minnesota State University; Ashley Habig, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Aviation and Transportation Technology



**Debra Henneberry** (Co-PI) is an Assistant Professor at Purdue University in the School of Aviation and Transportation Technology. Dr. Henneberry came to Purdue from an aeronautical college in New York City, where she worked primarily with underrepresented groups in the pilot population for 11 years. Prior to joining higher education, Dr. Henneberry was a professional pilot for private clients. Dr. Henneberry’s research interests focus on human factors and flight training. Her dissertation addressed the lack of female pilots and how to interest young girls in an aviation career.



**Ashley Habig** (Co-PI) is an Assistant Clinical Professor at Purdue University in the School of Aviation and Transportation Technology. Mrs. Habig holds a M.S. in Aviation and Aerospace Management from Purdue University. Her research interests include the representation of women and minorities in aviation and aerospace, and aviation maintenance training programs.

## VIOLET HAAS MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP HONOREE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



**Elsje Pienaar** is an Assistant Professor in the Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering. She earned her MS and PhD in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and did postdoctoral work in Microbiology, Immunology and Chemical engineering at the University of Michigan as well as at Linköping University, Sweden. Her laboratory uses computational simulations of within-host pathogen, immune and drug dynamics to optimize treatment of infectious diseases. Current projects in the lab include TB, HIV, Non-tuberculous mycobacterial infections and Ebola virus.