



Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for  
**LEADERSHIP  
EXCELLENCE**

# 2020 & 2021 DISTINGUISHED WOMEN SCHOLARS

March 17, 2021  
3:30-5:00 PM  
Virtual & Live

**3:30 pm**

**Welcome Remarks**

*Mangala Subramaniam*

*Professor & Butler Chair and Director, Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership Excellence*

**3:40 pm**

**Introduction and Presentation of Distinguished Woman Scholars with  
Statements from Honorees**

*Jay Akridge*

*Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity*

**2020 Honorees**

*Lynda Ciuffetti, PhD, Plant Pathology/Plant Physiology, 1983*

*Cassandra Smith, PhD, Early American Literature, 2010*

*Trisha Van Zandt, PhD, Quantitative Psychology, 1992*

**2021 Honorees**

*Nicole Key, PhD, Mechanical Engineering, 2007*

*Bhramar Mukherjee, PhD, Statistics, 2001*

**Closing Remarks**

*Mangala Subramaniam*

*Professor & Butler Chair and Director, Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership Excellence*

# 2020 HONOREES



**Lynda M. Ciuffetti** is currently Professor Emeritus (2019), Botany and Plant Pathology (BPP), Oregon State University (OSU). She received her PhD from Purdue U., Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, her MS from Michigan Technological U. and BS from U. Mass. Following Postdoctoral Training at Brandeis U. and Cornell U., she went to OSU with her soul mate who had been offered a Faculty position in BPP. The Department initially offered her a Senior Research position but subsequently she was offered a tenure-track position and promoted to Full Professor. She was honored to accept Head of the Department of BPP (2008-2018). Her research focused on molecular investigations of plant-microbe interactions and was supported by multiple grants from the NSF and USDA. She loved teaching and taught many undergraduate courses and graduate student teaching skills. She served on the State Board of Higher Education, the Board of INTO OSU an international educational initiative, and as President of the OSU Faculty Senate. She has received numerous awards including Distinguished Professor, OSU Alumni Association; OSU Elizabeth P. Ritchie Distinguished Professor; OSU Faculty Teaching Excellence Award; Fellow, American Phytopathological Society; Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science; and Distinguished Agriculture Alumni Award, Purdue U., College of Agriculture.



**Cassander L. Smith** is an associate professor of English at the University of Alabama. Her teaching and research focus on representations of Black Africans in early Atlantic literature. She is the author of *Black Africans in the British Imagination: English Narratives of the Early Atlantic World* (LSU Press, 2016) and co-author of the forthcoming book *The Earliest African American Literatures: A Critical Reader* (UNC Press, 2022). Her current monograph, under contract with LSU Press, is "Race and Respectability in an Early Black Atlantic," which examines the role of respectability politics in early Black Atlantic cultures. Her research has been funded by fellowships and grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Newberry, Huntington, and Folger Shakespeare libraries.



**Dr. Trisha Van Zandt** is a West Lafayette native. She graduated from Harrison High School in 1981 and received her Bachelor's, Master's and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University, where her father was a member of the Physics department. After a postdoctoral fellowship at Northwestern University, she joined the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University. In 2000, she joined the faculty at The Ohio State University, where she is now Professor of Psychology with a courtesy appointment in the Department of Statistics. She is currently serving as the Director of the Human Networks and Data Science program at the National Science Foundation.

# 2021 HONOREES



**Professor Key** Associate Head for Graduate Studies and full professor in Mechanical Engineering at Purdue. She obtained her Bachelor's degree from the School of Aeronautics & Astronautics at Purdue in 2000 and her Masters from the School of Mechanical Engineering at Purdue in 2002. After completing the Diploma Course at the von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics in Brussels, she returned to Purdue and completed her PhD in 2007. Prof. Key's experimental research focuses on understanding the underlying flow physics associated with primary and secondary flow phenomena in axial and radial compressors to enable more efficient, robust designs.



**Bhramar Mukherjee** is John D. Kalbfleisch Collegiate Professor and Chair of Biostatistics; Professor of Epidemiology and Global Public Health, University of Michigan (UM) School of Public Health; She also serves as the Associate Director for Quantitative Data Sciences, The University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center. Her research interests include statistical methods for analysis of electronic health records, studies of gene-environment interaction, Bayesian methods, shrinkage estimation, analysis of high dimensional exposure data. She has co-authored more than 270 articles in statistics, biostatistics, medicine and public health. She is the founding director of the University of Michigan's summer institute on Big Data. Bhramar is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She is the recipient of many awards for her scholarship, service and teaching at the University of Michigan and beyond: including the Gertrude Cox Award, from the Washington Statistical Society in 2016 and most recently the L. Adrienne Cupples Award, from Boston University in 2020. Bhramar and her team have been modeling the SARS-CoV-2 virus trajectory in India for the last one year which has been covered by major media outlets like Reuters, BBC, NPR, NYT, WSJ, Der Spiegel, Australian National Radio and the Times of India. Bhramar graduated with a PhD in Statistics from Purdue in 2001 under the supervision of Professor WJ Studden and remains a proud Boilermaker.