

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology

FACULTY

RECOGNITION DINNER

Monday, November 06, 2023 Celebrating Excellence

The background is a solid purple color. There are decorative gold-colored curved lines in the corners: a single thick line on the left, multiple thin lines on the top right, and multiple thin lines forming a semi-circle at the bottom center.

Distinguished Teaching Award Nominees 2023



Leena Ibrahim
Assistant Professor
BESE



Kyle Lauersen
Assistant Professor
BESE



Suhaib Fahmy
Associate Professor
CEMSE



Joaquin Ortega Sanchez
Instructional Professor
CEMSE



Shadi Fatayer
Assistant Professor
PSE



Gyorgy Szekely
Assistant Professor
PSE



Leena Ibrahim

Assistant Professor
Bioscience
BESE

- A seasoned mentor developed through years of guiding graduates and undergraduates in the lab and classroom.
- She employs an interactive teaching style, focusing on critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and active engagement.
- She encourages group activities to foster a collaborative learning environment and identifies misconceptions early through end-of-lecture reviews.
- Dr. Ibrahim views science as an ongoing learning journey, emphasizing communication skills through oral presentations, written assignments, and conference participation. As an educator, she's dedicated to instilling her passion for science in students, equipping them with the confidence and tools to excel academically.



Kyle Lauersen

Assistant Professor
Bioengineering
BESE

- A distinguished educator with experience in innovative teaching methods that cater to diverse learning styles.
- His passion for teaching began as a martial arts instructor, later extending to biological literacy and critical thinking in the scientific arena.
- Recognizing the importance of non-academic skills, he co-developed a "Scientific Soft Skills" course.
- Dr. Lauersen's philosophy prioritizes student engagement, critical thinking, and soft skills, preparing students for success beyond the classroom. His dedication to enriching student learning experiences makes him an inspiring figure in bioengineering education.



Suhaib Fahmy

Associate Professor
Computer Science
CEMSE

- He is a dynamic educator specializing in the ever-evolving fields of computer architecture and digital design.
- He prides himself on nurturing intellectual development and fostering a passion for learning, ensuring his teachings are grounded in real-world applications.
- His teaching materials are meticulously crafted, blending key points with engaging diagrams and animations. He promotes active learning through interactive lectures, posing questions and problems for students to solve and catering to various learning styles.
- Dr. Fahmy offers ample student support and constantly seeks to improve his teaching methods.



Joaquin Ortega Sanchez

Instructional Professor
Statistics
CEMSE

- He has a distinguished career teaching Applied Mathematics, Computational Science, and Statistics.
- He adeptly transitioned to new teaching methodologies during the pandemic, successfully implementing a flipped classroom approach for his Applied Statistics and Data Analysis course and creating high-quality digital materials. This innovative method, which involves independent learning supported by videos, written material, and software, received positive student feedback.
- Dr. Sanchez firmly believes in the power of passion in teaching, seeing it as a tool to engage students and inspire a love for science and understanding.



Shadi Fatayer

Assistant Professor
Applied Physics
PSE

- He has an impressive track record in teaching, where he displayed a solid commitment to education, having taught courses, including Condensed Matter Physics and Advanced Nanoelectronics, which he created from scratch.
- His innovative teaching methods have earned him high praise from students across all divisions at KAUST.
- Known for his engaging and inclusive teaching style, he is celebrated for his ability to create a stimulating learning environment that encourages critical thinking and active participation.
- Outside the classroom, Dr. Fatayer makes significant contributions through his mentorship, shaping students' research approaches and attitudes toward academic pursuits.



Gyorgy Szekely

Assistant Professor
Chemical Engineering
PSE

- He is a distinguished educator with exceptional teaching skills; he consistently receives high evaluations and is lauded by students for his engaging teaching methods and dedication to student success.
- His adaptability was highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic, where he leveraged various innovative techniques, including descriptive videos and QR codes, to enhance the remote learning experience.
- As a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Dr. Szekely's focus on student support and course design has significantly impacted the program. He has also contributed substantially to advancing education for sustainable development at KAUST by integrating sustainability concepts into his teaching and creating courses on sustainability.

Faculty Awards 2023

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Salim Al-Babili

**Professor
Plant Science**

- Elected as a Fellow of the International Carotenoid Society (ICS)



Michael Berumen

**Professor
Marine Science**

- Outstanding Alumni Award - 2022 College Recipient - James Cook University College of Science and Engineering



Peiying Hong

Professor
Environmental Science and
Engineering

➤ Finalist - 2023 Letten Prize Award



Leena Ibrahim

**Assistant Professor
Bioscience**

➤ Allen Institute 2022 Next Generation Leaders



Sahika Inal

**Associate Professor
Bioengineering**

- 2022 PMSE Young Investigator Symposium Honoree - American Chemical Society (ACS) Polymer Materials and Science and Engineering Division
- 2022 Beilby Medal recipient



Himanshu Mishra

Associate Professor
Environmental Science and
Engineering

- "Top Innovator for Food Ecosystems in Arid Climates" Challenge Winner for startup Terraxy LLC - Let by the World Economic Forum Uplink Platform - Awarded by the Ministry of Economy and Planning of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2023)
- First Place ITAS Arab Youth Competition - University of Doha for Science and Technology - Awarded by the Prime Minister of Qatar (2023)



Suzana Nunes

**Professor & Vice-Provost
Environmental Science and
Engineering**

- 2023 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Laureate
- 2022 Honor from the American Institute of Chemical Engineering (AIChE) - Separation Divisions (SEP) for a lifetime of dedication and contributions to the fundamentals and application of membrane surface science and technology



Raquel Peixoto

Associate Professor
Marine Science

- 2022 Coral Champion - Lewis Pugh Foundation
- Appointed Vice-President - International Society for Microbial Ecology (ISME)
- Appointed Chair - International Coral Reef Society (ICRS)



Pascal Saikaly

Professor
Environmental Science and
Engineering

- Inaugural 2021 Excellence in Review Awards
- ACS ES&T Water Announced in 2023



Mark Tester

Professor
Plant Science

- AE50 Award and Davidson Prize Winner for "Iyris Heat Blocking Greenhouse Roof, RedSea" - American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE)



Yoshihide Wada

**Professor
Plant Science**

➤ 2022 Rising Star of Science Award -
Research.com



Roberto Di Pietro

**Professor
Computer Science**

➤ 2023 Elected Member - Academia Europea



Marc Genton

**Professor
Statistics**

➤ 2023 Barnett Award - Royal Statistical Society (RSS)



Wolfgang Heidrich

**Professor
Computer Science**

- 2023 Computer Graphics Achievement Award - ACM Siggraph



Peter Markowich

Professor
Applied Mathematics and
Computational Science

➤ 2023 Elected Member - Academia Europea



Paula Moraga

**Assistant Professor
Statistics**

➤ 2023 Letten Prize Award



Atif Shamim

Professor
Electrical and Computer Engineering

- Selected Distinguished Lecturer - The IEEE AP-S Distinguished Lecturer Program (2022-2024)



Athanasios Tzavaras

Professor
Applied Mathematics and
Computational Science

- 2022 Elected Fellow - European Academy of Sciences (EurASc)



Jinchao Xu

**Professor
Applied Mathematics and
Computational Science**

➤ 2023 Elected Member - Academia Europea



Dana Al-Sulaiman

Assistant Professor
Material Science and Engineering

- 2023 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science (FWIS) Middle East Regional Young Talents Program Grant Winner - L'Oréal-UNESCO FWIS



Tariq Alkhalifah

Professor

Earth Science and Engineering

- 2023 Kauffman Gold Medal Award - Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG)



Husam Alshareef

Professor
Material Science and Engineering

- 2023 Elected Fellow - National Academy of Inventors (NAI)



Derya Baran

Associate Professor
Material Science and Engineering

- AE50 Award and Davidson Prize Winner for "Iyris Heat Blocking Greenhouse Roof, RedSea" - American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE)
- "20 Women Behind Middle Eastern Tech Brands 2023" - Forbes Middle East



Min Suk Cha

**Associate Professor
Mechanical Engineering**

- 2023 Elected Fellow - Combustion Institute (CI)



Aamir Farooq

**Professor
Mechanical Engineering**

- 2022 Elected Fellow - Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)



Shadi Fatayer

Assistant Professor
Applied Physics

- 2022 High-profile paper Ernesto Vieitez Cortizo Award from the Royal Galician Academy of Science



Qiaoqiang Gan

Professor
Material Science and Engineering

- 2023 Elected Fellow - International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE)



Carlos Grande

Associate Professor
Chemical Engineering

- 2022 Elected Member - International Adsorption Society Board of Directors



Niveen Khashab

**Professor
Chemistry**

- 2023 Cram Lehn Pedersen Prize in Supramolecular Chemistry - ChemComm Journal, the Royal Society of Chemistry (ChemComm, RSC)



Omar Mohammed

Professor
Material Science and Engineering

- 2023 Elected Fellow - Institute of Physics (IOP)



Gyorgy Szekely

Assistant Professor
Chemical Engineering

- 2022 Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research's (I&ECR) Class of Influential Researchers Award - American Chemical Society (ACS)
- 2023 Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering (SCE) Lectureship Award - American Chemical Society (ACS)
- 2022 Sustainability Award - International Association of Advanced Materials' (IAAM)
- 2023 Elected Fellow - Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)

