

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

MacEwan University announces 2026 Distinguished Researcher Award and Emerging Scholar Award recipients

Edmonton – MacEwan University is pleased to announce its 2026 Distinguished Researcher Award and Emerging Scholar Award recipients.

Distinguished Researcher Award



Congratulations to **Dr. Emily Milne**, associate professor in the Department of Sociology, who is the recipient of MacEwan's 2026 Distinguished Researcher Award.

Each year, the **Distinguished Researcher Award** recognizes one faculty member who conducts exceptional scholarly work that has demonstrated significant contributions to society and the scholarly community – locally, nationally or internationally.

"Dr. Milne's longstanding commitment to students—not just at MacEwan, but throughout Alberta—is what makes her so deserving of this honour," says Dr. Craig Monk, provost and vice-president, Academic. "Her work identifying educational inequities and knowledge gaps within school divisions exemplifies the kind of community-engaged scholarship this award was created to recognize. Its impact will be felt both on campus and throughout the broader community."

Dr. Milne is an applied sociologist and a community-engaged researcher with a focus on the sociology of education, education policy, social inequality, qualitative methods and family/social relationships. She uses theory and research methods to engage with social issues, contribute to public understanding and discourse and address issues in real-world settings.

Dr. Milne was recognized for her impressive research record, extensive student supervision and community engagement. Her 2025 SSHRC Partnership Grant to identify education inequities and address knowledge gaps to improve education decision-making, practices and policies in Alberta was identified as an example of the impactful research she leads.

Emerging Scholar Award



Congratulations to **Dr. Joshua Miller**, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, the first recipient of MacEwan's Emerging Scholar Award.

The Emerging Scholar Award recognizes early-career researchers for their contributions and potential future impact on academia and the community. Recipients must use the funding to engage with MacEwan students by providing research assistantships and developing external funding proposals to further strengthen their research program.

"In his relatively short time at MacEwan, Dr. Miller has truly embodied the principle of teaching what we research," says Dr. Craig Monk, provost and vice-president, Academic. "His conservation work is admirable, as is his ability to translate it into a growing record of publications, knowledge mobilization, grant acquisition and student supervision. I look forward to seeing how this award further strengthens his research program and amplifies the impact of his work going forward."

Dr. Miller is a molecular ecologist applying a range of genetic and genomic techniques to inform wildlife management and conservation. Over his career, he has studied ostriches, bighorn sheep, Galapagos tortoises, pine trees and polar bears. Since joining MacEwan in 2021, he has developed an impactful research program including an impressive record of publications, knowledge mobilization, funding acquisition and student supervision. His proposed research was recognized for its originality and alignment with both the **2030 Teaching Greatness Strategic Vision** and the **Tactical Plan for Scholarship**.

For more information, please contact archerj24@macewan.ca

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 90 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.