



Dear campus community,

The Harry E. Brakebill Award annually acknowledges a professor who demonstrates excellence in teaching, research, creative scholarship and service to our university and region. Upon the recommendation of the Faculty Awards Selection Committee, I am pleased to announce that this year's award recipient is Dr. André Kündgen, professor of mathematics in the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (CSTEM).

Dr. Kündgen joined our university community in 2001 as an assistant professor and was promoted to professor in 2012. Over the years, he has taught 22 different courses at the undergraduate and graduate level. His students and colleagues describe him as an inspirational mentor who impacts student lives through teaching, mentorship and the demonstration of true care for his students' academic, career and personal success.

In their letters of support, several students credit Dr. Kündgen for inspiring their self-confidence and interest in mathematics. While challenging them academically via assignments and material, he is known to make himself readily available to answer questions and provide guidance and support.

Dr. Kündgen not only cares about students' academic success, but he equips them to be more competitive in the modern job market. Whether encouraging them to pursue doctoral degrees or helping them obtain scholarships, he teaches both mathematics and the lifelong skills of tenacity, grit and confidence.

During his career, Dr. Kündgen has co-authored 37 papers (some of them published with his students) and more than 80 presentations nationally and internationally. An internationally recognized scholar, he has been a visiting professor at the Technical University of Denmark.

Dr. Kündgen's fields of interest are graph theory and combinatorics along with the subfields of extremal combinatorics and graph coloring. Related to graph coloring, Dr. Kündgen collaborated with a student to improve a 15-year-old result made by a well-known theorist in the field. Via his research, Dr. Kündgen is highly recognized for his challenges to the famous four-color theorem. Furthermore, he serves as the managing editor of the Electronic Journal of Combinatorics, considered one of the best in the field

of discrete mathematics.

Dr. Kündgen has demonstrated exemplary service and a commitment to shared governance. His committee membership has included: the Nominations, Elections and Appointments Committee (spring 2002); Student Affairs Committee (fall 2002 to spring 2006, chair in 2005-06); Student Grade Appeals Committee (alternate, fall 2006 to spring 2009); Student Governance Committee (fall 2018 to spring 2020, chair in 2019-20); Academic Policy Committee (fall 2010); Professional Leave Committee (fall 2012 and fall 2017); General Education Committee (2015-16 and 2022-23); and Promotion and Tenure Committee (fall 2021 to spring 2022).

Additionally, he has served as vice chair and secretary of the Academic Senate, and he helped create the Lecturer Committee. This level of service requires a commitment of time as well as to the principles of respect, inclusion and impartiality – all of which Dr. Kündgen continues to demonstrate.

We are fortunate to have a colleague and friend in Dr. Kündgen – a passionate student advocate and mentor. He represents the best qualities of our university as both a talented and caring scholar and educator. Please join me in congratulating him on this well-deserved honor!

Sincerely,

Ellen Neufeldt
President