



Distinguished Scholarship Award 2021

This award is to be given to a faculty member who has contributed significantly to their academic discipline and the world through scholarly or creative work at an exceptional level.

This year's award winner is Dr. Grant W. Cook III, Margaret Morgan Ramsey Professor in Music. Considering the breadth, depth, and impact of his scholarship, Dr. Cook deserves recognition for his unrelenting dedication to bringing the joys of music and fine arts to campus, national and international audiences.

Dr. Cook has produced a truly exceptional level of creative work on campus. As one Mount Union colleague noted in his nomination letter, "To find evidence of why our colleague deserves this distinction, one need only look at the outstanding quality of the choral program at the University of Mount Union since coming under Dr. Cook's leadership." Dr. Cook founded and serves as the artistic director of the University of Mount Union Christmas Festival, founded the Kantorei (chamber choir), and created the Men's Ensemble, to name but a few additional signature achievements.

Beyond the campus community, Dr. Cook's accomplishments are equally noteworthy. Under his leadership, the Mount Union Concert Choir's notable achievements include a performance at the Ohio Music Education Association Professional Development Conference, an invitation to sing in Washington National Cathedral, and three performances with the Canton Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. As if that were not enough, Dr. Cook has also developed and led six concert tours in eleven U.S. states as well as in Austria and Scotland.

Apart from his scholarship of engagement, Dr. Cook also actively pursues academic research. In 2019, he published "'Mr. Dwight's Indefatigable Diarist' and 'London's Literary Lion: Alexander Wheelock Thayer (1817-1897), Prospecting for 'my sort of native gold,' August 1860-1861.'" in *The Beethoven Journal* and is presently working on a full-length of Thayer, Beethoven's most celebrated biographer that continues this work. Additionally, his "'A choir is a beautiful thing: Peacebuilding and Reconciliation through the Cultivation of Beauty'" will be published in a forthcoming anthology, *Engaging the Humanities in Education for Peace* (edited by Dr. Nicole Johnson).

Thank you, Dr. Cook, for sharing the beauty and joys of musicology, and congratulations!