

# Texas A&M Science to Induct Four into Academy of Distinguished Former Students – **Mikhail Lukin!**

March 21, 2013



Four prominent Texas A&M University former students from the College of Science have earned selection by the college for its highest alumni honor, induction into its Academy of Distinguished Former Students.

Dr. Wen-Feng Liaw, class of 1989, of Hsinchu, Taiwan; Dr. Mikhail Lukin, class of 1998, of Cambridge, Mass.; Mr. Thomas W. Powell, class of 1962, of Galveston, Texas; and Dr. Keith B. Ward Jr., class of 1965, of Alexandria, Va., will be recognized Thursday (Mar. 21) for their achievements and contributions to their professions, community and causes as part of the college's Spring Recognition and Awards Dinner, to be held at Pebble Creek Country Club in College Station. The college also will recognize its current scholarship recipients along with all of the donors who have established endowed gifts within the college's five departments during the past year.

The Academy was established in 1996 to recognize Aggies who have brought honor to their alma mater and professions through outstanding leadership in mathematics, statistics, the sciences and medicine. Liaw, Lukin, Powell and Ward join a prestigious list of 41 previous honorees distinguished for their merit and innovative achievements.

This year's class marks the second-largest in history, topped only by the 2004 group, which featured a record five inductees.

"Once again our awardees this year show the variety and strength of our former students," said Dr. H. Joseph Newton. "We are pleased to acknowledge stellar examples of both the College of Science's and Texas A&M University's strong tradition of distinction in pioneering scientific research, leadership and knowledge generation to benefit our professions and the world" . . .

Lukin received his doctorate in physics from Texas A&M in 1998 under the supervision of Distinguished Professor of Physics Dr. Marlan O. Scully. In 2001 after completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for Theoretical Atomic and Molecular Physics at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, he joined the physics faculty at Harvard University. Three years later, he earned tenure, becoming a full professor at the age of 33 in less time than it took him to receive a Ph.D.

Building on pioneering concepts he was first exposed to while at Texas A&M, Lukin and his colleagues stunned the world by stopping and storing pulses of light, making artificial atoms behave in new and fascinating ways, and doing engineering with individual quanta of light and matter -- breakthroughs that span the gamut of fundamental science and practical engineering. During the past decade, he has emerged as a central figure for an exciting scientific enterprise that has branched out from slow and trapped light to include sensing and spectroscopy as well as generation of novel quantum states of matter and entanglement -- developments that are central to exploring the next frontiers of quantum science, engineering, and information processing.

"Professor Marlan Scully has had many acclaimed Ph.D. students," said Dr. Stephen E. Harris, Kenneth and Barbara Oshman Professor in The School of Engineering and an emeritus professor of applied physics at Stanford University. "Of these, Professor Mikhail Lukin is far and away the strongest ... a brilliant, insightful optical physicist with a penetrating and off-scale intuition.

"From the Web of Science, as of today, Mikhail Lukin has three papers cited over 1,000 times each, seven papers cited over 500 times each, and 46 papers cited over 100 times each. His h-index is 65, a number seldom reached by any scientist of any age" . . .

Members of the Academy receive a commemorative award and have their names inscribed on a perpetual plaque in the College of Science's Dean's Office.

For complete story, visit: [http://www.science.tamu.edu/news/story.php?story\\_ID=1000#VGuXQPnF\\_pV](http://www.science.tamu.edu/news/story.php?story_ID=1000#VGuXQPnF_pV)

For more information on the Academy and its previous inductees, visit <http://www.science.tamu.edu/giving/adfs.php>.

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