

NCSA 2022 President's Award
Elizabeth Coggin Womack
Associate Professor of English, Penn State Brandywine

It is my pleasure to give the 2022 NCSA President's Award to one of the most quietly efficient, collected, and incisive individuals I've had the good fortune to work with. This individual has been an NCSA presenter and has served on our Faculty Development Travel Award Committee as well as the Board. I always know I can count on her to give me honest and direct feedback, and I have come to rely on her calm and rational perspective as well as her dry wit. She has taken a leading role in organizing not one but two of our conferences in the span of a few short years, and it is thanks in large part to her that we have such a dynamic program of events at this year's conference. It is my honor to recognize as this year's President's Award winner the extremely deserving Elizabeth Coggin Womack, Associate Professor of English at Penn State Brandywine.

I first met Beth at the Dickens Universe in Santa Cruz, back when we were both in graduate school, and Beth quickly became one of my closest Dickens friends and a scholar I have always looked up to. Beth is unpretentious and unassuming, but an incredibly smart scholar and strong writer. Whether she is presenting about hoarding at NCSA or publishing about window gardening in *Victorian Periodicals Review*, Beth is able to couple the seemingly idiosyncratic with the deeply significant. Indeed, she writes on a range of fascinating topics, from misers to pawnshops to the labor of walking. I have the good fortune to count Beth as co-author of one of my favorite writing projects: the *Martin Chuzzlewit* Support Group blog for the *Journal of Victorian Culture Online*. Beth and I discovered, to our great shame as Dickensians, that we had not read *Martin Chuzzlewit* and decided to write about our experiences reading the novel.

Beth is a beloved teacher and has twice won the Arnold A. Markley Honors Faculty Award on her campus for her teaching of Honors English, as well as the campus-wide Excellence in Teaching Award. Her students and colleagues alike recognize and appreciate her dedication and collegiality, and in 2019 one of her students won the national Trollope Prize. When she is not publishing, presenting, or serving her university or one of her several scholarly societies, Beth distinguishes herself as an artist, a grave gardener, a member of the 'Oaring Lions Dragonboat Team, and a supportive spouse and mom.

Beth has been involved with NCSA for years and agreed to serve on our Faculty Development Travel Award Committee in 2017. She agreed to co-direct our 2020 Rochester conference, and she worked tirelessly to develop an exceptional program for that year's conference. When the Covid pandemic started less than two weeks before the start of the conference, Beth once more worked tirelessly, this time to dismantle and postpone an event she spent months of her life constructing. Despite the disappointment of our 2020 conference cancellation and being on sabbatical this semester, Beth once again agreed to help organize a conference in Rochester. I have been involved with many NCSA conferences over the years and I have never seen anyone develop—twice—such a lovely conference program with so much attention to detail and consideration of attendee requests. I am so grateful to Beth for her dedication to NCSA over the years and I am delighted to recognize her today with the NCSA President's Award.

Susan E. Cook
NCSA President