Cal Poly College of Engineering Recognizes Outstanding Faculty, Staff

Cal Poly's College of Engineering recognized outstanding faculty and staff members at its recent annual awards banquet, held at the Embassy Suites in San Luis Obispo. Two outstanding staff awards and a faculty advisor award were presented, along with three industry-sponsored awards.

One professor from the College of Science and Mathematics and one from the College of Liberal Arts were also honored.

Aerospace Engineering Professor Dianne DeTurris of San Luis Obispo was named the Lockheed Martin Endowed Professor, a two-year appointment that comes with a $20,000 grant; Environmental Engineering Professor Rakesh Goel of San Luis Obispo received the $3,000 Northrop Grumman Electronics Systems Excellence in Research and Development Award; and Computer Science Professor Hugh Smith of Santa Margarita won the $2,000 TRW Excellence in Teaching Award.

Since joining the Aerospace Engineering Department faculty in 1998, DeTurris has been successful in generating significant outside interest in her research activities, including ongoing support since 2000 from NASA for the development and launchings by Cal Poly Space Systems of a reusable flyback rocket booster. She recently won support from the Office of Naval Research for a project to develop a tactical reconnaissance platform that is inexpensive, man-portable and expendable. DeTurris's goal for the Lockheed Endowed Professorship funds is to create a research-quality supersonic wind tunnel for use in undergraduate aerothermodynamics lab classes. Last year, U.S. Rep. Lois Capps presented DeTurris with a "California Star for Aerospace Engineering Education" award from the California Space Authority. DeTurris earned her master's degree in aerospace engineering from Pennsylvania State University and her doctorate in aerospace engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Goel, a member of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department faculty since 1999, has established a record of funded research at Cal Poly. For the past three years, he has received funding from the National Science Foundation for research on performance-based seismic engineering of buildings in urban areas and on seismic performance of asymmetric buildings. In addition, a proposal authored by Goel resulted in a $250,000 grant from the Parsons Foundation for Cal Poly's seismic simulator facility in the Advanced Technology Laboratory. Goel received the prestigious Norman Medal from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) in 2001 for "authoring a paper that makes a significant contribution to engineering science." In 2000, he was the recipient of the ASCE Huber Research Prize for "advancing the current understanding of the
earthquake response of asymmetric-plan buildings and for improving procedures for the seismic design of buildings and other structures." Goel earned a master's degree and doctorate in structural engineering from UC Berkeley.

Smith joined the Cal Poly faculty in 1999. With expertise in computer networks, he has been instrumental in developing curricula in emerging, cutting-edge network topics. He also played a key role in establishing Cal Poly's Cisco Network Laboratory. Smith is involved in projects sponsored by the 3Com Corp. and Brocade Communications Systems Inc. He earned a master's degree and doctorate in computer science from Michigan State University.

The engineering student body selected the recipients of the Outstanding Achievement in Teaching Awards and Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award. Winners included Mathematics Professor and San Luis Obispo resident Harvey Greenwald and Psychology and Human Development Professor Donald Ryujin of Avila Beach.

Mechanical Engineering Professor James Meagher of Atascadero won the 2001 Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award for mentoring Cal Poly's award-winning American Society of Mechanical Engineers student chapter.

The college's Outstanding Staff Awards were given to Los Osos resident Kena Burke, coordinator of the Accreditation and Assessment Office, and Computer Science Department Office Manager Diane Goldman of San Luis Obispo.