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Two Cal Poly Faculty Members Receive Distinguished Scholarship Award

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly has named a professor of communication studies and a professor of biomedical and general engineering to receive the university’s Distinguished Scholarship Award for 2012-13.

Communication studies professor Bernard Duffy and biomedical and general engineering professor Lanny Griffin were recognized for exemplifying the teacher-scholar model by purposefully engaging in scholarly activities that positively influenced their teaching, their student interactions, and their disciplines at large.

Both awardees will be honored at spring commencement ceremonies; Griffin on Saturday, June 15, and Duffy on Sunday, June 16. They will also be recognized at the university’s Fall Conference General Session in September.

Duffy was honored for contributions to the field of communication studies on a national scale. He is a leader in the reinvigoration of the study of public address, and his research has led other scholars and students to examine rhetoric in ways that provide insights into historical events. By integrating his research interests and his teaching, Duffy has dynamically impacted Cal Poly students and faculty.

In the late 1980s, Duffy was co-editor of two pivotal anthologies, “American Orators Before 1900” and “American Orators of the Twentieth Century.” These publications led to the 32-volume Greenwood Press series titled “Great American Orators.” Duffy served as advisory editor for the series.

Duffy is the author and co-author of numerous books on orators. A recent co-edited volume, “The Will of a People: Great Orations of African Americans,” was listed by the American Library Association as one of the Most Significant University Press Books for Undergraduates in 2011-12. His work is credited with advancing the nuanced understandings of American history, society and politics.

Duffy has taught at Cal Poly since 1988 and serves as chair of the Communication Studies Department. He is the recipient of the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teacher Award (2001) and Cal Poly’s Distinguished Teaching Award (2003).

He earned a bachelor’s degree in 1970 and a master’s in 1971 in speech communication from San Jose State University. He holds a doctorate in rhetoric and public address from the University of Pittsburgh.

Griffin, an internationally recognized authority on bone mechanics, is being recognized for pursuing dynamic and varied sponsored research projects that have provided positive learning outcomes for students and innovative outcomes for medical practitioners. He has successfully reached out to other disciplines in forwarding collaborative research.

Griffin’s work focuses on immediately improving the quality of life for those in acute need of medical help and improving the long-term prognosis for those patients. He has worked on orthodontic hardware and surgical closure techniques of the chest cavity.

His articles are widely cited, and his special expertise allows him to advance research on a larger scale by serving as a technical reviewer for the National Institutes of Health and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Griffin incorporates his research examples into his curriculum and provides myriad opportunities for his students to engage in real-world research.

He has taught at Cal Poly since 1997. He was also a key figure in the establishment of the Biomedical and General Engineering Department and has served as department chair since 2008.

He also serves in the U.S. Army Reserve at the U.S. Military Academy as an instructor in the Civil and Mechanical Engineering Department. Griffin earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Cal Poly in 1992 and a doctorate in materials science and engineering from UC Davis in 1996.

The Distinguished Scholarship Award was established in 2003 to recognize faculty achievements in research, creative work, and other professional development activities. The award supports research and other creative endeavors and encourages professional growth of
Cal Poly faculty members.

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