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Contact: Amy Hewes
805-756-6402; ahewes@calpoly.edu

Cal Poly Engineering Students Recognize Outstanding Faculty

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly’s Engineering Student Council announced recipients of the group’s annual outstanding faculty awards at a reception held Thursday, May 30. The awards were based on the results of a collegewide student survey.

Environmental Engineering Professor Tracy Thatcher was named Outstanding Professor in the College of Engineering. Thatcher is known as a great teacher no matter what the subject. “Students said that Dr. Thatcher truly cares about their success and commits a lot of hard work toward making her department successful,” said Michael Waddington, president of the Student Engineering Council.

For the second year in a row, Sema Alptekin, a professor of industrial and manufacturing engineering, received the Outstanding Club Advisor award for her mentorship of Engineers Without Borders-Cal Poly (EWB). “Her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty makes her a responsible leader,” said Waddington. “She is instrumental in helping students have a bigger impact at the university and global level.” Under her guidance, EWB has been successful in implementing three international sustainable engineering projects and has been recognized as the nation’s premier chapter.

The award for Outstanding Support in the College of Engineering went to Ladd Caine in the Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering Department. Waddington noted, “His excellent work habits and technical experience make him a huge resource. He has great ideas and loves helping anyone with any project. He is a genuine person who truly cares about students.”

The award for Outstanding Faculty in the College of Science and Mathematics went to mathematics instructor Sean Gasiorek. “Nominators noted that this teacher is awesome at explaining things and is very kind and helpful during office hours,” said Waddington. “Students feel that he makes them better calculus students, which is important to all engineering majors.”

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