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## Cal Poly Engineering Announces Faculty and Staff Award

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly's College of Engineering announced recipients of industry-sponsored faculty awards and the 2013 Outstanding Staff Awards.

Biomedical Engineering Professor Lily Laiho won the \$1,000 Raytheon Excellence in Teaching and Applied Research Award; John Larson, instructor in the Mechanical Engineering Department, received the \$3,000 Wingate Foundation HVAC&R Award; and Jaime Carmo and Christine Haas received this year's Outstanding Staff Awards. The presentations were made at the College of Engineering's winter collegewide meeting held Dec. 10.

### Raytheon Excellence in Teaching and Applied Research

A Cal Poly faculty member since 2007, Laiho has taught 14 different courses, including the design series. Student team projects developed in this series have received recognition at a national design competition for assistive technologies.

Laiho has also taught a multidisciplinary design series involving externally sponsored projects, a model that has been adopted as a formal offering in the College of Engineering. She was recently named founding director of interdisciplinary projects, a position in which she helps manage the spectrum of interdisciplinary project experiences, create opportunities for projects and collaboration, and foster connections with external partners.

Active in funded research and with grants from Raytheon, C3RP and others, Laiho played a key role in creating the master's degree specialization in stem cell research, a program that spans three colleges and has attracted more than \$3 million in external support over the past five years. In addition, Laiho served as the director of Meditec, a consortium that connects biomedical engineering students with projects generated by top biomedical companies.

### Wingate Foundation HVAC&R (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration) Award

The Wingate Foundation HVAC&R Award is presented annually to an outstanding student or staff member in the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Program in the College of Engineering.

Larson was cited for the award for voluntarily developing curriculum and teaching classes without compensation on computer aided design to students in the HVAC&R Program. He provided these essential services to students from 2011 to 2013 when the program lacked qualified instructors. During this period, Larson worked closely with industry experts to ensure the curriculum was current.

"Because of John's dedication, our students were able to progress in the program and stay on track for their degrees," said Jesse Maddren, HVAC&R director.

### Outstanding Staff Awards

Carmo, technician for the Electrical Engineering Department for 25 years, manages department labs and numerous student personnel. He is known for his attention to

detail, prompt response to faculty requests and the development of sound policies. According to faculty, Carmo understands that the needs of students and the teaching mission of the department come first.

"He will drop whatever he is doing to help a student with equipment problems or provide advice on a project," said a faculty member in nominating Carmo. "He's a hands-on problem solver with a can-do attitude."

Carmo has led the development of numerous facilities, including a renewable energy lab, computer design lab, graduate student lab, faculty project lab, embedded systems design lab, and others.

Haas, administrative support and budget analyst for the Mechanical Engineering Department, handles scores of department accounts, including faculty professional development accounts and senior projects accounts. She also serves as co-editor of the department alumni publication, with responsibility for graphic design, layout and printing.

"There wouldn't be a newsletter without her," says Glen Thorncroft, professor and newsletter co-editor. "Christine converted a primitive version of the publication to an InDesign platform and a more sophisticated layout. She even took InDesign classes to become proficient! This is an example of her dedication. Our newsletter and our department are the better for it."

Faculty members also noted that Haas "is always pleasant, cooperative and willing to help students and faculty alike. She greets challenges or even mundane chores with a smile."

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