Excellence in engineering took center stage as Joseph W. Tedesco, Elizabeth D. Rockwell Dean of the Cullen College, recognized the outstanding performances of faculty, staff and students in teaching, research and service at the spring faculty and staff meeting.

Haleh Ardebili, Bill D. Cook Associate Professor of mechanical engineering, received the W.T. Kittinger Teaching Excellence Award, the highest teaching award given in the college, recognizing outstanding teaching and service to students. It carries a $2,000 stipend.

David Shattuck, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, received the Career Teaching Award. Given intermittently, this award is reserved for faculty who have shown a life-time commitment to Cullen College students. Shattuck?s award carries a $2,000 stipend.

Four other professors were given teaching excellence awards and a $250 stipend: Yuhua Chen, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, Jae-Hyun Ryou, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, Yi-Lung Mo, professor of civil and environmental engineering, Xuemei Chen, instructional assistant professor of mechanical engineering and Aida Khayatian, teaching assistant in industrial engineering.

Typically, two college research awards are granted, one to a junior faculty member (non-tenured) and one to a
senior faculty member for excellence in research. This year two junior faculty members were awarded and all received a $2,000 stipend. The winners in the junior category are Cunjiang Yu, Bill D. Cook Assistant Professor of mechanical engineering and Saurabh Prasad, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering. In the senior category, Professor Yi-Lung Mo of civil and environmental engineering, took home the prize.

Two graduate students both received the Best Dissertation Award of 2016-2017. Fatemeh Ahmadpoor in mechanical engineering and Katy Olafson of chemical and biomedical engineering both took home the prize and $1,000.

Two outstanding staff service awards are granted annually to recognize and honor staff members who have demonstrated excellence in service and exemplary productivity to their respective departments and college. But this year two junior level awards (10 years or less of service) were given along with one senior award (more than 10 years of service). The junior level winners were Nicholas Plosko from the department of biomedical engineering and Miranda Vernon-Harrison from the dean’s office. They both received a $1,000 stipend. Senior winner was Evette Adams of the dean’s office who won a $1,500 stipend.

See the full list of Cullen College faculty award recipients below.

---

**College Awards**

- **Haleh Ardebili** (ME)  
  *W.T. Kittinger Teaching Excellence Award*

---

**Teaching Excellence Awards**
Research Excellence Awards
Junior Faculty Research Award

Cunjiang Yu (ME)
Junior Faculty Research Award

Saurabh Prasad (ECE)
Junior Faculty Research Award

© University of Houston Cullen College of Engineering