

TOP PROFESSORS RECEIVE UNIVERSITY HONORS

Each year, Cal State Fullerton honors its outstanding faculty with awards focusing on teaching, research, and collegial governance. This year, a new award was presented to an outstanding lecturer. The highest honor goes to the recipient of the Outstanding Professor award.

In this month's Titan Report, we pay tribute to a handful of outstanding faculty who teach, encourage and support CSUF students as they work toward their degrees. Their commitment and expertise ensures that upon graduation, CSUF students are uniquely prepared to excel as emergent leaders in the global marketplace, in further education, and in their communities.



SINGING THE PRAISES OF THE YEAR'S OUTSTANDING PROFESSOR

A chorus of cheers and applause filled Meng Concert Hall as Cal State Fullerton President Mildred García announced to the University's volunteer women's choir members and their conductor, that Robert Istad had won the year's Outstanding Professor Award.

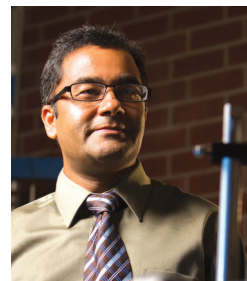
"You and your singers have placed Cal State Fullerton on the map. And he's an alum!" exclaimed García, praising the professor of music and choral studies director's commitment to high-impact practices and constant high marks from his students.

Istad, a tireless advocate of music and the arts, oversees the administration of the School of Music's major choral ensembles: the CSUF University Singers, Concert Choir, Women's Chorus, Men's Chorus and Jazz Singers. He also teaches choral conducting and choral literature.

The Outstanding Professor Award recognizes a faculty member with a record of superlative teaching and scholarship that also contributes to the stature of the University and the California State University system.

Under Istad's direction, the University Singers ensemble has been invited repeatedly to perform with prominent professional ensembles, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Pacific Symphony, and at venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl.

The professor is in very high demand as a choral instructor and clinician and is actively involved in the development of community-based programs in choral music.



ENGINEERING PROFESSOR TAKES TOP TEACHING HONOR

It is often the goal of an educator to be an inspiring teacher. A prime example of one who does

this well is Binod Tiwari, professor of civil and environmental engineering, who was honored as the recipient of Cal State Fullerton's 2016 Carol Barnes Excellence in Teaching Award.

The internationally known expert in his field holds a doctorate in geotechnical engineering from Niigata University in Japan. For his research, which focuses on slope stability, natural disaster/ landslide mitigation and geotechnical earthquake engineering, he has received more than \$1.5 million in external funding.

His mentorship to more than 100 students on research projects has led to their presenting at regional and national engineering competitions and conferences.

RESEARCHER STUDYING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE RECEIVES SHIELDS AWARD

For biological science professor Marcelo E. Tolmasky, examining why bacteria becomes resistant to antibiotics and developing novel



treatments to overcome the problem has been the forefront of his research work.

The rise of so-called "nightmare bacteria" or "superbugs" that resist virtually all available antibiotics threatens treatment of bacterial infectious diseases, as well as other medical procedures.

"With many antibiotics becoming ineffective, our research goal is basic: to understand the problem, how bacteria acquire resistance and what do we do about this," said Tolmasky. "Antibiotic resistance is one of the greatest threats to human health."

For Tolmasky's record of excellence in research, mentorship to students and commitment to the University's educational mission, he is this year's recipient of the L. Donald Shields Excellence in Scholarship and Creativity Award.

SCIENCE EDUCATOR IS INAUGURAL RECIPIENT OF OUTSTANDING LECTURER AWARD

Megan Tommerup was named the inaugural recipient of the Outstanding Lecturer Award, an honor created last year to publicly acknowledge lecturers “who demonstrate excellence in teaching effectiveness and commitment beyond classroom teaching.”

Tommerup, serves as science education and credential preparation coordinator, as well as the biology teacher education coordinator in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Tommerup plays an active role in efforts to prepare K-12 teachers and as course coordinator for courses offered for pre-service elementary school teachers.

The educator also has been involved in development of teacher prep courses and led or co-led a number of grant programs that further teacher preparation on campus and at other educational institutions.



COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR HONORED WITH FACULTY LEADERSHIP IN COLLEGIAL GOVERNANCE AWARD

Jason Shepard, department chair and associate professor of communications, is this year's recipient of the Faculty Leadership in Collegial Governance Award.

Colleagues credit Shepard with strengthening the Communications



Department and altering its trajectory since his election to chair in 2014.

Immediately after taking the helm, Shepard was undaunted by an accreditation self-study and coordinating campus visits for accreditation and certification. His inclusive and effective decision-making earned him the Leadership Award presented during the University's 2015 Annual Awards program.

“Jason has consistently exhibited a positive, optimistic outlook, a strong work ethic, and an underlying dedication to doing whatever is needed for his students and for the Department of Communications,” noted Andi Stein, professor of communications.



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Did You Know?



- Cal State Fullerton employs 2,151 full- and part-time faculty members.
- Faculty members were awarded \$22.7 million in grants and contracts for research and scholarly activities in 2014-15.
- Cal State Fullerton is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC); nationally accredited in art, athletic training, business, chemistry, communications, communicative disorders, computer science, dance, engineering, music, nursing, public administration, public health, social work, teacher education and theater.
- Cal State Fullerton is designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution.