The Russ College Honors Alumni, Faculty, and Staff

Russ College faculty and staff gathered in May to celebrate outstanding teaching, research, and performance in 2008–2009.

The Russ College’s Outstanding Administrative, Technical, and Classified Employee Awards recognize employees with outstanding results-based performance. Recipients for 2009 were: Bonnie Behn-Geddes, administrative associate for the Department of Industrial Technology (classified); Micah McCreery, laboratory technician for the Ohio Coal Research Center, (technical); and Bruce Brown, assistant director of operations for the Institute for Corrosion and Multiphase Technology (administrative).

The late Fritz and Dolores Russ established the Russ Awards, which carry a cash award of $1,500 and a personalized plaque, in 1981. The Russ Outstanding Research Paper Award recognizes research and scholarship excellence across the college by faculty who published papers in refereed journals. The 2009 recipient was Srdjan Nesic, professor of chemical engineering and director of the Institute for Corrosion and Multiphase Technology.

Chosen by Russ College students, the Russ Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award recognizes outstanding teaching and advising across the college. The 2009 recipient, Professor of Mechanical Engineering Israel Urieli, said that no award can be more satisfying than being chosen by the students themselves.

“When I first started teaching thermodynamics, students would tell me with a yawn, ‘You must admit that this is rather a dry subject,’” he recalled. “I have spent the past 18 years continually trying to show the exact opposite.”

The Marvin E. and Ann D. White Awards, which carry a cash award of $500 and a personalized plaque, were established by alumnus Marv White and his wife, Ann, in 1988.

The White Research Award recognizes continued and sustained achievements in research, scholarship, and the creation of new knowledge in each department of the Russ College. Recipients for 2009 were: Bryan Branham, associate professor in the Department of Aviation; Nesic; Shad Sargand, Russ Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering; Chang Liu, associate professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Dale Masel, associate professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering; Kevin Berrissio, assistant professor in the Department of Industrial Technology; and Khairul Alam, Moss professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

The White Teaching Award recognizes dedicated teaching and student advising in each department of the Russ College. Recipients for 2009 were: B.J. Galloway, associate professor in the Department of Aviation; Michael Prudich, professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering; Eric Steinberg, associate professor in the Department of Civil Engineering; Doug Lawrence, professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Gursel Suer, professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering; Zaki Kuruppalil, assistant professor in the Department of Industrial Technology; and Greg Kremer, associate professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

In addition, the Russ College advisory board and Robe Leadership Institute honored Jim Rankin, associate dean for research, graduate studies and planning, with its Board of Visitors/Robe Leadership Institute Leadership/Service Award. Rankin was recognized for his service to the field of aviation navigation and to the University at the institutional, center, and college level.

Professor emeritus of electrical engineering Joe Essman also was honored for his 25 years of support for the Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS), which works to increase high school student interest in engineering and enhance the visibility and importance of engineering to society.

Academy of Distinguished Graduates Welcomes New Members

Edmund "Ed" K. Cheng, B.S.E.E. ’72
Cheng began his career at Intel, where he held various design and management positions in the microprocessors group for several years. Currently, he is president and CEO of Gradient Design Automation, a leader in thermal analysis technologies for integrated circuits, which he helped to introduce into the industry.

Bill Englefield, B.S.C.E. ’52
Englefield and his wife, Janet, started a petroleum products distribution company out of an office in the basement of their home. Today, Englefield Oil, Inc., which includes almost 100 Duke and Duchess convenience stores, has total annual sales of about $700 million and employs 1,500 people.

Carla Lucchino, M.S.I.S.E. ’82
Lucchino began her 25-year career with the U.S. Department of Defense as an industrial engineer in the machine shops of the Seneca Army Depot in Romulus, N.Y. Since 2002, she has served as the assistant deputy commandant in Installations and Logistics at the U.S. Marine Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Richard H. McFarland, B.S. ’50
McFarland, who returned to Ohio University in 1962 to join the electrical engineering faculty, was recognized in May as an honorary Russ College graduate. Holding more than 18,000 hours as pilot in command, McFarland founded the Avionics Engineering Center in 1963 and spent more than 40 years in the research and development of aircraft navigation and landing systems.