

Faculty awards

Who's Who

Inclusion in the Cambridge Who's Who is an honor. But, when only one member in each discipline is named the Cambridge Who's Who Professional of the Year, it's an extraordinary honor. The Cambridge Who's Who selection committee handpicks these special Who's Who honorees based on accomplishments, academic achievement, leadership and service.



Kevin Haglin, professor and chairperson of the Department of Physics, Astronomy and Engineering Science, has been named the Cambridge Who's Who Professional of the Year in Physics Education.

"The exposure has been very helpful as students, colleagues and friends from the community have indicated

that they've seen the news releases and they want to know more about it," Haglin said.

Haglin has an extensive background in effective and popular physics teaching. At St. Cloud State, he teaches calculus-based physics and applications in theoretical physics, developing and applying mathematical techniques used commonly in the physical sciences. Before joining St. Cloud State, Haglin was an assistant professor at Grinnell College (1997-1998), visiting assistant professor at Lawrence University (1996-1997), research associate at Michigan State University (1993-1996) and research fellow at McGill University (1990-1993). He has published 50 articles in various nuclear physics research journals.

"We all have an opportunity, and essentially an obligation, to try to make a difference within our fields. Knowing that I am in some small way making a difference to the students, to the department and to the college is already rewarding, but to receive an award like this is a very nice bonus," Haglin said, adding, "It's been a bit humbling."

Hellervik Prize

The Hellervik Prize is St. Cloud State University's premier prize for research. Its purpose is to encourage faculty to engage in scholarly activity that has the potential to earn external sponsorships.

Chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer of Personnel Decisions International in Minneapolis, Hellervik earned a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor's degree in psychology from St. Cloud State.

Applications are judged on the following criteria:

- feasibility and sustainability of the project
- potential for extramural funding
- integration of faculty/student research
- potential to advance knowledge on issues of importance to society

2006

Aiping Yao works to develop non-invasive techniques to examine diseased tissues.

Assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), Yao has applied the \$2,500

Hellervik Prize to "Ultrasound Signal Processing for Soft-Tissue Characterization," a project to build a simple ultrasound system to use in teaching and research. The system consists of an ultrasound source, RF amplifier, TX transducers, RF switcher, water tank, RX transducer, low-noise amplifier, digitizer, 2-D motion control system, computer and QUI.

Yao also received \$5,000 in University Research Funds and matching funds from ECE and the College of Science and Engineering. His project is nearing completion.

"We tested every individual part and integrated our first simple system without a motion control part months ago. The system worked very well. We can distinguish the different materials from the received ultrasound signal by using the system now, such as rubber, metal and wood. Right now, we are working on building our final system. There are still a lot problems to be solved. Hopefully, it can be completely done by this summer," he said, adding that additional funding is needed.

Robert Nunn, a graduate student, is working with Yao on the ultrasound project, as is Yi Zheng, an ECE professor.

2007



Latha Ramakrishnan received the Hellervik Prize as well as University Researchers funds to study.

Protein that regulates communication between the approximately 100 billion cells in the nervous system since this protein plays a critical role in the normal function of the brain, its abnormal

function results in many neurological disorders such as epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease, learning disabilities and drug addiction. Among these, epilepsy afflicts nearly 50 million people world-wide, including three million in the United States.

Ramakrishnan plans to select nucleic acid sequences that bind specifically with this protein, as they can help in designing potential anti-epileptic drugs. As the first step in this research project, Jason Hein, a St. Cloud State undergraduate student, is currently growing biological cells that express this protein. In the subsequent steps, the protein of interest from the cell membranes will be purified and then nucleic acid sequences that specifically bind to the protein will be isolated using a novel iterative molecular biology-based research method.



Brian Olson received the Hellervik Prize as well as University Researchers Funds to study the role of a certain protein in suppressing cancer.

The second-leading cause of disease-related deaths in the United States, is caused by the alteration of many cellular proteins that normally function to coordinate the growth of cells. Six years ago, an important protein named Cdc4 was identified as a suppressor of cellular growth. It functions to suppress the formation of tumors in normal cells by inhibiting several other proteins that promote cancer development. Individuals who have mutant versions of their Cdc4 gene have an increased risk of developing cancer.

Having recently discovered that a protein named Mediator participates in Cdc4's tumor-suppressive role, Olson proposes to determine Mediator's role in Cdc4's suppression of cancer.

Olson's student research assistants for spring 2007 are Nick Lennemann, a senior biotechnology major; Camrin Schultz, a sophomore double majoring in biomedical science and biotechnology; and sophomore biomedical science majors Taqdees Mahroof, Collin Plafcan, Andrew Schwinn and Laraine Zimdars.

Service-learning

St. Cloud State's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) supports and encourages service-learning, a teaching strategy that enriches the curriculum by combining meaningful community service with academic learning. Service-learning provides "real-life" experiences by linking students with local communities and service providers. Reflection and reciprocity are key concepts of service-learning. St. Cloud State University's service-learning coordinator and AmeriCorps member help foster engagement across the campus.



Kurt Helgeson, associate professor and chair of the Department of Environmental and Technological Studies, was one of five university faculty who received a 2006 CETL Service Learning Award. Helgeson worked with Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity in his residential construction course. For 11 of the class's 16 meetings, its students met at a Habitat construction site, which gave them the opportunity to see and work with the building construction processes they had read about in the text and discussed during class lectures.

"The course was designed so the students would read about the information, discuss the information of the upcoming construction activity on the site during classroom meetings, and see and work with the application in the field," Helgeson said.

Darlene Copley, associate professor in the Department of Nursing Science, was one of nine faculty to receive CETL's annual Small Service Learning Grant. With the grant, Copley plans to redesign Nursing 312: "Mental Health Clinical" to allow students to develop a relationship with an individual experiencing mental illness by participating in a series of recreational events with the individual. This service-learning project "directly addresses the caring component" of the Nursing Department's mission by enhancing students' "holistic view of addressing the whole person, not just the specific illness," she said.



Teacher Scholar Award

James and Marion Miller Teacher Scholar Award was established by James and Marion Miller, owners of Miller Architects and Builders of St. Cloud, who have a long affiliation with St. Cloud State University. Two of their children graduated from the university, and Jim Miller served on the SCSU Foundation Board through 2004. The James W. Miller Learning Resources Center is named in honor of his 1999 contribution to SCSU. The Millers said the award is to recognize faculty for teaching and citizenship.

Patricia Hauslein, associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, was a recipient of the 2006 James and Marion Miller Teacher Scholar Award and was honored at the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Faculty Luncheon Aug. 29. The award applies up to \$2,500 to each recipient's professional development account.



Professor of the Year

Across the university, faculty deemed the best teachers each year are recognized by the student members of the campus chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society for educators. According to Michael Davis, associate professor of teacher development and advisor for the chapter, "These professors are considered the best of the best. They are outstanding professors. They can really teach."

2004

Bishnu Naraine, professor of mathematics education, said being chosen Professor of the Year affirmed his teaching philosophy: "A lot of the students, they just say, 'Well, tell me the rules.' They don't want to learn by discovery, spend a lot of time and discover a formula. So it is very rewarding when students come and tell you that they can now see the value of learning by discovery. We're hoping they can take that kind of spirit into their teaching when they become teachers."



2005 and 2006



Janis Cimperman, associate professor of mathematics who also was named a Professor of the Year in 2002, said students are her job: "I tell my students that I hope they can find a job someday that they enjoy doing as much as I enjoy doing mine. That when you find the job that you really like, you will get up in the morning and you will go to work and you

will say, 'I am having so much fun I can't believe that somebody is paying me to do this.'"

Student Organization Advisor of the Year

Mark Mechelke, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, was named 2006 Advisor of the Year by the Excellence in Leadership Committee of the Center for Student Organizations and Leadership Development.



He advises the Chemistry Club.

Club activities: performing magic shows, judging regional science fair; conducting Earth Day Expo, Horizons workshop and hands-on activities at the public library. "Husky Volunteer for Science," an outreach to local elementary students was developed by Mechelke and Tammy Leenay, was named one of the outstanding service projects on campus by the service and Engagement Committee of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (NCA). The NCA also bestowed its 2005-2006 Commendable Award to the Chemistry Club. Of 980 chapters in United States, only 34 received a higher award.

Retirees

Spring 2005

James Goke, Environmental and Technological Studies, began his faculty appointment in 1972.

Spring 2006

Janice Maslonkowski, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, began her staff appointment in 1977.

Patrick Mattson, Aviation, began his faculty appointment in 1987.

Charles Nelson, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, began his faculty appointment in 1975.

Anthony Schwaller, Environmental and Technological Studies, began his faculty appointment in 1978.

Elaine Thrune, Biological Sciences, began her staff appointment in 1971.

James Wilmesmeier, Mathematics, began his faculty appointment in 1990.

Janet Woodard, Biological Sciences, began her faculty appointment in 1987.

Spring 2007

John Cronn, Biological Sciences, began his faculty appointment in 1976.

Summer 2007

Dale Williams, Dean's Office, began his appointment in 1987.