2017-2018 Electrical Engineering Teaching Awards

The Electrical Engineering Department at USF recognizes and rewards outstanding performance in academic instruction, specifically with two awards that are annually given to a faculty member and a graduate teaching assistant. The **Outstanding Electrical Engineering Educator Award** is given to a faculty member in the USF Department of Electrical Engineering in recognition of significant contributions to the department's teaching mission during the preceding academic year. Contributions considered include significant innovations in course development and/or course delivery methods, outstanding student evaluations, education-related grant funding or external support, and education-related publications. Significant student interaction in the form of mentoring, project advising and other similar activities are also considered.

The 2017-2018 recipient of this prestigious award is **Dr. Jing Wang**. Dr. Wang is the Co-Director of the Center for Wireless and Microwave Information Systems (WAMI) with a long-term mission to provide integrated research and educational programs excelling in wireless and microwave technology. By collaborating with Keysight Technologies, the WAMI center initiated the Keysight RF & Microwave Industry-Ready Certification Program in 2013 as the first university to develop and implement this program. Until now, a total of 65 USF students have earned their Keysight RF Industry Ready certificates, while 39 other universities followed our footstep to join this program. At the ASEE 2018 conference, Dr. Wang contributed to a panel discussion entitled *Different Strategies for Preparing Students to Tackle the RF Engineering Challenges of Tomorrow* along with fellow panelists from University of Arizona, University of Notre Dame, Pennsylvania State University, and Georgia Institute of Technology (https://peer.asee.org/different-strategies-for-preparing-students-to-tackle-the-rf-engineering-challenges-of-tomorrow-a-panel-discussion). Dr. Wang has also been very active in mentoring graduate and undergraduate students to conduct crosscutting research funded by external agencies or companies. So far, 14 Ph.D. students have successfully defended their dissertations and graduated under his supervision, and there are 7 undergraduate students who are conducting research in his lab funded by a NSF REU program.

In addition to the Faculty Educator award, the department issues an award to outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistants. The **Electrical Engineering Teaching Assistant (TA) Award** was created to provide TAs a visible incentive to develop a commitment to student success and excellence in undergraduate instruction. This award encourages talented TAs to develop electronic teaching portfolios that document and demonstrate their teaching commitment and effectiveness, and allows the department to formally acknowledge them for outstanding

instructional accomplishments, publicize the accomplishments of our TAs and to enhance the esteem in which teaching by graduate students is held as an integral component of the professional preparation of graduate students.

The **2017-2018 Electrical Engineering Teaching Assistant Award** was given to **Vishwa Alaparthy**, a doctoral student in the Electrical Engineering program at USF. Vishwa has TA'd for courses in the department that include Logic Lab, Design II and Introduction to Bioengineering. Vishwa recognizes that the knowledge students acquire during their time in a course is not just from the faculty or the TA but from various sources and he wants to enable the students to convert the skills attained from their curriculum into practical and real-world abilities necessary for them when they graduate and start a career.

As a TA, Vishwa takes on the responsibility of being available for the students whenever they have a question about their projects or the course and encourages students to work toward an interdisciplinary approach for their projects, equipping them with more ideas, approaches and new inspirations. Knowing how difficult it can be for students in their final semester to cope up with all the pressure surrounding them he tries to make them feel comfortable by designing the course in such a way that it is both productive and does not consume a lot of their time. Vishwa's research interests are in Network Security, IOT's, Machine Learning, Computer Architecture, Routing, WSN, ADHOC Networks, Algorithm Development and Bio Networking. Vishwa's current research is focused on Adapting Human Immune theories to Network Security. He also was previously awarded an International travel grant from the Office of Graduate Studies, which provides grants to students to present their work at an International conference.