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Faculty awarded for geosciences contributions

Ranking 6th nationally in geosciences, OSU awards outstanding faculty members

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The geosciences department isn't only helping students better understand the environment in which we live, but it is also racking up awards in a mixture of different fields.

Together, three OSU professors have shown that geosciences merit recognition.

"The important aspect of this is they are three very good people, but who do very different things," said Roger Nielsen, the department chair of geosciences.

With specialties ranging from distance education to climate research to oceanography, the department has shown great dexterity.

"This shows tremendous range of expertise exhibited by geosciences faculty," Nielsen said.

Recently, at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, Peter Clark, director of the OSU geology program, was awarded the Easterbrook Distinguished Scientist Award in recognition of his research in glacial geomorphology and climate change. The award includes \$30,000 to support research.

Cub Kahn won the Vice-Provost and Directors Award for Outstanding Achievement in On-Line Teaching Innovations.

The award recognizes outstanding contributions by faculty and staff that significantly advances the mission of outreach and engagement.

Although the structure of Kahn's online courses such as geography 105, 326, 327, 329 and 350 are similar to other courses, the use of a discussion board is very practical.

"For my courses, the discussion board is the heart of the course," Kahn said.

Kahn asks students to research something and then bring their findings back to the discussion

board and respond to other students' postings.

OSU was also recently ranked 6th nationally in geosciences by Science Watch, based on the citation impact of published research.

In 2007, Dawn Wright, a professor of geography and oceanography, was named Oregon Professor of the Year by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation.

Also known as "Deepsea Dawn," Wright is on sabbatical until 2009 but leaves a lasting impression on students.

"When you go down in a submersible, it feels very much like being an astronaut," Wright said earlier this year. "You're going through this alien world, but it's inner space instead of outer space."

The Leopold Leadership Fellowship was awarded to another worthy geosciences professor, Edward Brook. He received the award for his research in climate history with emphasis on ice core records of greenhouse gases.

Brook joined nineteen fellow researchers as having outstanding qualifications in science and demonstrating strong leadership abilities.

All the recognition the geosciences faculty has received over the past few years shows that they have high expectations and level of achievement in every aspect of their work.

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