

# Faculty Awards

## Department of Mathematics

January 17, 2017

### Outstanding Service: Mike Pilant

Mike Pilant has been of tremendous help in dealing with Engineering Mathematics. Not only has he served as chair of the Engineering Mathematics Committee for many years, but he has been instrumental in a number of successful initiatives, such as the Math Placement Exam and the Personalized Precalculus Program. In particular, he has been the go-to person for data and their analysis to document these programs. He has been Co-PI on engineering mathematics related grants totaling more than three million dollars, and he is currently taking the lead on a TOPS grant to create a virtual math learning center. His contributions have been absolutely essential to the success of our distance MS program, and he has also played a key role in the way we run our service calculus courses.

### Outstanding Service: Rashi Arora

Rashi Arora is an integral part of our faculty who contributes greatly to both our teaching and service missions. She has taught a variety of classes, and students speak very highly of her dedication and teaching abilities. Rashi is a huge asset to our actuarial program— she is the faculty advisor of Aggie Actuaries, our University-recognized student organization for undergraduates who are interested in careers in actuarial science. During her time with the club, she has expanded the list of companies and departments within companies that are actively recruiting our majors. She helps our students find jobs by networking with actuarial recruiters and giving them firsthand knowledge of our students' achievements and capabilities.

### Outstanding Teaching: Dean Baskin

Dean Baskin is a great teacher. His student praise him as energetic and helpful, is willing to involve students in examples and takes the time to explain the concepts and material provided in class. Dean presented the material clearly, concisely, allowed the class to navigate the problems, but in his way of accomplishing these tasks he somehow also taught the students how to make the connections needed to solve problems. So, in short, he was able to teach the details, the bigger picture, connect the details to the bigger picture, and instill the knowledge into his students. One of his students says, “experiencing his teaching style is like watching a master work his art. You can't quite explain why it is so wonderful but you are filled with a sense of awe and wonder. ”

## Outstanding Teaching: Joungdong Kim

For many students Joungdong Kim is one of the BEST instructors our department has ever seen. The student-evaluations he received from his engineering calculus classes were outstanding, and those from his business-maths classes were also excellent. The latter is indeed remarkable. Students comment that Kim is genuinely cares about their success and treats them like good friends. His class is well organized and he works hard to help his students. His humor makes the lectures fun and he always offers kind words of encouragement. Kim is an excellent communicator whose work should be recognized and applauded.