The University Distinguished Professor Award – Dr. David Jones (Department of History and Philosophy)

The selected recipient of this award, Dr. David Jones, has not only been distinguished in his excellence in teaching but has also held leading roles throughout the nation and internationally and his service has distinguished our university as an educational leader with prominence in research and service. He has been founding editor of a prominent journal, held leadership roles over many years, and provided active service to a number of academic communities at the local, regional, national, and international levels. He exemplifies an integrated career, including serving on advisory boards in his discipline on local through international levels. He served as Association Faculty Advisor for the last 22 years, originated several programs such as Asian Studies and Peace Studies. In addition to the twelve books he has published or in press he also has 28 journal issues produced, with 26 corresponding article length introductions, 20 book chapters, 25 articles (some translated into Chinese) and review articles and 2 creative writing pieces. With all these accomplishments this faculty member’s attention to student aspirations, the programmatic needs of his area, and university requirements has never diminished. This documented excellence in distinguished teaching, research and service has resulted in the selection of Dr. Jones for the University Distinguished Professor Award.

The University Distinguished Professor Award – Finalists:

Dr. Chih-Cheng Hung (Department of Computer Science)

From the Department of Computer and Software Engineering, Dr. Chih-Cheng Hung has an extensive record of distinguished research that includes more than 200 jointly authored and co-authored journal and conference papers as well as more than 100 seminar presentations, including three keynote speaker invitations. He has established a research laboratory, now called the Laboratory for Machine Vision and Security Research, at KSU and has been funded by several grants and contracts from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA.). In teaching, he has developed several new courses for the Computer Science and Information Technology departments. He has also promoted the Master’s Program in Computer Science and the Honors program at KSU-SPSU, producing more than 19 M.S. theses and one Honors thesis. His vita shows that he works actively to ensure his classroom teaching remains relevant to Industry in order to prepare students for either a career or advanced graduate study.

Dr. Nikolaos Kidonakis (Department of Physics)

From the Department of Physics, Dr. Nikolaos Kidonakis has an extensive history of ongoing activity that involves research in high-energy elementary particle physics (which is the field of physics that studies the fundamental particles of nature and their interactions). He has authored 127 physics research publications, which have received approximately 8,400 citations to date,
and received numerous research grants, awards, and prizes. His research has gained international recognition, as evidenced by the thousands of citations of his papers: the presentation of his results by other physicists in thousands of research talks and seminars, the use of his theoretical work by other particle theorists in their papers, and the critical role that this finalist’s calculations and results have played in top quark and Higgs boson studies and searches by the experimental collaborations in the highest-energy collider laboratories in the USA and Europe. He has received two NSF grants. In his teaching he has created several new courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels and he is committed to emphasizing deep physical principles that describe nature and endeavors to impart a sense of wonder about scientific discovery over the whole distance spectrum from elementary particles to cosmological scales.