UC Santa Barbara's Computer Science Department and Faculty Win Three Teaching and Mentorship Awards

Santa Barbara, Calif. April 20, 2007 -- The Computer Science Department and faculty in the College of Engineering at the University of California, Santa Barbara have recently won three significant campus awards for departmental mentorship, graduate mentorship, and distinguished teaching:

- The CS Department was awarded the Departmental Graduate Mentorship Award for its exemplary efforts to recruit and retain top candidates, distribute funding resources effectively and to create an environment conducive to student success. Given by the Graduate Council and Graduate Division, the decision was based on department data, results from the Doctoral Exit Survey and statistics from the Office of Budget and Planning that showed median time to degree, graduation rates and number of degrees conferred.

- The Academic Senate gave the Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award to Amr El Abbadi, a professor in the Department of Computer Science, for excellence in mentoring graduate students. Notably, he has recruited high quality graduate students for his research group; received many extramural grants to help support his students; taught highly popular courses in the CS Department; steered his graduate students to pursue research that matched their skills and interests; helped his students find good positions in academia and industry; and continued to mentor students even after their graduation from UCSB.

- The Academic Senate honored Kevin Almeroth, a professor in the Department of Computer Science and Associate Dean of the College of Engineering, with the Distinguished Teaching Award, for excellence in teaching at UCSB. Almeroth has won many awards for his teaching, including receiving the Computer Science Faculty Teaching Award four times and a UCSB Spotlight on Excellence Award in 2001. He has created several popular courses; developed the digital classroom as a next-generation teaching environment; and created the PAIRwise plagiarism detection system.

For information on the last ten yeas of growth in Computer Science at UC Santa Barbara, visit the CS web page.

Note to the media: There will be a ceremony honoring Almeroth, El Abbadi and other UCSB recipients of Academic Senate awards, on May 10, 2007 at 3 pm in the University Center.

About the College of Engineering at UC Santa Barbara

The College of Engineering at UC Santa Barbara is a global leader in bioengineering, chemical and computational engineering, materials science, nanotechnology and physics. UCSB boasts five Nobel Laureates (four in sciences and engineering) and one winner of the prestigious international Millennium Technology Prize. Its students, professors and staff thrive in a uniquely-successful interdisciplinary and entrepreneurial culture. Their professors research is among the most cited by their peers, evidence of the significance and relevance of their work. Visit www.engineering.ucsb.edu.

Released by Barbara Bronson Gray

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