

BRIEFLY IN THE NEWS

UCI professors share in research cash prizes

Four UC Irvine faculty projects will share the first Nicholas Foundation Prize for Cross-Disciplinary Research, a spokesman for the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology announced late last week.

The Institute, also known as Calit2, awarded \$285,000 to four proposals by UCI professors and staff, each of which involves some kind of multidisciplinary research.

advertisement



Prizes of \$80,000 went to Bill Tomlinson, assistant professor of informatics and drama, and F. Lynn Carpenter, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, who are collaborating on an interactive exhibit known as the EcoRaft; to Steven C. Cramer, assistant professor of neurology, and Cristina Lopes, assistant professor of informatics, who are developing a communication system for spinal cord-injured patients; and to Kenneth J. Shea, professor of chemistry, and Abraham Lee, professor of biomedical engineering. They are working on a method for synthesizing antibodies.

A smaller prize of \$45,000 went to Chen Tsai, professor of electrical engineering and computer science; Regina Ragan, assistant professor of chemical engineering and materials science; John Hemminger, professor of chemistry; Ruqian Wu, professor of physics and astronomy; and Guann Li, professor of electrical engineering and computer science, who are collaborating on a silicon-based laser system.

UCI faculty members submitted 24 proposals for the Nicholas Prize, which Calit2 first announced last November. A committee of other UCI staffers evaluated the applications.

"Calit2 is dedicated to bringing together the most innovative research from all disciplines at UCI and creating collaborative relationships that will produce new and valuable results," Calit2 Irvine Division director Albert Yee said in a statement. "The research emerging from this competition will further that mission significantly."