Academic Affairs Award for Impact Accomplishment of the Year in Research, Scholarly & Creative Activity

Dr. Chris Lowe
Biological Sciences

Dr. Chris Lowe’s research contributes to the understanding of many important issues and is making a difference not only within his field, but nationally and internationally.

A professor in Biological Sciences and director of the nationally renowned CSULB Shark Lab, Dr. Lowe is highly successful in funding a diverse research program that includes studies on sting rays and maternal offloading, population dynamics of barred sand bass, spread of contaminants via white croaker populations, use of newly restored habitat by California halibut and fish habitat in Baja California.

Over the past year and a half he has received many grants, worth a total of well over $1 million; the largest being nearly $500,000. That grant, from the National Science Foundation’s Robust Intelligence program, allows Dr. Lowe and scientists from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to track sharks using underwater vehicles that gather and send data to scientists.

Since January 2012, Dr. Lowe has published seven book chapters, several of them with student authors. Over the past 18 months, he has published 18 peer-reviewed manuscripts, primarily with student co-authors.

Recently, he and Dr. Steven Manley published research showing that radioactivity from Japan’s damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant was present in California kelp more than a month after the 2011 tsunami.

Dr. Lowe has an extensive list of conference presentations including invited talks, keynote engagements and 13 talks, with his students, at national and international meetings.

He has been elected to numerous high-profile positions and is involved with countless organizations, including the American Fisheries Society, the American Elasmobranch Society and the American Institute of Research Fisheries Biologists.

Dr. Lowe was among a team of experts who consulted on “Ocean in Google Earth,” a feature of the virtual globe, Google Earth. Last year, he and his students’ research on juvenile white sharks of California was featured on the Discovery Channel Shark Week show “Great White Invasion.”

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Dr. Hamid Rahai
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Dr. Hamid Rahai is the Interim Associate Dean for Research in the College of Engineering and a professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. He joined CSULB as a part-time lecturer in the Mechanical Engineering Department, became a full-time lecturer a year later and was hired as an assistant professor in 1989 after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine.

He received both his bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering and master’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from CSULB in 1980 and 1981 respectively.

Dr. Rahai has a distinguished career as a teacher-scholar. He has taught various classes at both undergraduate and graduate levels in the areas of fluid mechanics, thermodynamics, heat transfer, experimental techniques, numerical methods and turbulence, and has been a consultant to the local energy and aerospace industries for the past 20 years.

He has supervised more than 60 master’s theses and projects and doctoral dissertations. He has published more than 80 technical papers, mostly with his students as co-authors.

Dr. Rahai has received more than $3 million in grants and contracts from the National Science Foundation, the Federal Highway Administration, the California Energy Commission, the California Air Resources Board, The Port of Los Angeles, the Boeing Company, Southern California Edison, the Long Beach Airport, and Long Beach Transit, among others.

He has been awarded a patent with Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Chair Hamid Hefazi for development of a high efficiency vertical axis wind turbine and has two pending patent applications in the areas of renewable energy and diesel emissions control.

Dr. Rahai is the founding director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Research and Services (CEERS) and the recipient of numerous Scholarly and Creative Activities Awards. In 2003 he received the CSULB Distinguished Faculty Scholarly and Creative Achievement Award and in 2004 he received the Northrop Grumman 2004 Excellence in Teaching Award.