Welcome to the February edition of our eNewsletter! We are grateful to have this monthly opportunity to communicate with our alumni and friends and share some of the wonderful things we’ve been doing here at the college.

Each year, we honor our outstanding faculty and staff members at our annual college awards banquet for the excellent work they do within the college. We recently held our banquet for 2013 and recognized a number of individuals for their great contributions to the college and our students.

Four faculty members and one administrative staff member received college awards recognizing their accomplishments. Both Jeff Macedone of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry and William Christensen of the Department of Statistics were acknowledged for their excellence in teaching and classroom instruction; Jeff as a faculty member here fewer than 10 years and William as a faculty member here for 10 or more years. Jessica Purcell, of the Department of Mathematics, received the Faculty Young Scholar Award, recognizing excellent scholarship for a faculty member here at BYU for less than 10 years. Additionally, Dan Olsen of the Department of Computer Science received the Distinguished Citizenship Award for his significant service contributions within the department, college, and university.

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Staff member John Ellsworth was recognized for his exemplary service in the Department of Physics & Astronomy.

Similarly, we also recognized several staff and administrative members for their many years of distinguished service here at the university.

Kim Sullivan, Kris Mortenson, and Kathy Lee Garrett received awards recognizing their 25 years of service, while, Ruth Dauwalder, Peggy Erickson and Kurt Huntington were honored for their 20 years of dedicated service.

Greg Conlett (15 years) and Shane Jorgenson and Jackie Robertson (10 years) were also honored for their years of service.

It’s always a pleasure to be able to highlight the efforts and achievements of our many accomplished faculty and staff members. As we strive to perform cutting-edge research and provide students with a world-class education here in the college, the majority of the responsibility falls on this group of diligent men and women—and they always respond admirably.

Without their hard work and dedication, I’m not quite sure where we would be. We are thankful for their service — and we are also thankful to you for being a part of our college family and for your continued support.

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**WORLD-RENOWNED CHEMICAL ENGINEER COMES TO BYU**

It’s not everyday that one of the 100 most important people in America comes to Brigham Young University.

Dr. Robert Langer, from MIT, will present the Izatt-Christensen lecture for the general public February 6, 2013. This annual event is sponsored by the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the Department of Chemical Engineering.

Deemed one of the 100 most important people in America by Time Magazine and CNN, Langer has more than 200 prestigious awards to his name, including the 2006 United States National Medal of Science. Forbes Magazine and BioWorld Today also named him one of the 25 most important individuals in biotechnology in the world.

Dr. Langer will be discussing the history of biotechnology—from cancer research to pharmaceutical drugs to tissue engineering. He has published more than 1,175 articles on the topic and is the most cited engineer in history.

The public is invited to attend both of Dr. Langer’s lectures, the first of which will be the general session February 6, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. in the Joseph Smith Building auditorium. The more technical presentation will be February 7, at 11:00 a.m. in W111 of the Ezra Taft Benson Building.

These lectures are part of the yearly Izatt-Christensen lecture series hosted by the Chemical Engineering Department of the Ira A. Fulton College of Engineering and Technology and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

Read more of this story.