University recognizes outstanding teaching, research, outreach work

Posing for a photo after last week’s ceremony were front row, from left, Dr. David Meabon, Dr. Neil Reid, Dr. Brian Randolph and Dr. Mark Vonderembse, and back row, from left, Dr. Sharon Barnes, Dr. Paula Dupuy, Dr. Mark Sherry and Dr. T.S. Ragu-Nathan.

The University of Toledo’s outstanding teachers and researchers and the recipients of the Edith Rathbun Outreach Award were recognized last week during an awards ceremony at the Hilton Toledo.

Dr. Brian Randolph, professor of civil engineering and associate dean of undergraduate studies in the College of Engineering. He began his career at UT as an instructor in civil engineering, and was promoted to assistant professor in 1989, associate professor in 1993 and professor in 1997. Randolph has received numerous teaching awards in the college.

“In addition to being successful academically, he sincerely wants to make sure that every student is getting the most out of their experiences at UT. No matter how busy he gets, his door is always open for students to come and talk,” a nominator wrote.

Randolph said he was moved by his selection as an Outstanding Teacher as he greatly respects and admires the past recipients.

“My role as a teacher is part interpreter and part coach. I try to use my understanding of the material to present concepts in multiple ways that match students’ learning styles,” he said. “We have incredible students at UT, yet some topics still come hard. It’s important to coach persistence until the light bulbs go on. Student success is the most gratifying part of my job.”

*Taken in part from the UTNEWs, April 22, 2010*

By Meghan Cunningham