2-15-16

**OSU recognizes climate scientist, computer expert with Distinguished Professor awards**

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CORVALLIS, Ore. – Oregon State University has named Peter Clark and Margaret Burnett as its 2016 Distinguished Professor recipients, which is the highest academic honor the university can bestow on a faculty member.

“Both Peter Clark and Margaret Burnett are visionary scientists whose careers are affecting people all over the world,” said Sabah Randhawa, OSU provost and executive vice president.

“The work of Dr. Clark is cutting-edge science that helps everyone better understand what climate change may mean to them, using the past as a powerful guide to help predict the future,” he said. “And we live in a world where computers are pervasive, used by everyone from elementary school students to retirees. An expert in visual programming languages, Dr. Burnett has made those instruments more user-friendly, interactive and dependable for all people.”

Burnett, a professor of computer science in the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, has been a pioneer in making the world of computers more friendly, interactive and useful for everyone, especially non-experts and women. As a leader in several gender diversity activities, including advancing STEM education, Burnett was awarded the 2015 undergraduate research mentoring award from the National Center for Women & IT.

She is an expert in visual programming languages, and helped develop the entire field of “end user” software engineering, which allows million more people to successfully produce computer programs that are dependable and of high quality. Burnett has also tackled the problem of a computer world in which software is often designed by men, and fails to acknowledge the different ways in which men and women communicate and process information.

This field of “gender-inclusive” computer study is also critical in bringing more women into technology, a goal which Burnett has worked toward for decades. She is an award-winning mentor to graduate, undergraduate, and high school students and a leader in several gender diversity activities.

Burnett received her doctorate in computer science from the University of Kansas and has been at OSU since 1992.

This honor will be permanent so long as the recipient remains at OSU. Both professors will give public lectures this spring on topics related to their field of study.

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**About Oregon State University:** OSU is one of only two universities in the United States that is designated a Land Grant, Sea Grant, Space Grant and Sun Grant institution. OSU is also Oregon’s only university to hold both the Carnegie Foundation’s top designation for research institutions and its prestigious Community Engagement classification.