2015
School of Engineering and Applied Science Distinguished Faculty Award
(Pamela M. Norris)

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To recognize one faculty member annually, who has demonstrated excellence in teaching, research, and/or service. Their service can be to his/her discipline, the University, involvement with students, and/or the University community. This year we are presenting this award to Professor Pamela M. Norris.

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• Professor Norris joined the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department as an assistant professor in 1994 and advanced quickly through the Professorial ranks achieving Full Professor in 2004. In 2005 she was named a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and in 2010 she became the Frederick Tracy Morse Chaired Professor.

• Pam is the founder and director of two highly successful laboratories which are in distinctly different areas: the “Microscale Heat Transfer Laboratory”, and the “Aerogel Research Laboratory.” The first lab growing from an NSF Career award was eventually awarded a $7.5M MURI grant over a 5 period from ONR; the second lab grew from a small SBIR Phase 1 DARPA grant in conjunction with the Pacific Sierra Research Corporation…this industrial collaboration ultimately led to the establishment of a Charlottesville Branch office of General Dynamics who purchased PSR, allowing them a close collaboration with Pam and her students.

• Pam has consistently been involved in University and SEAS service activities. She has been active in the Faculty Forum for Scientific Research, the Dean’s Research Advisory Council, the University’s Research Parks Communication Council, the University Research Policy Advisory Committee, and the Faculty Senate. Most recently she has been very active in promoting Women in STEM disciplines, currently serving as co-Principal
Investigator for an NSF ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Grant.

• Pam is a successful mentor of undergraduates, graduates and faculty. To quote one of our young female faculty members in SEAS, “She is an incredible role model for me and other early career faculty, and her work has had tremendous positive benefits on the School and University for more than two decades.”

• Professor Norris has served SEAS well as the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and now she will serve SEAS as the Executive Associate Dean for Research where she will help guide our School’s research enterprise.

• For this and more than I have time to tell you about, we wish to award Professor Pamela M. Norris this year’s School of Engineering and Applied Science Distinguished Faculty Award.