The Distinguished Faculty Award is given to recognize a faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in teaching, research and/or service. This year we are giving two Distinguished Faculty Awards. The first one is being given to Professor Thomas Baber.

- Tom joined the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in 1986 and has exhibited a deep commitment to educating and advising undergraduate and graduate students in structural mechanics and structural engineering ever since.

- He is brilliant. It has been said that Professor Baber has forgotten more than most people will ever know. He has a love of learning that is contagious.

- He is selfless and always ready to help a new faculty member or a student.

- It is not unusual to pass by his office and see students huddled around his desk or to hear about his involvement in the student chapter of ASCE and student 4th year Capstone projects.

- He is often mentioned in “favorite professor” stories among alumni.

- One of his former students had this to say about Tom: “A great teacher motivates students to think critically, encourages students to achieve and inspires students to pursue new opportunities. Tom served that role for me – and hundreds of other students during his tenure at the University of Virginia.” This former student is Professor Sharon Wood who is the dean of the Cockrell School of Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin.

- For this and more we wish to award Professor Thomas Baber with one of this year’s School of Engineering and Applied Science Distinguished Faculty awards.