Dr. Scott Stine Named Outstanding University Professor

Scott Stine, Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, has been named the university’s 2004-2005 “George and Miriam Philips Outstanding Professor,” the third time in four years that a professor from the College of Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences has received this award. An innovative teacher, a cutting-edge researcher, and an active contributor to the field of environmental science for over 14 years, Professor Stine will be honored at the Fall Faculty Convocation in late September.

In acknowledging the award, Professor Stine remarked that student support for this recognition was the most gratifying part. He is “first and foremost, a supremely gifted teacher” writes Professor David Larson, Chair of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, who adds, “Not only does he have an encyclopedic knowledge of his major fields, he conveys that knowledge to his students in ways that are innovative, challenging, exciting, and particularly memorable to them.” Professor Larson credits Stine with inspiring students to earn graduate degrees or work for state and federal agencies.

Professor Stine’s articles on paleoclimatology, the study of prehistoric climate conditions, have appeared in the prestigious science journal *Nature* and other research publications, earning him the attention of CNN, the BBC, *The New York Times*, and the *Los Angeles Times*; *Time* Magazine featured his work in western drought study last summer (August 16, 2004). As a consultant for the State Attorney General’s Office, the Department of Fish and Game, the Mono Lake Committee, and numerous other regulatory bodies and nonprofit organizations, he was instrumental in the establishment of the “Public Trust Doctrine” in the landmark Mono Lake case that curbed water diversion and began restoration of the lake’s environment.

Professor Stine gave the keynote speech, “Droughts and Deluges of California’s Prehistoric Past: Defining a ‘Climatic Normal,’” at the annual Albert R. Lepore Forum in late March. The presentation was open to members of the Lepore Society, donors who have made unrestricted contributions of $1,000 or more to the Cal State University East Bay Leadership Fund.