Four members of the ORIE faculty were recently recognized at the College of Engineering’s Teaching and Advising Awards luncheon. Jim Dai, the Leon C. Welch Professor of Engineering, is joined by assistant Professors Krishnamurthy Iyer and Jamol Pender as Excellence in Teaching Award recipients, while Professor Bob Bland and Pender each received the James M. and Marsha D. McCormick Award for Outstanding Advising of First-Year Engineering Students. ORIE student Samantha Nirenberg earned the Peer Advisor Outstanding Service Award.

Dai came to ORIE from Georgia Tech in the fall of 2012. In addition to teaching courses at the undergraduate, master’s, and Ph.D. levels, he has advised or co-advised several Master of Engineering projects. Dai’s teaching focuses on stochastic processes, a fundamental topic that is central to OR and necessary for modeling systems that exhibit time-varying randomness, from the spread of disease in populations, to waiting line dynamics, to movements in stock prices, to inventory availability across distribution networks.

Iyer has been an assistant professor in ORIE for four years. During that time, he has taught two popular elective courses for undergraduate and master’s students — ORIE 3800: Information Systems and Analysis, ORIE 4350: Game Theory — and a Ph.D. level course, Foundations of Game Theory and Mechanism Design (ORIE 6350). He has advised and co-advised several Master of Engineering projects as diverse as maintaining the CitiBike fleet (with Professor David Shmoys), understanding customer purchasing behavior when products are out of stock at Walmart.com, and forecasting demand for Merck animal health products. He has also advised several undergraduate research projects.

Pender has been an ORIE faculty member for only two years, but as anyone spending even a brief amount of time on the second floor of Rhodes Hall can attest, he is already making a significant positive impact as both a teacher and a mentor. Not only has Pender co-advised Master of Engineering design projects in each of his first two years, in 2016 he supervised 15 undergraduates in various research team projects.

Bland has been a member of the ORIE faculty since 1978 after a short stint at SUNY Binghamton. He received his B.S. (1969), M.S. (1972) and Ph.D. (1974) degrees from Cornell University and was a Ph.D. student of D.R. Fulkerson during his graduate days on the East Hill.

Nirenberg was chosen as this year’s recipient of the Peer Advisor Outstanding Service Award, which recognizes the work she did for the ENGRG 1050 Engineering Seminar this past fall and the invaluable impact she made on first-year students here at Cornell.

ORIE FACULTY RECEIVE COLLEGE TEACHING/ADVISING AWARDS

ORIE’s College of Engineering teaching/advising award recipients (l-r): Samantha Nirenberg (Peer Advisor Outstanding Service Award); Bob Bland (James M. and Marsha D. McCormick Award for Outstanding Advising of First-Year Engineering Students); Krishnamurthy Iyer (Excellence in Teaching Award); Jamol Pender (Excellence in Teaching Award); Kathryn Caggiano, who introduced each recipient at the luncheon; and Jim Dai (Excellence in Teaching Award).

JUST IN: ORIE FINALIST FOR UPS SMITH PRIZE

Cornell ORIE M.Eng. programs selected as finalist for the 2018 UPS Smith Prize, the INFORMS award for “effective and innovative preparation of students for O.R. practice.” Finals are in April — wish us luck!