

William R. Wiley

EMSL In Brief

Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory

EMSL User Receives Prestigious Honors from Home Institution

Alex Punnoose, a user of the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL) and physics professor at Boise State University (BSU), received three prestigious awards this year from his home institution. Punnoose received the 2007 Boise State University College of Arts and Sciences Award for Distinguished Teaching and the Award for Distinguished Research—the first BSU professor to receive both awards in the same year. In addition, more recently Punnoose was named winner of the university's 16th Foundation Scholar Award for Research and Creativity. These awards recognize ongoing commitment, expertise, and accomplishment in teaching, research and creative activity, and professionally related service.



Alex Punnoose

As a teacher, Punnoose was cited for his dedication and skill in the classroom and for his contributions to developing future scientists. He teaches in both the undergraduate physics program and the graduate materials science program at BSU.

His scholarly achievements include publishing more than 65 refereed papers in diverse fields, including spintronics, magnetic semiconductor materials, photonic materials, and other high-profile research areas. His current work at EMSL involves studying the development of ferromagnetism in oxide semiconductor nanostructures; the ferromagnetic properties of these materials make them promising candidates for development of a new generation of computer chips. Punnoose is also using EMSL facilities to study how semiconductor nanoparticles enter cells. This work has applications in the use of nanomaterials in biomedicine.

Punnoose's research has earned him international renown. In 2005, he received a prestigious Early Career Development award from the National Science Foundation (NSF), and he is the principal or co-principal investigator on grants worth more than \$4 million, including an NSF grant for a transmission electron microscope housed on campus. During his five years at BSU, Punnoose has filed three patent applications and another is in preparation. He received his Ph.D. from Aligarh Muslim University in India.

For more information on Punnoose's BSU College of Arts and Sciences awards, see <http://www.boisestate.edu/physics/punnoose/news/>. More information on his Foundation Scholar Award is available at <http://news.boisestate.edu/newsrelease/042007/0425foundationscholarsawards.shtml>.

For more information, contact Mary Ann Showalter (509-376-5751).

P.O. Box 999 Richland, WA 99352 • <http://www.emsl.pnl.gov> • 509-376-2553