Anil Pahwa, professor of electrical and computer engineering, was awarded the Logan-Fetterhoof Electrical and Computer Engineering Faculty of Distinction Chair. Pahwa’s research focus includes computer methods for power systems, smart distribution systems, and distribution system planning and analysis.

He is currently conducting research funded by two separate National Science Foundation grants, one involving holonic multi-agent control of intelligent power distribution systems and the other dealing with effects of environmental factors on distribution system outages. Pahwa is a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), so honored for his contribution to power distribution system automation and restoration. He is also a recipient of the IEEE PES Douglas M. Staszesky Distribution Automation Award, Frakenhoff Outstanding Research Award, Eta Kappa Nu Distinguished Faculty Award, and the Power Engineering Education Committee Prize Paper Award. He is an active member of IEEE, serving as editor of IEEE Transactions on Power Systems, chair of the power and energy education committee, and vice chair of the power system planning and implementation committee. He will be the general chair of the 45th North American Power Symposium at Kansas State University in September 2013.

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Bala Natarajan, professor of electrical and computer engineering, was awarded the Clair N. Palmer and Sara M. Palmer Electrical Engineering Professorship. Natarajan’s core expertise spans theoretical domains of statistical signal processing, stochastic and mathematical modeling, and optimization theory. He directs the wireless communications and information processing research group at K-State, which over the past decade has made significant contributions to the areas of wireless communications, sensor networks and signal processing in cyber physical systems.

He has more than 100 refereed research publications, has published a book and holds a patent on a customized spreading sequence design algorithm for code division multiple access systems. Currently funded research projects include a NASA EPSCoR grant involving biosensor networks and telecommunication subsystems for long-duration missions, EVA suits and robotic precursor scout missions; and a National Science Foundation grant involving the K-State student chapter of IEEE and its senior design projects to aid children with disabilities.

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