November 19, 2014

To: Faculty and Staff
Division of Physical and Biological Sciences

From: Paul L. Koch, Dean

Re: 2014 Outstanding Faculty Award

This morning we presented the 2013-14 Outstanding Faculty Award to Professor A. Christina Ravelo in a small ceremony at our Chairs Meeting. This annual award is the division’s highest honor for faculty achievement, recognizing combined excellence in research, teaching, and service.

Professor Ravelo is a paleoceanographer who studies climate change over Earth’s history, and how shifts in climate and ocean dynamics are linked. The impact of her work has been remarkably broad, influencing not only those in her field, but also scientists focused on modern and future climates and on the potential impacts of climate change. She has done paradigm-shifting work that points to persistent El Niño-like conditions several million years ago, when the Earth was slightly warmer, and she has explored changes in the California Current and Bering Sea. Her extensive scientific contributions have been widely recognized. She is regularly invited to speak at top universities, has had consistent research funding for more than two decades, and was chosen by the American Geophysical Union to deliver the Emiliani Lecture in recognition of her great contributions to paleoceanography and paleoclimatology. In 2012, Professor Ravelo was elected a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, the largest Earth science organization in the United States. Her international reputation is one of the reasons that UCSC is recognized as a leader in paleoclimatology, paleoceanography, and paleobiology.

Professor Ravelo has an extraordinary record of excellent, high-impact service at all levels, from the department, to the UC campus, to national and international organizations. On campus, she was a member of the Women in Science task force. She has been critical in leading or supporting campus proposals, such as Major Research Instrumentation grants, that have helped to elevate UC Santa Cruz to one of the premier institutions in the world for stable-isotope analysis, with a laboratory that supports faculty and students in multiple departments across several divisions. Professor Ravelo began to serve on the Committee on Academic Personnel in 2010, and took over as Chair of that committee in 2012. She served as Director of the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics from 2005 to 2011. In the local community, Professor Ravelo has been a member of a diversity oversight committee for a public charter school and for the Santa Cruz Montessori School, and a speaker at Pacific Collegiate School.
Professor Ravelo has served the national and international scientific community on steering committees and workshops, convened sessions at national meetings, and organized a symposium for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) meeting. She also co-organized a National Research Council (NRC) meeting; such meetings are often used to shape research agendas for the next decade or longer in the United States. Professor Ravelo has played a leadership role for the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) and has also been an Associate Editor of *Paleoceanography*.

Professor Ravelo’s service as a co-Chief Scientist of an ocean drilling expedition to the Bering Sea involved an unusual amount of commitment and hard work and deserves special recognition. Selection to be a co-Chief Scientist of an international ocean drilling expedition is an exceptionally meritorious achievement that underscores her status as a senior leader in marine geology and paleoceanography. These expeditions require coordination and collaboration with a large number of scientists from different disciplines and nations, and leading an expedition of this magnitude is only trusted to highly regarded scientists.

Professor Ravelo is a committed and excellent instructor, consistently teaching classes at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. She has also developed new classes and teaches one of the required graduate courses for Ocean Sciences, *Marine Geology*. In addition to classroom teaching, Christina has provided an undergraduate research experience for a very large number of students. She is a dedicated mentor of graduate students, postdoctoral researchers and undergraduate students. Her success as a mentor is shown by her student’s first author publications, some of which are in *Science* and *Nature*, and many high impact Earth science journals.

In summary, Professor Ravelo has an outstanding record in research, teaching and exceptional service to the campus and the broader scientific community. The Outstanding Faculty Award from the Division of Physical and Biological Sciences is richly deserved campus recognition for her exemplary record.