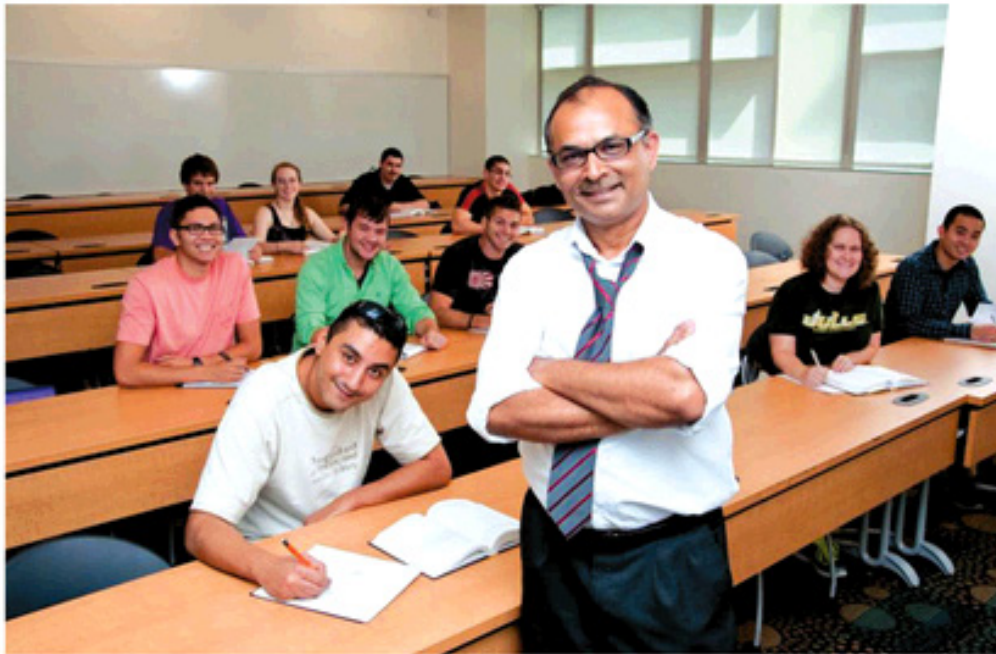




## Professor of the year

Autar Kaw at the University of South Florida



FACEBOOK.COM/USF.EDU

Some knew him as the 'numerical methods guy,' some as a professor of mechanical engineering, fellow of ASME, and Jerome Krivanek Distinguished Teacher at the University of South Florida. Now **Autar Kaw** will be known as the 2012 Outstanding Doctoral and Research Universities Professor of the Year.

The India-born and raised Kaw, 52, is among the four recipients of the award — the only national initiative designed to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring — by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

He makes complex mathematical equations lucid for engineering students beyond his classroom through his We bsite and YouTube video lectures.

With the open courseware, which he and his team spent 11 years developing and testing, students can learn and test concepts at their own pace, and not have to wait until the next class for the professor to bring back answers to their questions. The team includes a variety of delivery formats.

"My students love it," said Kaw, who was selected from a pool of nearly 300 nominees. "It has really helped students see the implications of what they're learning... Students are novices, they are not experts. If you are an expert, a guide on the side is a good way to teach you something new, but if you're a novice you need guided instruction."

"You can start with a sage on the stage and then slowly start taking away the support structure and become a guide on the side."

Congrats, Professor.

— Press Trust of India