Two Ph.D. students from EECS department, Uddipan Das and Mojtaba Sepehry, were awarded 11th and 12th Maha “Maggie” Sawan Fellowship respectively. Maha “Maggie” Sawan Scholarship is awarded to Ph.D. students or M.S. students admitted to a Ph.D. program based on their academic achievement.

Maha "Maggie" Sawan Fellowship was established by her family to honor her life, her lifelong dedication to education, her service to family and community, and the respect she engendered in all who came in contact with her.

Mr. Mojtaba Sepehry received his MS in Electrical Engineering from Azad University South Tehran Branch, Iran in 2012. Since fall 2014, he has been pursuing his PhD in Electrical Engineering under the guidance of Dr. Visvakumar Aravinthan. His research interests include uncertainty modeling and analysis for future power systems, reliability and micro-grid. Based on his academic achievements he was inducted as a member of EECS department honor society, IEEE-HKN, in spring 2016. He has co-authored a journal article and six conference papers during his graduate studies. He was a co-author of the paper titled “A New Algorithm for Reliability Evaluation of Radial Distribution Networks” that won first place in the best paper competition at the 46th North American Power Symposium in September 2014. Dr. Visvakumar Aravinthan, his Ph.D. advisor, describes Mr. Sepehry as “a very humble and respectful person, who is always willing to help others and celebrate the successes of others.”

Mr. Uddipan Das received his BS in Computer Science and Engineering from West Bengal University of Technology in India in 2006. He received his MS in Software Engineering from Jadavpur University in India in 2009. Upon his graduation he worked as a Senior Scientific Officer at the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission for five years. Since August 2014, Mr. Das has been pursuing his PhD degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Wichita State University under the guidance of Dr. Vinod Namboodiri. His research interests include data concentration for smart grids, networking and communication aspects of smart grid, machine learning techniques and communication in UAV. Mr. Das is co-author of the paper titled “Towards Application-Aware Data Communication Schemes for Advanced Metering Infrastructures,” at IEEE International Conference on Smart Grid Communication, Nov. 2015. Dr. Vinod Namboodiri, his Ph.D. advisor, describes Mr. Das as “Very community-conscious person, who never misses an opportunity to discuss with students his vision of how our society should be and what students can do to solve such challenges.”