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11-19-2009

CEAS e-news 11.19.2009

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College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, "CEAS e-news 11.19.2009" (2009). *College of Engineering and Applied Sciences News*. 27.

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Thursday, November 19, 2009

Volume 05, Issue 05

Jerrie Fiala, Editor: jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu**Five honored with 2009 CEAS Awards for outstanding work**

CEAS Dean **Anthony Vizzini** presented **2009 CEAS Awards** to five CEAS faculty / staff members at the Fall 2009 CEAS meeting.

Dr. Andrew Kline, a Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI) associate professor, is the **2009 Outstanding Educator**. He teaches all levels of the undergraduate chemical engineering program and has been an instructor in the CEAS first-year STEP program since its inception.

Kline co-founded the CEAS Engineering Design Center for Service Learning, and currently serves as program manager for WMU's Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program. His research efforts have focused on engineering education and providing class-related research opportunities for undergraduate students.

A PCI graduate advisor, Kline is also co-coordinator for the Engineering in Germany study abroad program. His background includes BS and PhD degrees in Chemical Engineering from Michigan Technological University, where he worked as Senior Research Engineer and Instructor for seven years. Before joining WMU in 2001, he had a post-doctoral appointment at Cornell University.

Dr. Alexandra (Sasha) Pekarovicova, a PCI associate professor, is the **2009 CEAS Outstanding Researcher**. She publishes in many prestigious international journals and presents at national and international conferences. She has written several monographs and *Disruptive Technologies in Ink and Pigment Industries*, a book published in the UK.

She annually secures funding for graduate students from decorative industries. This year, Pekarovicova received \$135,000 in funding for the "Printed Electronics on Glass" grant.

Pekarovicova is a member of the Board of Directors of Technical Association of Graphic Arts (TAGA) and serves as a faculty advisor for WMU's student chapter of TAGA. She serves as a peer reviewer for TAGA Journal and several others. Her MS and PhD are from Slovak Technical University.

The **2009 Outstanding New Researcher** is **Dr. Muralidhar Ghantasala**, an associate professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE). His primary research interest is the design and fabrication of microelectromechanical



2009 CEAS Award winners (from left): Judy Northey, Dr. Andrew Kline, Matt Stoops, Dr. Sasha Pekarovicova, and Dr. Muralidhar Ghantasala

systems (MEMS) and nano sensors and actuators. He has been a PI or Co-PI on different research grants worth more than \$500,000 and awarded by different agencies. He has published more than 25 research papers in international peer reviewed journals and conference proceedings in the last six years. So far he has two patents.

Ghantasala came to WMU in 2003 with 10 years of academic experience at RMIT University and Swinburne University of Technology in Australia. He obtained his PhD from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and he has won the best PhD thesis award with a Martin Forster Gold Medal.

Matt Stoops, a PCI lab technician earned the **2009 Outstanding Staff** award. Stoops, who came to WMU in the late 1980s as a dietician major, became enthusiastic with paper technology while taking a chemistry class. His primary area is the paper lab, but he assists wherever he is needed. "Interacting with students in a lab is unique and enjoyable work," he said.

Judy Northey, manager of the Parkview Cafeteria for six years, was honored with an **Outstanding Service Award**. "I enjoy the students, and I like to make the parents feel a little more comfortable at orientation," she said.

The winners of this year's awards were selected by a committee of last year's winners from nominations made by faculty, administrators, and emeriti. These five 2009 award winners will serve as the selection committee for those who win next year's awards.