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Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Volume 03, Issue 06

Jerrie Fiala, Editor: [jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu](mailto:jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu)**Six honored by CEAS Dean for outstanding work**

Six CEAS faculty and staff members were presented with **2007 CEAS Faculty and Staff Awards** by **CEAS Dean Tim Greene**, who initiated the awards last year as an annual tradition. **WMU President John Dunn** participated in the presentation ceremony.

"We have outstanding faculty and staff," Greene said. "This is one way we can recognize the best of the best."

Three award recipients work in the Dept. of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME); two in the Dept. of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI); and one in the Dept. of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE).

**Dr. Tycho Fredericks**, an IME professor who came to WMU in 1995, won the **2007 CEAS Outstanding Researcher** award for his work in seating and healthcare design. A board certified ergonomist, he has authored over 80 publications, been awarded over \$1.8 million in sponsored research, and received the Ray Witt Award by the American Foundrymen's Society (AFS) for his work in ergonomics. Besides research, he also directs the Human Performance Institute, is the Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering (IEE) advisor, and belongs to several state ergonomic committees. He teaches courses in work design, ergonomics, and biomechanics.

**Dr. Raja Aravamuthan**, a PCI professor, and **Dr. Sam Ramrattan**, an IME professor, each won a **2007 CEAS Outstanding Educator** award.

**Aravamuthan**, a Gordon H. Sindecuse professor, teaches paper and chemical engineering and imaging and serves as a paper engineering and imaging advisor. Since joining PCI in 1986, he has been heavily involved in undergraduate and graduate education at the department, college and university levels; is presently involved in preparing under-represented minorities for STEM fields and global engineering education; and has conducted training courses for the ink industry. His research has involved pulping and bleaching and non-wood fibers, process modeling and simulation, deinking, and the use of enzymes in pulp and papermaking processes.

**Ramrattan**, who came to CEAS in 1992, teaches materials and processes in manufacturing, metal casting, die casting, and process measurement and testing. He has developed graduate courses in casting simulation and solidification, design, material selections and processing, and process monitoring and control. He is a Key Professor for the Foundry Educational Foundation and a technical advisor to the American Foundry Society. He has supervised many projects and supported his students in acquiring scholarships and positions in metal casting. He also does extensive research in casting.

**Dr. Tianshu Liu**, a MAE associate professor, has earned the **2007 CEAS Outstanding New Researcher**



Winners of the 2007 CEAS Faculty and Staff awards are (left to right) front row: Ms. Barb Vilenski, Dr. Betsy Aller, and Dr. Tianshu Liu; back row: Dr. Raja Aravamuthan, Dr. Sam Ramrattan, and Dr. Tycho Fredericks

award for his research in aerodynamics, fluid mechanics, heat transfer, measurement techniques and instrumentation applied to aerospace engineering and sciences. Last year, he secured a three-year, \$470,000 grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) for the official study of airfoil/wing flow control using a flexible extended trailing edge. After earning bachelor's and master's degrees in aeronautics in Nanjing, China, Liu obtained his Ph.D. from Purdue. He then worked at the NASA Langley Research Center for seven years before coming to WMU in 2004.

**Dr. Betsy Aller**, an IME associate professor, was awarded the **2007 CEAS Outstanding New Educator** award. She came to WMU in 2001 after holding positions at Cornell and Michigan Technological University, where she received her Ph.D. Aller teaches senior design courses in IME and co-teaches the ENGR 2020 and 4040 design courses. She also mentors and teaches first-year introduction to engineering courses. Her research efforts support the professional skills development of engineering students. She also developed and is a regular speaker and moderator for the CEAS lecture series.

**Ms. Barb Vilenski**, the PCI office manager, received the **2007 Outstanding Staff** award. Barb came to WMU in 1978 after working several years at both Central Michigan University and Lake Superior State College. She worked for four years in WMU's Department of Institutional Research before joining what is now the PCI department in 1982. Her favorite part of the "academic environment" is interacting with the students.

Opinions and ideas, please! Send your thoughts to the editor at [jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu](mailto:jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu) Thank you.