CEAS e-news 11.03.2009

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

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Two CEAS faculty honored with top WMU awards

At the Academic Convocation that ushered in WMU’s 2009-2010 year last month, two CEAS faculty were among seven members of the WMU faculty and staff honored for their outstanding service and achievement.

Dr. William Liou, a professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE), was named Distinguished Faculty Scholar. This is WMU’s highest honor for faculty members. Dr. Peter Parker, a professor in the Department of Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging (PCI) was honored for Distinguished Teaching.

Liou – an internationally renowned expert in fluid dynamics, vehicle simulation, computational mechanics and propulsion – directs WMU’s Center for Advanced Vehicle Design and Simulation (CAViDS). In 2006, he established CAViDS, a consortium of public and private organizations, to enhance product development in vehicles. “CAViDS is a center that represents the collective capabilities in automotive simulation,” he said. “The goal is to work with the automotive industry to solve problems.”

Liou’s externally funded research efforts include $1.7 million from organizations such as NASA, the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and private-sector firms. He acknowledged several research associates for their assistance on a variety of CAViDS-related research projects: Dr. Phuriwat Anusonti-Inthra, research computer simulation; Dr. Yang Yang, computational mechanics; and Dr. Meng-Huang Lu, computational fluid dynamics.

The author of more than 50 journal articles and a graduate level textbook, Liou has served as an editorial advisory board member of the Journal of Aircraft. He is an associate fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He came to WMU from NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland where he had performed research in computational simulations.

Liou earned a BS from National Cheng-Kung University in Taiwan and a MS and a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from Pennsylvania State University. He came to WMU in 1997.

Parker, who joined the WMU faculty in 1997, developed the chemical engineering program at WMU. He teaches chemical engineering classes and serves as an advisor to about 150 students in the chemical engineering program. He is also an advisor to WMU’s American Institute of Chemical Engineers. His research interests are process modeling and simulation, tissue manufacturing, and engineering ethics.

Parker, who was named the 2008 CEAS Outstanding Educator, incorporates WMU’s “designation as student-centered” into both teaching and advising. His teaching methods evolve from combining new techniques with those that withstood “the test of time.”

Parker’s background includes a BS in chemical engineering from the University of Rochester, an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh, and both an MSE and a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Michigan.

A member of the Faculty Senate for a number of years, Parker currently chairs the Academic Information and Technology Council, and is a member of WMU’s Ethic Center advisory board.

“In my spare time, I like to bike (pedal powered), camp, and enjoy running my dog through the fields here at Parkview,” he said.