Alumni AwardsBanquet

May 7, 2011
Program

5:00 p.m.  Cocktail Reception
6:00 p.m.  Dinner
7:00 p.m.  Presentation of Awards

Applied Engineering Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award
Daniel McNulty

Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award
Eugene Ford

Red Cedar Circle Award in Chemical Engineering and Materials Science
Joseph F. Gentile

Civil and Environmental Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award
Larry E. Tibbits

Computer Science and Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award
Dr. Jianchang (JC) Mao

John D. Ryder Electrical and Computer Engineering Alumni Award
William M. Seifert

Mechanical Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award
Thomas P. Gielda, PhD

Green Apple Teaching Award
Sharon Grandell

Claud R. Erickson Distinguished Alumni Award
William A. Demmer

Menu

Hors d’oeuvres — spinach and mushroom crostini; plum tomato, mozzarella, and basil bruschetta; roasted asparagus wrapped in prosciutto

Salad — mixed greens with cherry tomato, cucumber, croutons, and house or ranch dressing

Main course — pan-roasted salmon with cilantro pesto served over white and wild rice pilaf

Dessert — chocolate mousse cake

Music provided by the Andiamo String Quartet
Daniel McNulty is president of Rockwood Real Estate Advisors, a division of CW Financial Services (CW). A subsidiary of Fortress Investment Group, CW is a commercial real estate finance and investment management company focused on multifamily and healthcare lending, primary servicing, special servicing, investment management, and research and consulting services. The company manages a diverse portfolio with approximately $12.6 billion of assets under management, and is currently servicing approximately $11.6 billion of loans, and special servicing $162 billion of loans. Rockwood just recently completed its sale to CW.

After receiving his BS in applied engineering sciences in 1982, with a concentration in finance, Dan was hired by Accenture—formerly Anderson Consulting (AC)—into the New York office. After working there in both the consulting and tax divisions he decided to focus his career in the area of real estate. In 1986 he took a job as an analyst with Prudential Real Estate Investors, where over the intervening eight years he had a myriad of responsibilities, progressing through underwriting acquisitions, dispositions, corporate underwriting, and asset management, as well as some exposure to finance. As director from 1990-1993, he was responsible for the marketing and disposition of $750 million of general and separate account properties and asset management of a $400 million industrial, office, and retail portfolio.

He left Prudential in 1993 to join Rockwood, a start-up real estate banking company, as its 6th employee. He became president and 50 percent owner of Rockwood in 1999 and co-CEO in 2003. Under his leadership, many of the new products and services developed by Rockwood have become best-in-class and standards in the industry. During his 18 years at Rockwood the employee base also grew to approximately 150 by 2004 and expanded from one office in New York to 11 offices—10 domestic offices and 1 in Mexico City. In addition to establishing Rockwood’s ongoing client marketing strategy, Dan has personally directed the execution of assignments for real estate assets with an aggregate value in excess of $40 billion. Rockwood now provides a broad range of research-driven real estate investment banking services and business solutions to institutional and private investor clients on a national basis. He is now at the forefront in integrating Rockwood under the CW platform and building out the footprint of its third-party investment banking and advisory capabilities.

Dan currently serves on the New York Real Estate Roundtable, the International Council of Shopping Centers Roundtable, and the Urban Land Institute Roundtable.

In his free time, Dan plays in several platform tennis leagues in the winter, and enjoys tennis and golf in the summer. He says he is “an active recreational runner, purely as a means to continue feeding my sweet tooth.” He also coaches youth lacrosse and girls field hockey, and is an avid skier and reader of U.S. history and biographies. “I am also a fledgling political junkie; however, I have not yet morphed into a C-SPAN addict,” Dan notes.

Dan lives in Darien, Connecticut, with his wife, Melanie, and their five children: Alexandra, 19; Gavin, 17; Nicole, 17; Christine, 17; and Ava 11. They are members of St. Thomas More Parish.

Other Spartans in the family include Dan’s siblings Kathleen Wilson, Mary Grobbel, James McNulty, and Stephen McNulty.
Eugene Ford is vice president of global technology management, R&D, at Nestlé Nutrition in Fremont, Michigan. He has more than 25 years of experience in domestic and international product development, manufacturing, logistics, and sales within the consumer food industry. One of his strengths is his ability to establish strategic direction, bring structure to ambiguity, and design and execute new business concepts and business-building projects. He is also known for his strong consumer- and customer-focused business skills combined with leadership, communication, mentoring, and team-building skills.

In addition to earning his BS (’83) and MS (’84) in agricultural engineering from MSU, Gene received an executive master of science in engineering degree in 1992 through a joint program with the School of Engineering and Applied Science and the Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

In 1984, he joined the Campbell Soup Company in Camden, New Jersey. He hired into the Campbell Institute for Research and Development, in process research and development, as a research associate. Over the years, he moved up through the ranks at various divisions within the company. From 1995-1996, he was program manager of Campbell Nakano, Inc., in Campbell’s International Division, where he was responsible for frozen food and soup product at Mitsukan, Handa City, Japan, Campbell’s USA, and Campbell’s Australia. In 1998, he was responsible for building and then managing a new factory for Campbell’s Stockpot brand. Most recently, he was director of R&D, process development, within Campbell’s USA Division, where he was responsible for a family of products under the Pace, Prego, Swanson, V8, and Campbell brands with sales exceeding $3.1 billion.

After 22 years with Campbell’s, Gene left in 2006 to become director of product development for Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., in Middleboro, Massachusetts. He was responsible for product development globally, including retail and business-to-business sales of ingredients of roughly $1.5 billion. He and his team created the Cranergy-brand energy drink, prepared innovations for future launches, and re-launched entire line-ups of juices removing artificial colors and high-fructose corn syrup.

In 2008, he moved into his current position with Nestlé. In addition to product development and manufacturing support for Infant Nutrition, Meals and Drinks, his duties include capital plan development and management for the site, strategic direction of a 35,000-square-foot pilot plant, seamless commercialization of technology including developing and conducting training, and intellectual property management. He also championed and launched an internship program in the department, working with key universities.

He is currently a member of the Institute of Food Technologists and was a board member for the Haddonfield Symphony when he lived in New Jersey. He has always enjoyed mentoring people and “making them shine.”

Other Spartans in the Ford family include brother Roy Ford (mechanical engineering); cousin and “almost brother” Ken Edwards (computer science); niece Jessica Ford (nursing); and nephew Brandon Ford (currently attending MSU).

Gene and his wife, Debby, live in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They have two sons: Nicholas, 10, and Donovan, 7. Gene lists as his hobbies: martial arts (specifically Aikido), guitar playing, traveling, and “raising great kids.”
Initiated in 2000, this award recognizes MSU chemical engineering and materials science alumni for their distinguished service to the profession and outstanding commitment to the community. The Red Cedar River, which passes through the center of the MSU campus, is a favorite gathering place. This award is named in recognition of the importance of this landmark to MSU alumni.

Joseph F. Gentile arrived on the MSU campus for the first time more than a half-century ago—on his birthday in February 1960—to participate in the Alumni Distinguished Scholarship competition and to audition for the Spartan Marching Band. “There were three outcomes of that visit,” says Joe. “Most important to me, I was accepted into the marching band; most important to my parents, I received a tuition scholarship; and, despite about 18 inches of snow on the ground, I fell in love with Michigan State University!”

Early in his undergraduate career, Joe was introduced to digital computing (using MISTIC, the Michigan State Integral Computer, one of the earliest university-owned computers). He developed an infatuation with this new technology that would remain with him throughout his professional career. "I used every opportunity to use the computer, rather than the conventional slide rule," he says. He received his BS degree in 1964 and his MS degree in 1966, both in chemical engineering. He proudly notes that he was Dr. Martin Hawley’s first graduate student. “I will always be grateful for his continuing encouragement to pursue my interest in computers,” Joe says.

In 1966, he joined Diamond Shamrock Corporation in Cleveland, where for the next several years, he directed the installation of computer control systems throughout the company’s laboratories and manufacturing facilities. In 1977, he joined the corporate headquarters staff as manager of planning for management information science.

In 1969 and 1970, Joe served in the U.S. Army at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland, where he was assigned to manage computer system projects.

In 1982, he joined Amoco Corporation in Chicago, first as manager of telecommunication planning, and later as information services manager, divisional chief information officer, and North American Year 2000 assurance manager. He retired from Amoco (now BP) in January 2000. He then co-founded Sagitta Technology Partners, Inc., to help business leaders better manage information technology resources.

He has served on the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science Alumni Advisory Board since 2000, and was elected chair in 2002. He has also served on the College of Engineering Alumni Association Board since 2004 and was named chair in 2009.

Joe and his wife, Karen, who received her BS in sociology from MSU, were married in 1967 in the MSU Alumni Chapel. Their two children, Kristen and David, were always active in sports, which presented opportunities for Joe to manage youth soccer and hockey teams from 1982-1990.

Joe and Karen currently live in Plainwell, Michigan. He enjoys cooking, woodworking, and genealogy. Their daughter, Kristen, received her BS in industrial engineering from Purdue University and her MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University; son-in-law, Rick Workman, received his BS degree in electrical engineering from Calvin College and his MS in management from Purdue University. Their son, David, received his BA in Russian Studies from the College of the Holy Cross, and his JD degree from MSU’s College of Law. And, not to be outdone, their three grandchildren—Kaitlyn (12), Christopher (10), and Abigail (10)—together with Grandma Karen and Grandpa Joe, have accumulated a total of 19 “diplomas” from MSU’s Grandparents University!
Larry E. Tibbits served as the Michigan Department of Transportation’s (MDOT) chief operations officer from 2001 until his retirement in 2009. During that time, he directed MDOT’s seven statewide regions and several bureaus and offices in Lansing including traffic and safety, maintenance, construction, design, real estate, research, safety and security, and administrative services.

Larry received his BS in civil engineering from MSU in 1969. He began his career with MDOT in 1970 as an engineer-in-training and held various positions in traffic engineering and public transportation, as well as in railroad coordination, during his first 24 years with the department in Lansing. He became a registered professional engineer in Michigan in 1980. In the early ‘90s, he was instrumental in bringing the legislature and Michigan’s railroads together to recodify the states railroad laws.

In 1994, Larry was appointed as Bay Region Engineer in Saginaw. In this position, Larry managed the operations of the region and initiated partnerships with Master Gardeners and other gardening organizations to beautify rest areas in Michigan with flowering landscapes. He also was instrumental in establishing MDOT’s 26 Transportation Service Centers around the state, which moved staff to within an hour of all Michigan residents.

Larry served on many national and international committees, most dealing with the reduction of fatalities and serious injuries on our highway system. He represented Michigan as chief engineer for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO); chaired the AASHTO Safety Management Subcommittee with representatives from all 50 states; represented AASHTO on the Transportation Association of Canada’s Chief Engineers’ Council; and more recently served on two safety committees of the Permanent International Association of Road Congresses. He served on Michigan State University’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Advisory Board and MSU’s Department of Horticulture Advisory Board as well as Wayne State University’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Advisory Board.

He received the 2005 AASHTO President’s Award for Highway Traffic Safety, the 2007 Governor’s Traffic Safety Advisory Commission Safety Leadership Award, and the 2008 American Traffic Safety Services Association’s National Safety Award. In June 2009 MDOT announced the dedication of a Bay City rest area in honor of Larry. The rest area, located on southbound I-75 near mile marker 158, is known for its attractive flower beds. MDOT dedicates Michigan rest areas in honor of retired MDOT employees who have made a significant contribution to transportation in the state.

Larry currently serves the Transportation Research Board on the Research and Transportation Coordinating Committee.

He and his wife, Rita, live in Merrill, Michigan. They have three children—Jennifer, Rick, and Daniel. Jennifer graduated from MSU with BS and MS degrees in accounting and finance.

Larry has been a 4-H judge of children’s flower and vegetable gardens for many years and is active in his local church where he serves as a deacon. He enjoys fishing, golf, and time with his three grandchildren—Shianna (10), Kyle (8), and Paige (6).
delivering numerous innovations in sponsored search (also with billions of dollars in revenue). Dr. Mao received another Yahoo! Superstar Team Award (as a team co-captain) for delivering Keystone, a new generation of contextual matching product in 2008.

During his tenure at IBM Almaden Research Center from 1994 to 2000, he received several IBM Outstanding Technical Achievement Awards and IBM Research Division Awards for outstanding contributions to the IBM postal address recognition system product, documents and forms processing systems, and intelligent character recognition technology.

His research interests include machine learning, data mining, information retrieval, computational advertising, social networks, pattern recognition, and image processing. He has published more than 50 papers in journals, book chapters, and conferences, and holds 20 U.S. patents. Dr. Mao received an IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks Outstanding Paper Award in 1996 and an Honorable Mention Award from the International Pattern Recognition Society in 1993. He served as an associate editor of the IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks (1999-2000), and as a founding editorial board member (1997-2000) of the Pattern Analysis and Applications journal. He has served on the Technical Committee of the Web Intelligence Consortium since 2002 and on the MSU CSE Strategic Partners Council since 2009.

Dr. Mao credits the training he received in the CSE department for his career success. He notes that Dr. Anil Jain, his adviser while he was at MSU, has become his long-time mentor. “I deeply cherish my PhD experience at MSU,” he says.

He and his wife, Yao Chen, also a CSE graduate, live in San Jose, California. They have two children: son David who was born while the couple was at MSU, and daughter Julie. Dr. Mao likes reading, jogging, and skiing.

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**Computer Science and Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award**

Established in 2004, this award recognizes an alumnus or alumna who has distinguished himself/herself as a leader in the computer science and engineering profession through professional contributions, public service, and personal accomplishments. Nominations are made by faculty, alumni, and other supporters of the department. The winner is selected by the department chairperson and advisory committee.

Dr. Jianchang (JC) Mao, PhD ’94, Computer Science

Dr. Jianchang (JC) Mao is vice president and head of advertising sciences at Yahoo! Labs, overseeing the R&D of advertising technologies and products including search advertising, contextual advertising, display advertising, targeting, and categorization. He was also the science/engineering director responsible for the development of back-end technologies for several Yahoo! social search products, including Yahoo! Answers.

Prior to joining Yahoo!, Dr. Mao was director of emerging technologies and principal architect at Verity Inc., a leader in Enterprise Search (acquired by Autonomy), from 2000 to 2004. Prior to this, he was a research staff member at the IBM Almaden Research Center from 1994 to 2000, after receiving his PhD degree in computer science from MSU in 1994.

Dr. Mao received the prestigious Yahoo! Leadership Superstar Award (for vice presidents and above) in 2010 for “his tremendous impact on Yahoo!’s advertising business and for exemplifying the Yahoo! leadership standard. His leadership in advertising sciences has yielded significant monetary benefits for Yahoo! and, more importantly, set the stage for significant innovation in advertising.” Two of his teams also received separate corporate awards in 2010 for delivering Yahoo!’s next-generation advertisement inventory management system that powers the guaranteed delivery display advertising system (with billions of dollars in revenue) and for delivering numerous innovations in sponsored search (also with billions of dollars in revenue). Dr. Mao received another Yahoo! Superstar Team Award (as a team co-captain) for delivering Keystone, a new generation of contextual matching product in 2008.

During his tenure at IBM Almaden Research Center from 1994 to 2000, he received several IBM Outstanding Technical Achievement Awards and IBM Research Division Awards for outstanding contributions to the IBM postal address recognition system product, documents and forms processing systems, and intelligent character recognition technology.

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He and his wife, Yao Chen, also a CSE graduate, live in San Jose, California. They have two children: son David who was born while the couple was at MSU, and daughter Julie. Dr. Mao likes reading, jogging, and skiing.
William M. Seifert, chief technology officer of Avaya Data Solutions, is an accomplished entrepreneur, an innovative technologist, and a corporate strategist. Upon receiving his BS in electrical engineering in 1971, Bill enlisted in the Michigan Army National Guard, graduated from Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in May 1972. He returned to MSU in 1973 and earned his MS in 1975.


In 1986, Bill founded Wellfleet Communications. As vice president and CTO, Bill invented the multiprotocol bridge-router for interconnecting multiple Ethernets over high-speed data circuits. He recruited and staffed the core engineering team that delivered Wellfleet’s first product to the market in 1988. In 1992, Bill founded Agile Networks as president and CEO. Agile launched the world’s first automated virtual LAN backbone switch, the ATMizer 1000, at Networld-Interop ’94; it was awarded the show’s Most Innovative New Product. The company was sold to Lucent Technologies in 1996.

Bill served on the board of directors of Digital Lightwave from 1997 to 2000, where he was the lead outside director, bringing the company back to profitability and increasing the company’s share price over 6000 percent. In 1998, Bill was recruited into Prism VentureWorks, an early-stage information technology and life science venture capital firm. He served as an active board member for 15 companies over 11 years, and held offices of chairman and acting CEO for Colubris Networks and Sagamore Systems.

From 2009 to 2010, Bill served as an independent consultant for a number of high-tech startup companies. Since joining Avaya in the spring of 2010, Bill has developed strategic relationships with a number of technology and business partners, identifying key technology adjacencies, offering leadership and guidance for new product initiatives and architectures, and participating in industry events and technology forums for the former Nortel data networking business unit acquired by Avaya in late 2009.

Bill resides in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and is a member of the Woodland Golf Club in Auburndale, Massachusetts. He enjoys boating, skiing, and reading. Bill and his wife, Sandy, are the proud parents of Charlie (8) and Tom (7), as well as four older children: Erich, Samantha, Amy, and Elizabeth. Bill’s brother, G. Robert, graduated from MSU in 1970 with a degree in criminal justice; his sister, Marianne Hultgren, graduated from MSU’s nursing school in 1979.

Bill remains an enthusiastic member of the MSU Alumni Band, having been a member of the Spartan Marching Band from 1967-1971. His alto sax remains in fine condition even though he does not play as often as he would like.
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Established in 2004, this award honors a graduate of MSU’s Department of Mechanical Engineering who has a minimum of 15 years of professional experience in an engineering or engineering-related field; provides leadership in engineering, engineering education, the related sciences, or technical management; contributes to the department, the college, or MSU; and is actively involved in the community. The winner is selected in consultation with the department’s advisory committee and board of visitors.

Thomas P. Gielda, PhD, is the chief technology officer at Caitin, Inc., in Fremont, California, and an adjunct professor in the Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering at Kansas State University. At Caitin, Tom leads the effort to develop innovative, sustainable, and green technologies that have enabled the company to develop several breakthrough technologies, including high efficiency fluid transport pumps and a new refrigeration cycle that has been shown to effectively use water as the primary refrigerant, as well as more conventional fluids.

After receiving his BS (1980) and MS (1984) degrees from MSU, Tom earned his PhD in aeronautical engineering from North Carolina State University in 1987.

He began his career at the University of Dayton Research Institute, where he performed research in interdisciplinary computational fluid dynamics. He hired into McDonnell Douglas Research Laboratory as a senior scientist in 1988 and worked on a variety of aircraft and rocket programs. In 1993 he joined Ford Motor Company. In 1994 he became advanced vehicle technology supervisor and in 1996 he was appointed a technical specialist. There he was responsible for the development of vehicle level climate control system performance and also developed a total vehicle Computer Aided Engineering (CAE) simulation program. In 2001, while at Visteon (a spinoff of Ford Motor), he became their first Distinguished Technical Fellow and held that position until 2004.

From 2004-2009 he was Whirlpool Corporation’s global director of mechanical structures and systems, where he managed more than 550 engineers across the globe. He and his team were routinely involved in “show stopper” issues that required immediate resolution. The team delivered $50 million in cost and quality savings, year after year, to Whirlpool.

Tom received an Army Research Office Fellowship in Hypersonic Aerodynamics, 1984-1986, and a National Aerospace Plane Joint Program Office Award for “Outstanding Contributions to the National Team,” March-September 1988. He received a Young Professional Award from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, St. Louis Section, in 1990, and was a finalist for the Financial Times Technology Award at the Frankfurt Auto Show in 1999. He was elected fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 2005 and is a member of SAE International, a global society of experts in the aerospace, automotive, and commercial-vehicle industries. He holds 15 U.S. patents, 2 French patents, and 1 Great Britain patent.

While at MSU, Tom was a member of the Spartan Marching Band his freshman year, and a member of Triangle Fraternity.

Tom and his wife, Peggy, who earned her BA in elementary education from MSU in 1980, currently split their time between their home in St. Joseph, Michigan, and the East Bay area of San Francisco. Their only child, son Benjamin, was a 1999 Alumni Distinguished Scholar at MSU; he received his BS in physiology in 2002, and his MD in 2006 from the University of Michigan. Benjamin and his wife, Lindsay, reside in Chicago.

Tom and Peggy are members of the MSU Alumni Association and Beaumont Tower Society. Tom’s interests include fly fishing, hunting, downhill skiing, biking, and wine tasting.
Established in 2006 at the suggestion of College of Engineering Alumni Association Board member Joseph M. Colucci (BS ’58 Mechanical Engineering), the Green Apple Teaching Award honors a K-12 teacher who has inspired students to study math, science, and engineering. The Engineering Undergraduate Studies Office solicits nominations from our graduating seniors; the final winner is decided by the Engineering Undergraduate Studies Committee, which is made up of faculty and students. The honoree receives a cash award, and book scholarships are given to selected students from that teacher’s school district who opt to study engineering at MSU.

Sharon Grandell has taught science at Romulus Middle School in Romulus, Michigan, for 13 years. During that time she has received the Romulus Community Schools Crystal Apple award three times, and the Excellence in Education Award from Wayne RESA (a regional educational service agency).

During her years at Romulus Middle School she has served as Science Department chair and as co-chair of the NCA School Improvement Team, helping to achieve accreditation for the middle school and district accreditation for Romulus Community Schools.

Sharon, born and raised in the Metro Detroit area, was inspired by her mother’s love of learning and her father’s strong work ethic. After years of working in the restaurant management business she made the decision to fulfill her dream of becoming a teacher. She now lives in Royal Oak with her daughter Michelle.

Ms. Grandell received her associate of science degree from Schoolcraft College, where she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa honors society, graduating with a 4.0 GPA. She earned her BS degree in education (magna cum laude) in 1998, and her MS degree in education in 2008, both from Wayne State University. She is a member of the National Science Teachers Association, the Michigan Science Teachers Association, and the Michigan Earth Science Teachers Association.

Sharon has designed and taught summer science enrichment programs, which offer students hands-on, real-world experience, and opportunities to meet with and learn from scientists and science experts. She published three contextual learning units designed to teach relevant science concepts in partnership with business and community members. She implemented and coached a Science Olympiad team for her students, initiating Romulus Middle School’s participation in the Science Olympiad. She, along with her students, has participated in the Rouge Education Project for 12 years, developing a partnership with General Motors Powertrain, Romulus, and their environmental scientists. The purpose of the program is to provide students with an understanding of the importance of watersheds to the ecology of their community. Students perform chemical tests, biological tests, and a physical survey of a branch of the Rouge River. The results are reported to the Friends of the Rouge Organization, who manage the program, and then forwarded to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Students have the opportunity to work side by side with scientists in the field and to make a difference in their community while doing it. Sharon believes that making science education relevant to the lives of students is the key to student engagement and success.

Kathryn Slyman, Sharon’s nominator, credits Ms. Grandell for sparking her interest in engineering. Kathryn, who received numerous job offers, will begin her career in June with Dow Chemical Company.
Dean Lawrence Wayne Von Tersch established the Claud R. Erickson Distinguished Alumni Award in 1982. Claud Erickson, for whom the award was named, was the first recipient. Since then, it has been given annually to a College of Engineering graduate with a minimum of 15 years’ professional experience who has attained the highest level of professional accomplishment; provided distinguished and meritorious service to the College of Engineering and the engineering profession; and engaged in voluntary service at the local, state, national, and/or international level.

William A. Demmer knew from an early age—as the son and grandson of toolmakers, die makers, and engineers—that he was destined to become an engineer. Upon receiving his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from MSU in 1970, he immediately began his formal career in the family manufacturing business—the Demmer Corporation. And for the past 22 years, he has been CEO of the corporation, which serves the defense, aerospace, and automotive industries. It currently employs more than 1,000 people in the Lansing, Michigan, area and an additional 560 individuals at Demmer Investments located in various states.

Bill is also the managing partner of two family real estate management and development companies—Airport Realty and Demmer Properties—and is board chairman of two additional family companies—Demmer Investments LLC and Palmer Engineering, a stamper of high-production precision components.

The success of these family businesses has allowed the Demmer family to create the Demmer Family Hall of History in the Skandalaris Football Center and provide funds for the construction of the John and Marnie Demmer Shooting Sports Education and Training Center on campus. Bill and his wife, Linda—who is an accomplished artist—also funded the William and Linda Demmer Gallery for traveling art in the new Broad Art
Museum. An ardent outdoor sportsman and conservationist, Bill also contributed significantly to help endow The Boone and Crockett Club Professor of Wildlife Conservation and Policy in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at MSU and is currently executive vice president of the Boone and Crockett Club, a club founded by Teddy Roosevelt in 1887 dedicated to preserving wildlife and habitat.

Over the years, the Demmer Corporation has hired many athletes and engineering interns from Michigan State, and many of Demmer’s full-time employees have received at least one of their degrees from MSU. Demmer has also supported many of the engineering college’s student projects, including the Formula SAE racecar program, the Baja car, and solar cars. Demmer Corporation has also worked closely with MSU’s Eli Broad College of Business the past ten years. Annually, the graduate students work on their capstone projects with the company. Through this experience, the students have gained valuable business insight and Demmer has gained cutting-edge insight into areas like strategy development, balance scorecards, and risk management.

In his position as co-chair of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (Leap) BusinessFirst program, Bill has worked with MSU to build a business gateway into the university. He sees such a partnership between MSU and regional business as key to the region’s economic future.

Bill notes that his journey with Michigan State University would not have begun if his parents had not met at MSU as freshmen in 1938. “Throughout my formative years, I regularly attended MSU hockey, basketball, and football games, eating many meals with the football team at their training table!” says Bill. Over the years, much of his business and personal entertainment has taken place at MSU sporting and cultural venues. He has been a season ticket holder in football, basketball, and hockey, and has been a Ralph Young/Spartan Fund contributor since graduation.

He is active in many professional and community organizations as well. He is a board member of the Michigan Manufacturers Association, an advisory board member to Lansing Community College’s president, and a member of the Lansing Michigan CEO Roundtable and of the Michigan Tooling Association. He is past president and founding member of the Lansing/DeWitt Sunrise Rotary Club and former director of the Lansing Chamber of Commerce.

Bill has been honored with numerous awards in recognition of his many contributions. In 2004 he received a Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce award for outstanding contributions to community improvement and economic progress during 2001-2003. In 2008, he won the Entrepreneurial Award for Manufacturing and was named Master Entrepreneur by Greater Lansing Business Monthly magazine. In 2009, he received the Honorary Alumnus Award from the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association, and in 2010 was named the John G. Thodis Michigan Manufacturer of the Year (Large Tier) by the Michigan Manufacturers Association.

He and his wife reside in East Lansing, Michigan. In addition to having a passion for art, they love traveling, fly fishing, and hunting together and are currently restoring a 300-year-old farm south of Charleston, South Carolina.

They have five children and two grandchildren: Russ Chambers and wife, Emily; Jon Chambers; Liz Chambers-Phillips and husband, Chris, and their children Jack and Olivia Phillips; Mike Demmer and fiancée, Roni Davies; and son John Demmer (soon to be enrolled as an MSU senior).

Bill’s father, John, who founded Demmer Corporation in 1951, celebrated his 90th birthday on December 29, 2010; the celebration was attended by both Coach Mark Dantonio and Coach Nick Saban. John, who has been in attendance at all of the latest Spartan football team’s bowl appearances, is a World War II veteran and a member of our country’s “greatest generation.”
Claud R. Erickson

Claud Erickson, born in Manistee, Michigan, lived from 1900 to 1993. He had to help support his family during high school and took a full-time job immediately after graduation. At the urging of work associates who recognized his talents, Claud began college, but it was a constant financial struggle. At times, faculty members chipped in to keep him in school.

Claud ultimately received four engineering degrees from MSU, beginning with a bachelor of science in 1922. He later earned degrees in mechanical (1927), electrical (1933), and civil engineering (1934) and held a consulting professional engineer’s license. He also studied law and was qualified to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

Claud was the first member of Lambda Chi Alpha, chartered in 1922 as the second fraternity at MSU; it now has well over 2,200 members.

He became the director and general manager of the Lansing Board of Water and Light and spent more than 50 years making the utility a strong, progressive force in the Lansing area. He was a nationally respected figure in public works, and in 1971 the Board named a new power plant in Delta Township after him.

Community activism was a way of life for Claud. He was the Ingham County chairman of the U.S. Treasury Savings Bond Drive for 50 years, beginning in 1941. He was honored in 1991 at the age of 91 by the U.S. Treasury Department for his 50 years of patriotic volunteer service. He was the only person in the United States known to have directed a local drive continuously since the program began during World War II.

He was a delegate to the Michigan Constitutional Convention, chairman of the Ingham County American Red Cross, and a trustee of St. Lawrence Hospital. He served at various times as president of the Lansing Rotary Club, the City Club of Lansing, the American Public Power Association, the Michigan Engineering Society, and the Greater Lansing Area Safety Council.

He and his wife, Thelma, were the parents of one son and four daughters. He was an avid stamp collector and was considered one of the nation’s top authorities on electric-powered vehicles. He admired the simplicity of an electric car. He said, “It has only eight moving parts, and four of those are wheels.”

Always maintaining close ties with MSU, Claud served on the MSU Foundation’s first board of directors. He was asked by President John A. Hannah to oversee the construction of the Alumni Chapel. He also supervised the completion of 7,000 married-student housing units in just five months to accommodate U.S. servicemen returning to campus after World War II.

Claud always attended the spring commencement exercises of MSU’s College of Engineering and the initiation ceremonies of the Chi Epsilon civil engineering honor society, and he kept close tabs on each alumnus who won the Claud R. Erickson Award.

When asked by President Hannah at one point, “Why do MSU alumni come back to campus year after year?” he responded, “Because they love the University that offered them the hand of friendship and the open door of opportunity.”
CLAUD R. ERICKSON
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

1982 Claud R. Erickson  BS ’22, MS ’33 Electrical; MS ’27 Mechanical; MS ’34 Civil
1983 R. William Caldwell  BS ’38 Chemical
1984 Harold C. MacDonald  BS ’40 Mechanical
1985 William J. Mottel  BS ’51 Chemical
1986 John H. Busch  BS ’51 Civil
1987 John D. Withrow  BS ’54 Mechanical; MBA ’71
1988 Melville R. Barlow  BS ’51 Mechanical
1989 Robert J. Schultz  BS ’53 Mechanical; MBA ’69
1990 Harold F. Wochholz  BS ’58, MS ’59 Electrical
1991 William B. Larson  BS ’53 Metallurgical
1992 Gerald W. Pearson  BS ’55 Chemical
1993 Paul H. Woodruff  BS ’59, MS ’61 Civil
1994 Bernard A. Paulson  BS ’49 Chemical
1995 Robert M. Fredericks  BS ’67, MS ’68, PhD ’71 Electrical
1995 John C. O’Malia  MS ’72 Sanitary
1996 Richard M. Hong  MS ’67, PhD ’70 Electrical
1997 Charles R. Weir  BS ’42 Chemical
1998 Raymond S. Colladay  BS ’65, MS ’66, PhD ’69 Mechanical
1999 Leroy R. Dell  BS ’66 Civil
2000 Michael H. Dennos  BS ’43 Chemical
2001 Richard H. Brown  BS ’71 Mechanical
2002 Roger L. Koenig  BS ’76 Electrical
2003 Joseph M. Colucci  BS ’58 Mechanical
2004 George E. “Ted” Willis  BS ’42 Chemical
2005 John Ogren  BS ’65 Chemical
2006 James R. Von Ehr II  BS ’72 Computer Science
2007 Joon S. Moon  BS ’60 Chemical
2008 Charles J. Brady  BS ’48 Mechanical
2009 Richard V. Pisarczyk  BS ’68 Chemical
2010 Betty Shanahan  BS ’78 Electrical
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree and Field</th>
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<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Charles Edward Ferris</td>
<td>BS 1890 Engineering</td>
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<td>1950</td>
<td>Jay Samuel Hartt</td>
<td>BS ’15 Electrical</td>
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<td>1951</td>
<td>Grover Cleveland Dillman</td>
<td>BS ’13 Civil</td>
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<td>1953</td>
<td>Charles D. Curtiss</td>
<td>BS ’11 Civil</td>
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<td>1953</td>
<td>Verne L. Ketchum</td>
<td>BS ’12 Civil</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>William Frank Uhl</td>
<td>BS ’02 Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Maurice J. Day</td>
<td>BS ’34, MS ’35, PhD ’37 Chemical</td>
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<td>1957</td>
<td>P. Edward Geldhof</td>
<td>BS ’14 Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Stanley B. Hunt</td>
<td>BS ’29 Civil</td>
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<td>1959</td>
<td>Louis A. Carapella</td>
<td>BS ’37 Engineering</td>
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<td>1959</td>
<td>Bernard F. Coggan, Jr.</td>
<td>BS ’39 Engineering</td>
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<td>1959</td>
<td>Arthur F. Vinson</td>
<td>BS ’29 Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Christian F. Beukema</td>
<td>BS ’40 Engineering</td>
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<td>1961</td>
<td>James H. Foote</td>
<td>BS ’14 Engineering</td>
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<td>1961</td>
<td>Frederick H. Mueller</td>
<td>BS ’14 Engineering</td>
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<td>1962</td>
<td>Grayton F. Dressel</td>
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<td>1962</td>
<td>Stanley V. Gunn</td>
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<td>1963</td>
<td>Richard W. Cook</td>
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<td>1963</td>
<td>Walter F. Patenge</td>
<td>BS ’23 Engineering</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>John C. Mackie</td>
<td>BS ’42 Engineering</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>Clare F. Jarecki</td>
<td>BS ’33 Civil</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>William R. Barrett</td>
<td>BS ’39 Engineering</td>
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<td>1979</td>
<td>John R. Hamann</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>John D. Withrow</td>
<td>BS ’54 Mechanical; MBA ’71</td>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>Robert J. Schultz</td>
<td>BS ’53 Mechanical; MBA ’69</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Verghese Kurien</td>
<td>MS ’48, PhD ’65 Mechanical</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Lloyd D. Ward</td>
<td>BS ’70 Mechanical</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Richard L. M. Lord</td>
<td>BS ’53 Chemical</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Roger L. Koenig</td>
<td>BS ’76 Electrical</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Joseph M. Colucci</td>
<td>BS ’58 Mechanical</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Paul H. Woodruff</td>
<td>BS ’59, MS ’61 Civil</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Alton L. Granger</td>
<td>BS ’54 Civil</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>James R. Von Ehr II</td>
<td>BS ’72 Computer Science</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Gerald Elson</td>
<td>BS ’64, MS ’65 Mechanical</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Ben Maibach III</td>
<td>BS ’68 Civil</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Joon S. Moon</td>
<td>BS ’60 Chemical</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Ghassem Asrar</td>
<td>MS ’81 Civil</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Surinder Kapur</td>
<td>BS ’64, MS ’65, PhD ’72 Mechanical</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Distinguished Young Alumni Award

2007 Jeff Schmitz BS ’97 Mechanical
2009 Gerald Reuben DeJean, II BS ’00 Electrical
2010 Monica Braman BS ’03 Engineering Arts

Alumni Service Award

1998 Roger Bandeen BS ’72 Computer Science
1998 Leroy Dell BS ’66 Civil
1999 William Larson BS ’53 Metallurgical
2005 Molly Brennan BS ’82 Computer Science
2005 Michael McDonald BS ’87 Chemical
2006 Anan Chaikittisilpa MS ’69 Civil
2009 Lynn Bechtel BS ’91 Mechanical
2010 George “Lee” Rock BS ’49 Electrical

Honorary Alumni Award

2006 Mackenzie Davis Professor Emeritus, Civil

Philanthropist Award

2001 Alton L. Granger BS ’54 Civil
and Janice M. Granger Nursing (1980)
2009 The Demmer Family —
Bill Demmer BS ’70 Mechanical

Joon S. Moon Distinguished International Alumni Award Recipients

1994 Richard M. Hong MS ’67, PhD ’70 Electrical
1995 Samuel K. Nnama MS ’77, PhD ’79 Civil
1999 Khaled M. R. Abdulghani MS ’78, PhD ’82 Civil
2002 Lawrence Wong PhD ’70 Mechanical
2006 Surinder Kapur BS ’64, MS ’65, PhD ’72 Mechanical
2009 Kin Keung Lai PhD ’77 Civil
2010 Surinder Kumar Choudhari BS ’64 Mechanical
### College of Engineering Alumni Award Recipients

#### Applied Engineering Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Philip L. Fioravante</td>
<td>BS '84</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Jane E. Sydlowski</td>
<td>BS '86</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Daniel Brouse</td>
<td>BS '84</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Steven J. Trecha</td>
<td>BS '80</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Monte L. Falcoff</td>
<td>BS '86</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Les L. Leone</td>
<td>BS '68, MA '70, PhD '74</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Donnie D. Haye</td>
<td>BS '81</td>
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#### BioSystems and Agricultural Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Bill A. Stout</td>
<td>MS '55, PhD '59</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Benson J. Lamp</td>
<td>PhD '60</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Robert J. Gustafson, PE</td>
<td>PhD '74</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>George H. Wedgworth</td>
<td>BS '50</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Gary W. Schluckbier</td>
<td>BS '72</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>R. Paul Singh</td>
<td>PhD '74</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Daniel L. Poland</td>
<td>BS '87</td>
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#### Red Cedar Circle Award in Chemical Engineering and Materials Science

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>R. William Caldwell</td>
<td>BS '38</td>
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<td>Edwin J. Crosby</td>
<td>BS '50</td>
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<td>Michael H. Dennos</td>
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<td>Bernard A. Paulson</td>
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<td>William J. Hargreaves</td>
<td>BS '46</td>
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<td>John D. Hetchler</td>
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<td>C. Robert Weir</td>
<td>BS '42</td>
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<td>Wilfred G. Shedd</td>
<td>BS '50</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Herb Kirby</td>
<td>BS '56</td>
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<td>George E. “Ted” Willis</td>
<td>BS '42</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>John Ogren</td>
<td>BS '65</td>
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<td>John W. Pridgeon</td>
<td>BS '58</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Joon S. Moon</td>
<td>BS '60</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>William B. Larson</td>
<td>BS '53</td>
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<td>Richard V. Pisarczyk</td>
<td>BS '68</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Terence K. Kett</td>
<td>MS '65, PhD '68</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Alton “Rick” Berquist</td>
<td>MS '61</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Carl L. English</td>
<td>BS '68</td>
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#### Civil and Environmental Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Leo Nothstine</td>
<td>BS '38</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Leroy R. Dell</td>
<td>BS '66</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Ben C. Maibach III</td>
<td>BS '69</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Alton L. Granger, PE</td>
<td>BS '54</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Paul H. Woodruff</td>
<td>BS '59, MS '61</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Frank J. DeDecker, PE</td>
<td>BS '49</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>James K. Wight</td>
<td>BS '69, MS '70</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>W.F. Marcuson III</td>
<td>MS '64</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

2004  Kevin J. Ohl  BS ’78  
2005  Julie Louis-Benaglio  BS ’79  
2006  James R. Von Ehr II  BS ’72  
2007  Honda Shing  MS ’88, PhD ’92

JOHN D. RYDER ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING ALUMNI AWARD

2004  David A. Pahl  BS ’86  
2005  Brian M. Kent  BS ’80  
2006  Gregg A. Motter  BS ’73, MS ’80  
2007  George H. Simmons  BS ’73, PhD ’81

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

2004  Kristin B. Zimmerman  BS ’87, MS ’90, PhD ’93  
2005  Joseph C. Klewicki  BS ’83, PhD ’89  
2006  Patrick M. Miller  MS ’60, PhD ’66  
2007  Donald B. Paul  BS ’68

GREEN APPLE TEACHING AWARD

2006  Eileen M. Slider  BS ’75, Central Michigan University; 
           MA ’83, Michigan State University; 
           secondary instructor for Webberville Community Schools

2007  John W. Plough  BA ’78, MA ’84, Michigan State University; 
           secondary instructor for East Lansing High School

2008  William Finch  BS ’84, South Dakota State University; 
          Master Teacher Certification ’04, Texas A&M University

2009  John West  BS ’72, Western Michigan University; 
           MS ’77, Michigan State University

2010  Franklin Stofflet  BS ’59, MS ’63, University of Wyoming