

## The Distinguished Service Award

The 2012 Distinguished Service Award (DSA) recipient is Judy Birchman of Purdue University. The DSA is the highest award of merit given by the Engineering Design Graphics Division. It recognizes the significant contributions of the recipient to the Division in terms of leadership, authorship, or support.

The awardee is recognized with a framed citation or plaque, which is presented by the Division Chair or their delegate at the Annual Conference Awards Banquet. Following the presentation, the recipient may address those assembled.

The award description can be found at:  
<http://edgd.asee.org/awards/dsa/index.htm>

A complete list of awardees can be found at  
<http://edgd.asee.org/awards/dsa/awardees.htm>

[1] 2005 DSA recipient, Mary Sadowski (l) introducing the 2012 DSA recipient, Judy Birchman (r). [2] Sadowski (l) and Birchman (r). [3] Birchman delivering her DSA acceptance remarks.

Photos by *Theodore Branoff*



[1]



[2]



[3]

**Judy Birchman's DSA Acceptance Remarks  
ASEE Annual Conference  
San Antonio, Texas, June 10-13, 2012**

First of all, I would like to thank the members of the division for choosing to honor me with this award. It means so much to me to be recognized for distinguished service by a group of people that I respect and who's company I enjoy. These meetings of the division are always something to look forward to, knowing that in addition to learning something new, I would get to experience a different part of the country with a fun group of people.

I thought I might share my experience as a graphics educator and a long-time member of this group. Last year, for the first time, Purdue recognized faculty for their years of service to the university—I was recognized for 33 years at the university. It made me think about my career at Purdue and what an experience it has been. Since I started teaching at Purdue, I worked in two different colleges—engineering and technology. Taught in an associate and then a baccalaureate program. Worked under 5 different deans and 4.5 different department heads—one was an interim. I also taught in 3 different programs due to name changes—Engineering Graphics, Technical Graphics and Computer Graphics Technology.

When I started, it was in the Department of Engineering Graphics under Civil Engineering. The department offered an associate degree in Technical Illustration. Later, we moved into what was then the School of Technology and became Technical Graphics and then Computer Graphics Technology. More recently, the School of Technology became the College of Technology.

In addition to these changes, I also experienced a variety curricula changes and teaching assignments over the years. When I first started, I taught graphics classes for the interior design students—orthographic, isometric, perspective, shades and shadows. I was teaching these classes because my undergraduate degree was in interior design. In fact, it was as an undergrad that I first encountered Jon Duff; he was a graduate student at the time. I was working in one of the empty labs, when all of a sudden I hear this voice preceding someone coming into the room, reciting what sounded like a late night show hosts monologue. I thought —Wow, this guy is really excited about graphics! That was my only encounter with him until he came back as a faculty member. I also taught our basic engineering drawing class for a few years. I had a temporary assignment in Creative Arts and then came back to the department and taught classes in design and layout which we were doing manually at the time. Then, after we updated to computers, I moved on to teaching desktop publishing, CAD and eventually interactive multimedia. So although I have been at Purdue for a long time, I feel like I had a variety of careers along the way. The diversity of the curriculum meant that there was always a new challenge—a new class to design, something different to teach or a new software to master.

The really amazing thing about all of this, however, is that through it all, this division was always a place that I could present and feel at home. So no matter what kind of graphics I was teaching, this group was receptive to my presentations and supportive of my endeavors. All of my different department heads supported my involvement with EDGD, which says a lot about the division and I'd like to thank all of them for their support—Ken Botkin, Jerry Smith (always ready to get us a van and hit the road), Gary Bertoline and my current department head, Marvin Sarapin, who let me attend this meeting at the last minute and even got someone to cover my summer course for a few days.

I credit Jerry with getting me involved with teaching engineering graphics. As an undergrad he was willing to let me take a few independent study courses with him to further my interest in graphics. And when I decided to go to grad school he encouraged me to apply for a graduate teaching assistantship. I appreciate Mary Sadowski and Jon Duff and credit them with encouraging me and collaborating with me throughout my career and involvement with EDGD. We spent many lunch hours discussing classes, the curriculum and what books we were currently reading. I still miss having both of them in the department. There have been many others come through Purdue like La Verne Harris and Nancy Study that have also been colleagues and friends over the years. I would also like to thank my husband who couldn't join us tonight for putting up with me all the times I was stressed out getting ready for conferences.

I am so grateful for all the opportunities I have had to participate in division activities. I always felt appreciated for my efforts and found it easy to work with other members of the division. In addition, I have met so many great people through this division. No matter what type of graphics I am teaching, I always find something to inspire me at the EDGD sessions. Even if it does not directly relate to my class, I get a spark from something—a teaching technique, a new classroom tool or just a new attitude. Being involved with EDGD has been a great experience in every way. Thanks again for this great honor and for the many opportunities to participate, serve, learn and enjoy.