

The Distinguished Service Award

The 2015 Distinguished Service Award (DSA) recipient is Dennis K. Lieu of University of California at Berkeley. 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] Engineering Design Graphics Division Member, Sheryl Sorby, introducing the 2015 DSA recipient.

[2] Lieu delivering his DSA acceptance remarks.

[3] Sorby presenting the DSA plaque.

Photos by *Theodore Branoff*



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Sheryl Sorby's Introduction of DSA Recipient Dennis Liu

I was honored to be asked to introduce this year's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, but then I realized, I'm probably his only friend here tonight, so it all makes complete sense. Kidding. I am very pleased to present a most worthy candidate for the DSA-- Dennis Liu.

In 1994, we got a grant to host a workshop for graphics faculty at Michigan Tech. the focus of the workshop was—you guessed it—developing 3-D spatial skills. The workshop was a marginal success and as part of our grant-sponsored follow-up activities, we were to host a reunion dinner at the next EDGD midyear meeting. Dennis showed up for the dinner, even though he had not been part of the workshop. Being the polite Midwesterner that I am, we welcomed him to the table and proceeded to have an excellent meal. About half-way through dinner, Dennis looked at me and said "I'm not supposed to be here am I?" We all laughed and said he was most welcome to be there—NSF could afford one additional person at the table. This was the first time I met Dennis and the first of many meals we have shared over the years. I think that may have been his first time attending a mid-year meeting—it was my second or third time.

Dennis has always been interested in helping students learn graphics and he's really a technology junkie. He developed a software tool at about that time to help students learn about orthographic projection and other difficult concepts. The software was published along with a McGraw Hill text and included videos and animations—at a time when educators were just beginning to experiment with this type of tool to further student understanding. Dennis was really at the vanguard in technology-enabled education, especially in graphics. And he carries this forward even today. A few years ago, when the iPad was about 6 months old, Dennis was trying to figure out how it could be used in graphics education. He developed some cool things for the iPad, but the difficulty was in the adoption. Dennis was probably before the times on that one—people just weren't ready for it.

Back in about 2000, Dennis put in a bid to host the midyear meeting at Berkeley. In 2002 he hosted one of the most successful midyears in recent history (not more successful than the one in Houghton, though) and he followed up with an encore performance in 2009. Who can forget his hilarious presentations inviting us to the Berkeley mid-years? In his first invitation, he admonished us to make sure we made our plane reservations for Oakland, California and not Oakland, Michigan. He then proceeded to show a series of slides comparing and contrasting the two cities. Most of the pictures of Oakland, MI had snow or blizzard conditions and the pictures of Oakland, CA showed sunny warm days and beautiful scenery. For the second Berkeley midyear, the invitation included numerous options for things to see and do in San Francisco. I'm

not sure there were any takers for the Asian, transvestite, strip show in Chinatown, but a number of people did partake of the wine country tour.

Personally, I'm looking forward to the next Berkeley midyear just so I can sit through Dennis's invitation. He truly has a creative and humorous outlook—his mind does work in mysterious ways.

In 2001, I was approached by Jim Devoe from Delmar Publishing with a wild and crazy idea. Dennis had pitched an idea for a new type of graphics book to him and they wanted me to help co-author it. If hindsight is 20-20, I should have run away from that, but I'm just not that smart, I guess. So we persevered, and got to work. We roped many of you sitting in this room tonight with contributing to the text as well. Now that the ink is dry, I can say that I have had the good fortune to work closely with Dennis through the writing of the Sorby and Lieu textbook—I mean the Lieu and Sorby textbook. His creativity and innovative thinking were an asset to the development of the text and my totally unbiased opinion is that the book is one of the best on the market today. LOL.

In closing, for his scholarship, his creativity, and his dedication to the Division, I think that Dennis Lieu is a most worthy recipient of this award and I am honored to be here tonight introducing my dear friend and colleague.

**Dennis K. Lieu's DSA Acceptance Remarks
ASEE Annual Conference
Seattle, WA, June 14-17, 2015**

I am flattered and moved, almost beyond words, to receive the EDGD Distinguished Service Award. I know many of the past recipients of this award, and it is a true honor to be counted among them.

My career in engineering design graphics has been quite a journey, and one that I'm sure is not over yet. As most of you are aware, I'm sort of an oddball. Most of you studied, and now teach, graphics as your primary profession. For me, graphics was not my original main area of expertise, but I came to enjoy it more than anything else I did at the University. I happened upon it almost by accident. When I was an assistant professor 25 years ago, I decided that I needed a career plan. It was a time soon after ABET had eliminated engineering graphics as part of its list of required subjects, and academicians who were involved with graphics were considered to be headed toward a dead-end career. Some people think with their heads, other with their hearts. I tend to think a lot with my stomach, so please excuse the following analogy. Planning a career is like planning a diet. To live a long, healthy life, one must include the right foods. But if engineering academia is the buffet of life, EDGD is a big plate full of bacon. Now I love bacon, but 25 years ago, bacon was considered to be bad. Despite the fact that it tasted great, it was also loaded with saturated fat, salt, and preservatives. My colleagues at the University advised me, "Don't touch the bacon, it will kill you." But along came EDGD, who whispered to me, "Come eat bacon with us." Engineering graphics then started to evolve in a way that few people anticipated. The field changed and became different, more exciting and useful than anyone could ever imagine. At the same time, it was discovered that perhaps bacon really wasn't that bad after all. In fact, bacon every so often could actually be good. Everyone can use a little bacon, sometimes a lot of bacon.

"Thank you" my friends and supporters: Sheryl, Ted, Aaron, Frank, Nancy, Holly, my students, too many others to mention, and this entire graphics community. Thanks for the support, good times, friendship, and the bacon. Most of all, "thank you" to my wife and kids, who have put up with my many antics for so many years.