

■ ■ Distinguished Service Award ■ ■

2010 Distinguished Service Award

Introduction



Ron Barr presenting Ron Paré with his DSA.

The recipient of tonight's Distinguished Service Award has been a member of ASEE for over forty years. During that time, he has taught Engineering Graphics and Descriptive Geometry at Universities in three different states. His loyalty and dedication to the Engineering Design Graphics Division is underscored by his service as a past Division Chair, and as Program Chair for numerous EDG midyear meetings going back three decades. A special distinction concerning tonight's ceremony is that our recipient's father received this same Distinguished Service Award 34 years ago. In addition to an accomplished career as a college educator and author, our recipient has served his country both in active Army duty, including a tour in Vietnam, and in the U.S. Army Reserves, attaining the rank of Colonel. It is my pleasure to introduce a long-time colleague and humble servant of the Engineering Design Graphics Division, a true American patriot, and a fellow citizen of the state of Texas, Ron Paré.

Ronald E. Barr

Presentation Speech



Ron Paré making his acceptance speech

Thank you to Division Members for honoring me with this award and to my family for allowing me to do the things away from them that allowed me to earn you recognition. Many of you

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know that in addition to my teaching career, I served twenty eight years in the Army Reserve. The Army and ASEE events caused me to miss a lot of family birthdays and other activities. Without Ann's, Julie's and Wayne's approval, I would not be here today.

Personal Comments

I grew up in a very competitive and athletic family that competed in many sports and against each other.

My dad, who received this same award shortly after I began my teaching career and became involved in EDG, gave up swimming when my sister Merilyn beat him when she was 11. Dad also gave up golf when my younger brother Steve beat him when he was in college and I gave up teaching drafting briefly in the 70's when I realized I would never be able to draw perfect circles at the blackboard like he could, (thank goodness for PowerPoint). I also gave up Baseball while in Little League when my younger brother Phil hit a home run off my mediocre fast ball. One sport my dad didn't ever stop playing until he died was tennis, even though my sister was a Chicago Junior Champion.

It is said that your legacy is your children. My dad has a pretty good legacy

My Dad was a – Teacher first, Engineer second, and Artist as a hobby. His legacy is great.

His 4 children - 2 Engineers, 3 Teachers and 1 Teacher/Artist.

I'd say dad left the world quite well off.

He introduced me to ASEE when I was a teenager by taking me and the rest of us Paré children to Summer Conferences all over the country. Before I was a junior in High School our one month long ASEE Convention adventures had introduced me to most of the natural beauty of the United States.

I tried to do the same with my two children and I recommend to all of you doing the same with your families.

I think I was always going to be an Engineering Graphics Teacher. While Ann and I both loved the Army, the Vietnam War made me decide to cut my active duty Army career 17 years shorter than we originally planned and I began teaching Engineering Graphics at Cal Poly Pomona with Dale Galbrath (and EDG awardee) and Wally Reynolds.

I tried College Administration for a while but I missed the classroom. When my Dad asked me to become the junior officer with the 6th Edition of the Descriptive Geometry Textbook, that was the final impetus to go back to teaching Graphics full-time. It also resulted in moving from the West Coast to Houston in 1983. Since I was in an Engineering Technology Department, it took a few years to get back involved with the Graphics Division. While I always attended the Graphics Banquet at the summer convention, I rarely got to attend Mid-Year Conferences because they often overlapped with the ET Division's CIEC meeting.

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The year I was chair of EDG I emphasized the people of the Division in my Journal Articles. I would like to do the same thing by highlighting the DSA awardees of the Division. I have prepared a Summary Power Point which I would like to now share with you. The photos are scans from issues of the Journal. This is audience participation, if you recognized a photo please call out the awardees name.

[Power Point Presentation]

I would like to close with some advice to the division.

First, on my last cruise, our duplicate bridge leader always stressed that “Minors are for the Birds”. If you play bridge you know what she meant. In organizations that depend on volunteers, like EDGD, it is my opinion that “Contested Elections are for the Birds”. I have always believed this but my review of the Journals to prepare the Power Point just reinforced my opinion. Numerous years I saw individuals who served the Division in numerous appointed and elected positions stop all involvement when they lost an election, usually Chair Elect. So I recommend the current EDG Board consider uncontested elections of officers. Some provision for nominations from the floor would need to be worked out, but I think the Nominating Committee should but up the one best willing to serve each year.

Second, when I first got involved, there were three things that made this division great. Only two remain and I believe all three are needed.

1. We are only one of two divisions that publish a Professional Journal.
2. We are the only division to have a standalone Mid-Year Technical Conference.
3. We were the first division to have a Student Design Display. When I was first involved with the Division, I served on the Design Display Committee; there were 120 entrees each year. It was one of the events highlighted by the society at the Summer Conventions.

We were very visible to the entire Society. A question, how many at this banquet have a design component in one or more of their classes. Second question, how many have a design component that requires a report or graphics be turned in. With this almost unanimous response, how could it be that we as a division let this activity die?

Food for thought for the next EDG Board.

Thank you again for honoring me with this award.

Ronald Paré