

The Distinguished Service Award

The 2013 Distinguished Service Award (DSA) recipient is Kathryn Holliday-Darr of Penn State Behrend. 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 Chair, Nancy Study, (r) introducing the 2013 DSA recipient, Kathryn Holliday-Darr (l).
[2] Holliday-Darr delivering her DSA acceptance remarks.

Photos by *Theodore Branoff*



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**Kathryn Holliday-Darr's DSA Acceptance Remarks
ASEE Annual Conference
Atlanta, GA, June 23-26, 2013**

After I met Tim, he took every opportunity to introduce me to other members of the Division and sponsors, championing me so that I could become actively involved in EDGD, and guiding me with the Do's and Don'ts while I was chair. I can't tell you how many times he said: "Kathy, you can't do that, it's not in the by-laws." So, it only seemed right to ask Tim if he would introduce me one more time. Thank you, Tim!

I thank you, the members of the Division, from the bottom of my heart for honoring me with this Award – what a wonderful way to wrap up a career! When Pat Connolly notified me that I was this year's recipient, I immediately texted my husband John. Since he was so excited for me, he brought home a bottle of champagne to celebrate. I thanked him and told him that without his help and support I would never have accomplished as much as I had in my career. He responded with, "Yes, you would have." I answered, "Maybe so; but, it would have been a much longer and much harder road without you."

John always found ways to support me – whether it was the dinners that would magically appear at my computer and dirty plates that would disappear while I was writing my textbook; his struggling to stay awake while he proofed chapters of my textbook (I still can't believe he found descriptive geometry boring...); bringing drawings and 'parts' home from work to share with my students; pulling over on the side of the road to take pictures of cool real life 'things' that needed descriptive geometry in order to be made; or picking up the slack at home when I was Division chair. In 2009 he really stepped up to the plate by being my right hand man during the EDGD conference we hosted at Penn State Behrend. Thank you, John, for always being there!

As most of you know, I retired last summer (Which I'm sure, Nancy Study is really grateful for!) The other day Alice Scales and I were emailing back and forth about how hard it was to clean out our offices. My thoughts had been: "Wow, I busted my butt for 34 years and at the end of the day – it all goes in the dumpster!" I was questioning myself. I wasn't on tenure track - why did I work so many hours to the exclusion of other areas of my life? Was it worth it? Between writing this speech and emailing Alice, I finally have my answer. While I would strive to do a better job of balancing home and work, I would not change the opportunity to touch young lives and experience the richness the Division has given me professionally and the wonderful friendships that have been forged – need I say more? (Okay, how about 'the great conviviality'!)

As I was reading past acceptance speeches I was touched, and by touched I mean tears in my eyes, by the heartfelt recurring words. Treasured lifelong friendships, going

home from conferences with new ideas and approaches to teaching, and how past winners, giants in our field, did not feel worthy of the DSA.

How did an Industrial Arts high school teacher make it on this list? Especially one that after her first year of teaching in Montana, swore she would never walk into another classroom again. God must have laughed at that one, because two months later, as a favor to the superintendent, I was teaching in my hometown high school without ever having to complete an application form. Six years later, I was so mad at a different superintendent that I called the local university to see if there were any job openings!

My first Penn State boss, Al Pulsifer, knew the value of attending ASEE conferences. He encouraged new faculty to attend the annual conferences years before the Dean's program was started. I attended my first Annual ASEE conference in 1986 in Cincinnati. My first mid-year was in Louisville in 1987. Feeling very out of my element presenting, I decided to do my first presentation in 1988 at the 3rd International Conference on Engineering Graphics and Descriptive Geometry in Austria, where I would probably never see any members of the audience again (plus, who could pass up an all-expense paid trip to Europe!). I'm happy to say, I didn't die of fright and no one boo'ed.

These three events were the most important steps at the beginning of my career. I fell in love with EDGD. The mid-year meeting was my favorite. No distractions, I was able to attend all of the graphics sessions, and the camaraderie was great! It was a time of change for the Graphics world. My first CAD software was home grown and ran on Apple IIe's. Soon we ordered Zennith's, with 10 mb hard drives (with us exclaiming, "Who could possibly ever fill up such a huge hard drive?") Remember the mid-year meetings, where the debates between CADKEY and AutoDESK software were fierce! Solid modeling software becoming affordable and easier to use, which moved the 'discussions' on to whether we should still teach descriptive geometry. I loved it! I would come back from the conferences rejuvenated with tons of ideas to try. In fact, the changes I implemented into a first year course, which resulted in being awarded the Penn State's Provost's Award for Collaborative Instruction and Curricula Innovation, were sparked from a paper presented by Roland Jenison on reverse engineering. I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed the mid-year meetings!

But, believe it or not, I was shy! (I know – hard to believe I was too intimidated to open my mouth!) I would attend the sessions, and then run back to my room to work on school work. I wanted to be involved, but I didn't know how to get involved – which is why I believe so strongly in the Mentor's Program. In the early 2000's, about the same time I met Tim, I had the opportunity to really talk to Frank Croft. He also strongly encouraged me to get involved, and helped champion me. Then I was awarded the Oppenheimer Award and two things happened. First, my confidence level sky rocketed! And, second, I met Mary Sadowski and Sheryl Sorby, whose mission became to assign me to a committee.

These four people were my mentors - thank you for believing in me. There are many others of you who directly or indirectly also helped make me look good – thank you to Bob, Judy, Alice, Jon, Merwin, Clyde, Fritz, Holly, Mike, Norma, AJ, Nick, Kevin, Aaron, Ted, La Verne, Larry, Nancy, Ron, Pat and Dennis! In addition, I would like to acknowledge my past bosses, Richard Progelhof, Ken Fisher, Ralph Ford, Dave Johnson and Bob Simoneau for supporting my trips financially whether I had a paper to present or not. Serving the Division has truly been a labor of love and doesn't even begin to repay what I gained! It is the members that make this Division what it is. If you are not involved, please get involved – it will be worth your time!

I believe the 1974 DSA recipient, Irwin Wladaver, said it best: "...when you have deemed the little I have done worthy of your DSA, ... I humbly thank you and I accept this great honor as though I deserved it, quickly, lest you change your minds."