

■ ■ The Distinguished Service Award ■ ■

Aaron C Clark
North Carolina State University

The 2017 Distinguished Service Award (DSA) recipient is **Aaron C. Clark** of North Carolina State 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>

Photos from Theodore Branoff



Engineering Design Graphics Division Chair, Norma Veurink,
presenting the DSA plaque.

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Theodore Branoff's Introduction of DSA Recipient Aaron Clark

ASEE Annual Conference
Columbus, Ohio, June 27, 2017

I am honored to introduce the 2017 Engineering Design Graphics Division Distinguished Service Award Honoree — Dr. Aaron Clark.

I have known Aaron since 1993 when he began taking doctoral courses at North Carolina State University. Aaron, along with me and about 8 other faculty in the Graphic Communications program, taught introductory engineering graphics courses to hundreds of students each semester.

After finishing his doctorate in 1997, Aaron was hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education in the College of Education at NC State. In addition to continuing his work in the Graphic Communications program, Aaron developed courses in Scientific Visualization and Technical Animation, and he was instrumental in the development of a Master of Science program in Graphic Communications/Technology Education.

In my opinion, one of the most impactful things Aaron did was begin a sustained relationship with Tom Shown and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction where many people across the State collaborated to develop curriculum in Technology Education and Engineering and Architectural Graphics. This work changed the culture between NCDPI and universities in the State and increased the quality of middle school and high school curricula.

In 2011, Aaron was promoted to professor, and he also served as Associate Chair of the Department of STEM Education from 2011-2014. He is currently the Director of Academic Programs for the Department.

Over the course of his career he has been involved in over \$6 million in funded research. In addition, his scholarly production includes: 54 refereed journal articles; 45 referred proceedings; 18 other publications; and 18 commercial products.



64th (2014) DSA recipient, Theodore Branoff, introducing the 2017 DSA recipient.

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He has given invited presentations in Italy, Ireland, Spain, Canada, and England. He also has 92 national presentations, 25 regional presentations, and 22 state presentations.

He is currently chairing or co-chairing 20 doctoral students, and he has chaired 12 doctoral students to completion.

He has served in national leadership roles in the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association, and he has also served this Division as Chair, Vice-Chair, and Director of Liaison Committees.

I have known Aaron for 24 years. As you can imagine, we have shared many experiences. He is a great colleague and friend. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Aaron Clark as the 2017 Engineering Design Graphics Division Distinguished Service Award Honoree.

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Aaron C. Clark's DSA Acceptance Remarks ASEE Annual Conference Columbus, Ohio, June 27, 2017

People who influenced my professional life.

I grew up on a farm in the mountains of Virginia. I was fortunate that my grandfather, who had probably the biggest influence in my life, was a very interesting man and taught me a lot about life. He made sure that no matter what we wanted to do in life, we boys must have a skill to fall back on. He was a fine woodworker with two small shops that he used to make cabinets and perform light construction and it was my job to learn this trade. He also was a musician, played for the Gibson orchestra, and taught me the love of music. He also taught me persistence.



Aaron Clark, delivering his DSA acceptance remarks.

When I was in High School, I loved shop class – makes sense – I loved mechanical drawing. We had that back then. I just excelled at it. I loved industrial arts and being in the band. My role as drum major helped in my leadership development and working with the band taught me the importance of teamwork. I was very active in scouting while growing up and the organization taught me many life lessons. Scouting later employed me during my undergraduate and graduate degree programs, and with these experiences, I learned leadership and how to deal with all kinds of people. These multiple experiences made me a better educator later in life. I also made lifelong friends that have helped me during the years thanks to the scouting program.

While in college, I was influenced by many professional people in fields related to design, engineering, education, and most of all technology. During this time, I was active in the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Epsilon Pi Tau, and the Technology Education Collegiate Association. John Vaglia, Chuck Story, Wayne Andrews, and Rollin Williams all had a major influence in my future career in academia. I made many lifelong friends that I have as professional colleagues today. During this time, I worked as a teaching assistant and for a brief period, in industry.

My first teaching job in higher education was in Maryland at Chesapeake College as an instructor of both mechanical and architectural drafting. Joe Frampton was my

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mentor during this time and taught me the value of Career and Technical Education. I worked or served as a consultant during this time as well, and worked my way into administrative roles at the college. However, I knew I needed to complete a doctorate so I moved to Raleigh in 1993 to finish my degree.

I was hired as an instructor at NC State University to teach introductory engineering graphics courses and serve as liaison to technology education within the College of Education. I was greatly influenced by Garland Hillard who hired me, John Crow as a mentor, and colleagues like Ted Branoff, and John Freeman. People that I appreciate for helping develop my career in technology education were Jim Haynie, Bill DeLuca, and Richard Peterson. I received many resources from administrators over the years and the two that helped me grow professionally the most were John Penick and Patricia Simmons. I have been fortunate to continue thematic research in graphics education and professional development over the past 25 years. Grants and research projects to support my thematic research that have given me the ability to contribute to the profession the most were: VisTE: Visualization in Technology Education, Tech-know project, STEM Community college certificate, Game Art and Design grants, and Transforming Teaching through Implementing Inquiry project.

Given all that I have said, I would like to see the division move forward and better establish our field as a discipline of study, just like mathematics, engineering, and science. We need to support others coming into the field, especially those from the community college sector and K-12 education. Our discipline is important to many fields now, and recognized from standards to accreditations from all levels of education. Let's produce the researchers and educators needed to move our discipline forward and recruit others from disciplines that need, and have a great appreciation for what we do. Again, thank you for this wonderful recognition from the profession that I'm so proud of to be a member.