

Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists
of the
Province of Manitoba

Merit Award

presented to

M. G. (RON) BRITTON
B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., P.Eng.

Dr. Ron Britton began his career at the University of Manitoba in 1973. Since that time he has distinguished himself with a truly outstanding commitment to research, teaching, and service to the profession. He is deserving of the Merit Award based on both research accomplishments and teaching accomplishments. His innovative teaching is highlighted both at the classroom level and through his assistance in helping other academics learn how to become effective educators. He has provided national leadership in incorporating engineering design into engineering education. He started teaching engineering design in the first year of the engineering program and has created a sequence of four courses to take students from 'concept to reality'.

As well as being an extraordinarily gifted teacher as evidenced by his consistently excellent course/professor evaluations, Ron continues to incorporate and develop new and innovative teaching methods and technologies into his classroom presentations. He has received the University of Manitoba's highest teaching award, the Dr. and Mrs. Saunderson Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Western Electric Fund Award given by the North Midwest Section of the American Society for Engineering Education "in recognition of his superior teaching and contribution to improvement in engineering education", and the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers Faculty Teaching Award. Recently, his contributions have been recognized by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada by awarding him a Chair in Engineering Design.

He has worked as a driving force at incorporating multimedia based, in-class course delivery packages into the classroom teaching of engineering courses. He was instrumental in the setting up and delivery of a fourth year engineering design course through live two-way video for students at the University of Saskatchewan in the spring of 1996. This delivery system was new to the University but Ron indicated that he was willing to commit the time and energy needed to develop the test vehicle for the new technology.

Dr. Britton maintains an outstanding involvement and interest in working with schools and potential engineering students; actively involves professional engineers in his educational program; provides direct input to off-campus educational groups; serves on committees charged with reducing the biases associated with women in engineering; and regularly writes articles and speaks to the general public on matters related to engineering design and light frame building design.

In summary, underlying all of Ron's professional activities is his belief that there is nothing which a university professor does that is more important than interaction with students. Many successful graduates recognize Dr. Ron Britton as being a major influence in their careers.

March 5, 2002