

Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists  
of the  
Province of Manitoba

# Leadership Award

to

**Douglas W. Ruth**

B.Sc. (Mechanical), M.Sc., Ph.D., P.Eng.

Dr. Douglas Ruth is a distinguished graduate of the University of Manitoba, having completed both his B.Sc. (1970) and M.Sc. (1972) degrees in Mechanical Engineering there. He later obtained his Ph.D. (1977) from the University of Waterloo, also in Mechanical Engineering.

After working in the private sector from 1972 to 1987, he chose to pursue academic life. He has taught several courses related to Transport Phenomena in Porous Media, supervised 25 undergraduate theses, six M.Sc. theses and six Ph.D.s. Doug received the University of Manitoba Merit Award (Teaching) in 1989 in recognition of his contribution to teaching excellence.

In the 1990's, he decided to assume increased responsibilities for the administration of the Faculty of Engineering; first as Head of Mechanical Engineering, then as Associate Dean of Engineering for Undergraduate Education, until his election in 1998 as the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering.

Dr. Ruth is one of the most visionary Deans that the Faculty of Engineering has ever been privileged to have. His drive to promote the University and create a facility that will foster learning excellence in the Province of Manitoba, and his leadership and dedication to establish a new engineering building for the faculty, together with a state-of-the-art heavy structures laboratory, have been greatly admired. Through his tenacity and commitment, he managed to lead a team which was successful in raising a building fund of approximately \$42 million, of which \$18.5 million was private sector funding. He has guided the construction of these new facilities through adversity, setbacks, and triumphs and has brought this enormous project to completion. The new W.R. McQuade Structures Laboratory now stands as one of the best facilities in Canada, if not in North America. Its impact on the education of future structural engineers will be a tribute to Dean Ruth and the Faculty of Engineering for years to come.

Early in his tenure as Dean, NSERC initiated the new Design Engineering Chair program. Because of Doug's encouragement and enthusiasm, one of the first five such Chairs was awarded to the Faculty of Engineering. Through his support of new concepts like Engineers-in-Residence, professional Communications staff, industry-based design courses and regular industry/university Design Colloquia, the Chair to Develop Design-Ready Engineers has become one of the most diversified and successful in Canada.

Dr. Ruth's other CRC chair and other Faculty selections reflect his vision for creating an institution with teaching excellence and student learning in mind. These appointments will not only impact academic and research life at the university but will also bring benefits to the Province of Manitoba, to Canada and to the global community. This new generation of instructors was attracted to the University of Manitoba because of Doug's encouragement and support in creating research facilities and a teaching environment that provide them with the tools necessary to excel in their chosen profession. As well, these vibrant young researchers and excellent facilities tend to attract students from far and wide, who wish to study under the best.

As well as being a member of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba, at the national level he is the Vice-Chair of the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board of the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers. He also serves on the Minerva National Board, the Petroleum Society of CIM, the Society of Core Analysts, the Society of Petroleum Engineers, and the Society of Well Log Analysis.

In recognition of his outstanding leadership in improving the quality and relevance of engineering education for the benefit of all Manitobans, the Association is pleased to present the Leadership Award to the Dr. Douglas Ruth.

October 6, 2006

---

Digvir S. Jayas, P.Eng.  
President

---

Grant Koropatnick, P.Eng.  
Registrar