



April 15, 2011

2011 APEGGA Summit Awards® Recipients

Honorary Life Membership • Ms Kim Farwell, P.Eng. (Fort McMurray)

- ***for eminent service and leadership as president of the association***

A respected industry leader who has worked for Syncrude Canada Ltd. for the past 17 years, Ms Kim Farwell, P.Eng., is an expert in commercial bitumen extraction processes and is currently Syncrude's operations support leader for extraction. Ms Farwell served APEGGA in many ways over the years before becoming president-elect in 2009 and president in 2010. As a Fort McMurray community leader, Ms. Farwell participates in a variety of volunteer activities and is involved with all levels of politics in her community.

The Research Excellence Award • Dr. Wilsun Xu, P.Eng. (Edmonton)

- ***for innovative research used to improve economic and social well-being***

Dr. Wilsun Xu, P.Eng., is a professor at the University of Alberta, and is also the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada / iCORE Industrial Research Chair in Power Quality. Dr. Xu is currently working on a proposed power-line signalling-based protection scheme that is part of a worldwide pursuit for technical control of distributed generation (DG) systems. His technological development has a number of advantages such as speed of response, ability to deal with multiple breaking points in the power line and flexibility to adapt to different configurations. Because of its advantages, Ontario's Hydro One is currently conducting a pilot project based on the technology. Dr. Xu's work has led to the publication of three papers in international power engineering journals and has resulted in a patent in the US.

The L.C. Charlesworth Professional Service Award • Dr. Deborah A. Spratt, P.Geol. (Calgary)

- ***for diligent service to the professions and the association***

An ardent promoter of Professional Geoscientists and compliance with Alberta's laws, Dr. Deborah Spratt, P.Geol., is a professor of geoscience at the University of Calgary. Dr. Spratt has dedicated herself to the goal of improving transferability of geoscientists between associations. As APEGGA's representative on the Canadian Geoscience Standards Board (a Geoscientists Canada committee), she was one of four members that drafted the geoscience knowledge and experience requirements for professional registration in Canada, which led to all 10 Canadian constituent associations signing a memorandum of understanding to use these common requirements.

The Frank Spragins Technical Award • Dr. Nigel G. Shrive, P.Eng. (Calgary)

- ***for recognized integrity, expertise and outstanding accomplishments***

Dr. Nigel Shrive, P.Eng., has applied his civil engineering expertise in structural mechanics to a variety of research areas with groundbreaking results. His work investigating the structural behaviour of the cardiovascular system is challenging the current paradigm of understanding regarding how pressure and flow work in the aorta. Dr. Shrive is a professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Calgary's Schulich School of Engineering, adjunct professor of surgery and kinesiology at the U of C and adjunct professor in the University of Alberta, Faculty of Engineering's Department of Biomedical Engineering. In addition to all of this, Dr. Shrive is also a masonry expert who has been called upon to assess the structural capabilities of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa and investigate why the walls of one of Parks Canada's historic forts are starting to fall.



The Excellence in Education Award • Dr. John A. Nychka, P.Eng. (Edmonton)

- ***for exemplary contributions to teaching and learning***

As a professor in the Faculty of Engineering's Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering at the University of Alberta, Dr. John Nychka, P.Eng., is a leader in initiatives to improve the quality of undergraduate teaching. He exudes a passion for teaching and his innovative use of props and demonstrations strengthen his student's understanding of materials science. His trademark "What's in the box?" demonstrations range from freezing rubber ducks to breaking guitar strings and are always sure to capture student interest through the explanation of difficult concepts in meaningful ways.

The Early Accomplishment Award • Dr. Tian Tang, P.Eng. (Edmonton)

- ***for exceptional achievement in the early years of a professional career***

Dr. Tian Tang, P.Eng., joined the Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Engineering as an assistant professor in 2007, and has continuously demonstrated leadership, not only in her research field, but also in the engineering profession. Also in 2007, she was appointed to the prestigious Canada Research Chair in Nano-Biomolecular Hybrid Materials. She has already published 23 papers in international journals and her excellent work has earned her several awards..

The Outstanding Mentor • Mr. Douglas K. Bird, P.Eng. (Medicine Hat)

- ***for exceptional achievement as a mentor***

During his 21 years working with BP Canada, Douglas Bird, P.Eng., has fostered the development of countless engineers-in-training and young professional engineers, providing them with foundations for career success. He has contributed time and effort to the BP Canada Challenge Program for engineers-in-training and licensed Professional Engineers. Mr. Bird is a committed mentor even beyond his daily work life: he motivates children to take an interest in math and science, high school students to explore the rewarding career possibilities in engineering, university students to continue research, and professional engineers to be the best that they can be.

The Environment and Sustainability Award • Dr. Gopal Achari, P.Eng., and Dr. Cooper H. Langford (Calgary)

- ***towards preserving the environment and sustainable development through the application of engineering and geoscience***

Dr. Gopal Achari, P.Eng., and Dr. Cooper Langford of the University of Calgary have developed an innovative technology for the remediation of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from contaminated soils and sediments. Their innovative technology takes a cradle-to-grave approach to PCB-contaminated soils, using an extraordinarily efficient ultraviolet-based method that results in the complete destruction of the PCBs. The development of this on-site remediation technology will result in cost savings and decrease the need to transport hazardous materials, while helping to resolve a global environmental problem.

Centennial Leadership Award • Dr. Murray R. Gray, P.Eng. (Edmonton)

- ***for highest distinction as an executive or director of a continuing enterprise***

Over the past 33 years, Dr. Murray Gray, P.Eng., has become a world-renowned expert in the area of petroleum processing, and has acquired a truly outstanding research record in the area of upgrading heavy oil and bitumen. Recognizing that sustainable development of the Canadian oil sands requires technological breakthroughs to create economically viable and environmentally conscious methods for



The Association of Professional Engineers,
Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta

BACKGROUND

mining, extraction and upgrading, he was involved in the development of the multi-disciplinary and multi-university, Centre for Oil Sands Innovation (COSI). He is now the first director of COSI.

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Note: photos of Summit Awards® recipients are available.

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