Good News

George C. Lee Honored by White House

On November 16, 2007, George C. Lee, the editor-in-chief of our journal — *Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Vibration* (EEEV), was among 11 people to receive a 2006 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) from President George W. Bush in a ceremony at the White House.

The annual award, administered by the National Science Foundation, honors individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to mentoring students and boosting the participation of minorities, women and disabled students in science, mathematics and engineering. According to the NSF, the awardees serve as leaders in the national effort to fully develop the nation's human resources in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

George C. Lee, Samuel P. Capen Professor of Engineering at the University at Buffalo (UB), has been a professor in UB’s Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering since 1961 and has served as Dean of the School of Engineering and Department Chair. He was instrumental in founding MCEER and served as Center Director from 1992-2002. He is currently Special Tasks Director. Dr. Lee has internationally recognized scholarship and leadership in multidisciplinary earthquake engineering, and is a leader in providing and sustaining educational opportunities in engineering.

In 1981, Lee started a modest summer program for 20 students from underrepresented groups designed to boost math, science and computer skills among high school students in the greater Buffalo area. His efforts led to BEAM, Buffalo-area Engineering Awareness for Minorities, a cooperative educational enrichment program that prepares teen women and minority youth for careers in science, engineering and architecture. In addition to his work with BEAM, Dr. Lee has worked with and fostered organizations focused on underrepresented groups, including the National Society of Black Engineers, the Society of Women Engineers, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, as well as appointing the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences' first director of minority programs.

At MCEER, Dr. Lee worked to increase underrepresented participation both among the Center's researchers and in its executive committee. As a researcher and UB faculty member, he also has advised numerous students from underrepresented groups.

As further evidence of his interest in boosting the diversity of UB's student body, he has been a proponent of international education, helping to negotiate UB's first exchange agreements in Beijing in 1980 and supporting more than 30 visiting international scholars.

His accomplishments have earned him numerous awards, among them the Superior Accomplishment Award from the National Science Foundation, the Newmark Medal from the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Walter P. Cooke Award from the UB Alumni Association, the President's Medal for Distinguished University Service from UB, the UB SEAS Dean's Award for Achievement and the UB Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education.

A native of China, Dr. Lee received a bachelor's degree from Taiwan University and holds master's and doctoral degrees in civil engineering from Lehigh University.

As an Editor-in-Chief of our journal EEEV, Dr. Lee has put great efforts for the journal establishment in 2002 and its development, which promotes the scientific exchange between China, the United States and the international scientists to improve the practice of earthquake hazards mitigation, preparedness, and recovery. We are proud of Dr. Lee receiving the 2006 PAESMEM.


Editorial Board of *Earthquake Engineering & Engineering Vibration*

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