By Nicole Axworthy

PEO Past President Patrick J. Quinn, P.Eng., has been awarded a Doctor of Philosophy, honoris causa by the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) in Dublin, Ireland. An alumnus of DIT’s faculty of engineering, Quinn was recognized for his “outstanding personal achievements as an engineer, and as a very effective representative of the engineering profession.”

A.P.S. Selvadurai, P.Eng., was recently elected to the Royal Society of Canada, a senior national body of distinguished Canadian scientists and scholars. He also received the Killam Prize in Engineering from the Canada Council for the Arts—which includes a prize of $100,000—and the CANCAM Gold Medal from the 21st Canadian Congress of Applied Mechanics. Selvadurai is both the William Scott Professor and James McGill Professor in the department of civil engineering and applied mechanics at McGill University. He is the author of six books and over 215 articles in international journals. His current honours add to his long list of national and international awards, including an Ontario Professional Engineers Engineering Medal in 1995.

Greg Naterer, PhD, P.Eng., professor and director of graduate studies, faculty of engineering and applied science, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, has been named Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Advanced Energy Systems. The Canada Research Chairs program attracts and retains some of the world’s most accomplished and promising researchers to enhance Canada’s global competitiveness in research and development. The program will provide $1.4 million in research funding to Naterer over a seven-year period. Through his chair, he will lead a hydrogen initiative to develop the world’s first lab-scale demonstration of a copper-chlorine production cycle. In addition, his research team is developing a new type of micro and nano engine, which uses nanotechnology to convert heat to electricity in microchannels.
The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Canada presented achievement and service awards to several Ontario P.Engs this year. The McNaughton Gold Medal went to Raymond D. Findlay, PhD, P.Eng. The Fessenden (Telecommunications) Medal went to Vijay Bhargava, P.Eng. The Computer Medal went to Nicolaos D. Georganas, PhD, P.Eng. The Outstanding Engineer Award went to Barna Szabados, PhD, P.Eng. The Central Canada Merit Award went to Vilayil I. John, P.Eng., and the IEEE Richard Harold Kauffmann Award went to Md Azizur Rahman, PhD., P.Eng.


The Canadian Institute of Steel Construction has announced the winners of the 17th Annual Ontario Steel Design Awards. The Architectural Award of Excellence and the Green Buildings Award went to the Fire & Emergency Services Training Institute project at Toronto Pearson International Airport. The project’s structural engineering firm is Halsall Associates Ltd. and its fabricator is Benson Steel Ltd. The Architectural Award of Merit went to the cooling tower replacement project at the University of Toronto’s Scarborough campus. Its structural engineering firm is Stantec Consulting Ltd. and its fabricator is Benson Steel Ltd. The Engineering Award of Merit went to the Royal Ontario Museum renaissance expansion project. Its structural engineering firm is Halsall Associates Ltd. and Arup Canada Inc. A second merit award went to the Insurance Research Lab for Better Homes project at the University of Western Ontario. Its structural engineering firm is Hastings and Aziz Ltd. The Award of Excellence for Projects Constructed Outside of Ontario went to the United States Air Force Memorial project. Its structural engineering firm is Arup Canada Inc. and its fabricator is Mariani Metal Fabricators Ltd.

Mervin Dewasha, P.Eng., accepted the Small Business of the Year award from the Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council (CAMSC) for his engineering firm, Neegan Burns Side Ltd. Dewasha was recognized for his devotion to advancing the interests of First Nations people and commitment to the mentorship and skills development of aboriginal engineers and technical staff. Under his leadership, Neegan Burns Side Ltd. experienced significant growth over the last several years. Key projects include improving water treatment systems for northern First Nations and integrating aboriginal architecture and a traditional healing space into the $100 million Sioux Lookout Hospital project. The CAMSC business achievement awards celebrate successful Canadian aboriginal and minority-owned suppliers and corporations that are leading the way in diversifying their supplier base. Dewasha received an Ontario Professional Engineers Citizenship Award in 2006.

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities’ Leadership in Faculty Teaching Award (LIFT) has been presented to several P.Engs at Ontario universities: Yu-Ling Cheng, P.Eng., (University of Toronto); Filippo Salustri, P.Eng., M.F. Stewart, P.Eng., and Malgorzata Zywno, P.Eng., (both Ryerson University); and Gordon Stubley, P.Eng., (University of Waterloo). The LIFT Award, recognizing teaching excellence at colleges and universities, is given to faculty who influence, motivate and inspire students and demonstrate leadership through their own teaching methods. Winners receive $20,000 over two years to encourage continued excellence in the classroom. Zywno was invested as a Member of the Professional Engineers Ontario Order of Honour in April 2007 to recognize her outstanding contribution to PEO’s Academic Requirements Committee.

Eight P.Engs are recipients of the Early Researcher Award (ERA) from Ontario’s Ministry of Research and Innovation. The award recognizes researchers who are within the first five years of an independent academic career and includes funding of up to $100,000 to help build their research teams of graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and research associates. Recipients of the ERA are: Constantin Christopoulos, PhD, P.Eng., Hani Naguib, PhD, P.Eng., and Milica Radisic, PhD, P.Eng., (all University of Toronto); Stephen Veldhuis, PhD, P.Eng., (McMaster University); Pascale Champagne, PhD, P.Eng., (Queen’s University); Kibret Mequanint, PhD, P.Eng., and Denis O’Carroll, PhD, P.Eng., (both University of Western Ontario); and Zisheng Zhang, PhD, P.Eng., (University of Ottawa).

Keith Hipel, P.Eng., professor of systems design engineering at the University of Waterloo, has been accorded the university’s highest academic honour, University Professor, a rank shared by only 11 Waterloo faculty members. It’s the latest in a string of honours for Hipel, which includes fellowships from the Royal Society of Canada, the IEEE, the Canadian Academy of Engineering, the Engineering Institute of Canada, and, most recently, the International Council on Systems Engineering.