2006-07 Awards
Presented at the ATEF Dinner March 22, 2007

Outstanding Alumnus of 2006-07, Dr. David M. Hall, P.E. Dr. Hall is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Polymer and Fiber Engineering.


Dr. Hall is the author or co-author of six textbooks in his field and has over 35 patents. He is widely published in national and international journals.

He was a reserve officer for 24 years in the U.S. Army Research & Development Command and presently holds the rank of Colonel in the U.S. Army Retired Reserve.

Dr. Hall has pioneered methods to analyze the causes for consumer and manufacturing faults in textile products. He has consulted for over 200 textile companies and has been involved in numerous litigation efforts as an expert witness.

Dr. Hall has supported our students and department throughout his career as a professor, generous with his time, energy, and money. He has endowed two ATEF David M. Hall Transfer Scholarships for transfer students.

The Outstanding Faculty Member for 2006-07, chosen by vote of our students, is Dr. Yasser Gowayed, who teaches mechanics and composites courses in the department.

Student Awards

The Phi Psi Freshman Scholarship Award goes to the sophomore who had the highest GPA during his or her freshman year. The award for 2005-2006 goes to Jessica Dewberry, polymer and fiber engineering major from Alexander City, Alabama.
The AATCC James C. Farrow Academic Award for Outstanding Junior is awarded to the textile chemistry major with the highest GPA during the sophomore year. The award for 2005-2006 goes to James Waldrup, a senior from Opp, Ala.

James also received The Chattahoochee Valley Phi Psi Alumni Award for high scholastic achievement and leadership potential. James co-oped with Honeywell International and conducted undergraduate research with Dr. Buschle-Diller in our chemistry lab. James spent five months at Reutlingen University in Germany with our student exchange program.

The Christopher B. Terry Service Award was instituted to honor Chris, our lab technician who passed away in 1998. Chris had such an impact on our students that they wanted to honor him with a special award for service. The award can be given to any student in our department, regardless of major, class, and GPA, who exemplifies Chris’ positive attitude, helpful nature, and enthusiasm for his or her chosen career. This is the only award in the department that is voted upon by faculty, staff, and students. This year’s award goes to Scott Terry, senior polymer and fiber/fiber engineering major from Birmingham, Ala. Scott has worked on the hovercraft team and AubieSat teams at AU. The AubieSat team built a satellite to be launched into space. Scott is also an Eagle Scout who has volunteered with special programs at AU, including a composite Boy Scout Merit Badge Event in the composite lab.

Scott also received The Phi Psi Senior Honor Award based on scholarship, leadership, integrity, and personality. Scott has interned with Sikes Composites and V2 Composites in Auburn. He has accepted a job after graduation with GKN Aerospace in Tallassee.

The 2006-07 ATOE Award goes to a senior who has shown outstanding leadership ability, service and cooperation with others in the Polymer and Fiber Engineering Department. The recipient this year is, Kyle Del Piano, senior fiber engineering major from Salisbury, NC. Kyle has interned with Kershaw Progress Rail and Donaldson Corporation. Before joining the hovercraft team (now captain), he was a member of the Baja off-road team.
The 2006-2007 Outstanding Senior Award is based on scholarship, leadership, initiative, integrity, congeniality, and service to the department.

Each year the Student Engineer of the Year is given to a junior or senior who has excelled in engineering throughout his or her college career. The recipient is honored at the College of Engineering awards reception.

Our Outstanding Senior and Student Engineer of the Year for 2006-2007 is Nathan Smith, senior polymer and fiber/fiber engineering major from Huntsville, Ala.

Nathan also received The American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists Student Award for excellence in the study of fiber chemistry throughout his college career.

Nathan has served as a congressional intern in Washington, D.C. and works with Dr. Buschle-Diller in the chemistry lab. He is president of our student honorary fraternity, Phi Psi. He is also a member of the Cupola Engineering Society, student ambassadors for the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. He has accepted a job with Qualis in Huntsville.