

## Professor Autar Kaw Recognized as Outstanding Engineering Educator by ASEE

Vancouver, Canada

June 29, 2011:

Autar Kaw, professor of Mechanical Engineering received the 2011 National Outstanding Teaching Medal given by the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), an honor awarded to a single educator each year. He received his medal at the annual ASEE conference in Vancouver, Canada.

Prof. Kaw is author of four textbooks on numerical methods, matrix algebra, composite materials, and programming, but he saw the future of online education long before most other educators. In 1990, he sent his first engineering education proposal to the National Science Foundation with a plan to send floppy disks that would supplement Numerical Methods course with textbook and simulations, without regard to copyright or payment.

It was in 2001 that he received the first of four consecutive engineering education grants from NSF, and 20 years later his original plan has blossomed into the online Holistic Numerical Methods Institute, which uses every tool for teaching the Internet provides including downloadable textbooks, YouTube videos, worksheets, primers, class syllabi, PowerPoint presentations, online assessments and even a blog. Florida A&M, Old Dominion University, Arizona State University, Mississippi Valley State University, and the Milwaukee School of Engineering are also contributors to the website and use various modifications of the NSF course in their engineering departments.

Since going live in 2001, the Holistic Numerical Methods Institute website has been awarded the ASME Curriculum Innovation Award (2004) and the ASEE DELOS Best Paper Award (2006). Literally one million page views were recorded in 2011. Also, there were more than half-million views of the audiovisual lectures on YouTube.

Prof. Kaw is especially proud of the overwhelmingly positive response to the Numerical Methods site. His separate blog, The Numerical Methods Guy is also popular and the entries are motivated by questions that students ask him in class. One blog response puts it simply: *"I wish I had a teacher like you."*

The ASEE National Outstanding Teaching Medal is awarded annually since 2003 to a teacher in an ABET-accredited curriculum based on classroom performance, teaching scholarship contributions and ASEE and local chapter participation.

Kaw, who is also a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, also received the 2010 Outstanding Teaching Award from the ASEE Southeastern Section, 2004 US Florida Professor of the Year Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching (CFAT), and the 1991 Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Ralph Teetor Award.

But, he's not one to rest on his laurels, a recent proposal written to National Science Foundation seeks to adapt and assess the courseware at additional institutions including Alabama A&M University, Prairie View A&M University, Florida International University, University of Nevada-Reno, University of Texas-Tyler, and University of South Carolina.