Ronald Roy named George Eastman Professor of Oxford University

Ronald Roy has been named the 65th George Eastman Professor of Oxford University. The George Eastman Visiting Professorship is a distinguished Chair appointed annually to a citizen of the United States who is deemed to be of great eminence in teaching or research in any field of study at the University of Oxford. Professor Roy will hold the Eastman Chair during the academic year 2006-2007.

The award stipulates that the awardee will deliver 24 lectures during the year he holds the position. The award is through Oxford’s Balliol College and is administered by the Rhodes Trust. Prior Eastman Professors include Deans, Distinguished Faculty Chairholders, a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, and 12 Nobel Prize winners. Professor Roy will be the first engineer to hold this post in the 75-year history of this prestigious award.

The award cites that the awardee will deliver 24 lectures during the year he holds the position. The award is through Oxford’s Balliol College and is administered by the Rhodes Trust. Prior Eastman Professors include Deans, Distinguished Faculty Chairholders, a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, and 12 Nobel Prize winners. Professor Roy will be the first engineer to hold this post in the 75-year history of this prestigious award.

Ronald Roy is Associate Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at Boston University. He received the Ph.D. degree from Yale University, an M.S. from the University of Mississippi, and a B.S. from the University of Maine at Orono. Dr. Roy’s main area of research is physical acoustics and he is active in the fields of medical ultrasonics and bioacoustics, particularly studies relating to the role played by bubbles and cavitation microstreaming in diagnostic and high-intensity therapeutic ultrasound, endodontic scaling, and extracorporeal shock-wave lithotripsy.

Ronald Roy is a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA). He has served as Chair of the ASA Technical Committee on Biomedical Ultrasound/Bioresonse to Vibration (1996-99), as Associate Editor for JASA (2000-01), and as Editor of Acoustics Research Letters Online (ARLO) (2001-03).

Bradford University Professor honored by the Institute of Acoustics

Professor Kirill Horoshenkov, an acoustics researcher at the University of Bradford, has been awarded the Institute of Acoustics’ 2006 Tyndall Medal. He received his award from Dr. Tony Jones, President of the Institute of Acoustics, at the Institute’s Spring Conference at Southampton University on 4 April 2006.

The Tyndall Medal is awarded bi-annually to a citizen of the UK, preferably under the age of 40, for achievement and services in the field of acoustics.

In selecting Professor Horoshenkov for this award, the Institute cited his achievements and proven record in developing efficient and novel solutions to noise problems and general sound propagation research. Professor Horoshenkov is a Fellow of the Institute of Acoustics, a member of the Acoustical Society of America, and author of many academic publications. He has studied, among other things, the prediction, measurement and control of noise from road and rail traffic, propagation of sound in dry and partially saturated porous materials and in waveguides. He has established an automated physical acoustic modeling facility at Bradford which has been used to investigate the effect of trackside noise barriers on the sound propagation from high-speed trains. Following receipt of his medal, Professor Horoshenkov gave a lecture on the characterization of acoustic porous materials.

Accepting his medal, Professor Horoshenkov said, “I am very grateful to the Institute for nominating me for such a prestigious award. I am also grateful to all my colleagues for their support that I’ve always enjoyed since my coming to the UK in 1992. In particular, I would like to thank Professor Simon Chandler-Wilde, Professor David Hothesall and Professor Keith Attenborough who led me through my PhD study at Bradford in the early 1990s. Their support has helped me to develop fundamental understanding of the phenomenon of sound propagation in porous media and inspired a series of related research.”

John Tyndall (1820-1893) preceded Rayleigh as the Professor Natural Philosophy at the Royal Institute. He investigated the acoustic properties of the atmosphere and through a distinguished experimental physicist, he is remembered primarily as one of the world’s most brilliant scientific lecturers.

Auditorium acoustics expert receives the Rayleigh Medal from the Institute of Acoustics

An internationally recognized expert in Auditorium Acoustics is this year’s winner of the Rayleigh Medal, the Institute of Acoustics’ premier award.

Dr. Michael Francis Evan Barron, a senior lecturer at the University of
Bath, was awarded the medal for his outstanding contributions to research and his illumination of auditorium acoustics over a period of more than 40 years. Michael Barron is a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America.

The presentation was made by Dr. Tony Jones, President of the Institute of Acoustics at the Institute’s recent Spring Conference at Southampton University. Southampton University was an appropriate venue for the presentation of Dr. Barron’s award as it was there in 1967 that he embarked upon his career, having graduated from the University of Cambridge with a 1st Class Honours Degree in Engineering.

Following receipt of his medal, Dr. Barron gave a lecture entitled “The development of Concert Hall Design – a 111 Year Experience.”

Accepting his medal, Dr. Barron said, “When I started work in acoustics at the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research (ISVR) in 1967, I had the extreme good fortune to be given a research project to do experiments to check the recent proposal by Harold Marshall that early lateral reflections were important for good concert hall acoustics. Marshall’s proposal had already excited much interest in the world of auditorium acoustics, which is however only a small one, even internationally. This meant that several years later when my own results appeared, confirming Marshall’s basic thesis, I found myself communicating with an international audience in spite of my inexperience. Being offered the Rayleigh medal was a great surprise to me and to receive it is an immense honor. I am delighted that my work has been appreciated by a larger public and that I have had the opportunity to talk about a fascinating subject to a wider audience.”

The Institute of Acoustics is the UK’s professional body for those working in acoustics, noise and vibration. It was formed in 1974 from the amalgamation of the Acoustics Group of the Institute of Physics and the British Acoustical Society (a daughter society of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers). The Institute has some 2600 members from a rich diversity of backgrounds, with engineers, scientists, educators, lawyers, occupational hygienists, architects and environmental health officers among their number. For further information about IOA, visit http://www.ioa.org.uk/

Neville Fletcher receives award from Australian Acoustical Society

Professor Neville Fletcher, Visiting Fellow Research School of Physical Science and Engineering Australian National University, was presented the inaugural award for “Outstanding Contribution to Acoustics” from the Australian Acoustical Society.

The award citation read: “Throughout his career, Neville has made extensive contributions to the advancement of acoustics, particularly in the areas of acoustics of musical instruments, biological acoustics, and vibrations. He has achieved international recognition for his work and has published extensively. He has been a strong supporter of all the activities of the Australian Acoustical Society. In particular he has been the chief editor of the journal Acoustics Australia since 1993.”

The award was a silver tray, a cut-glass decanter and four cut-glass port glasses. The tray is engraved with the words “Presented to Neville Fletcher by the Council of the Australian Acoustical Society in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the advancement of acoustics and significant service to the Society.”

Neville Fletcher is a Fellow of ASA and recipient of the 1998 Silver Medal in Musical Acoustics of the Acoustical Society of America “for contributions to understanding sound production and especially the role of nonlinear processes in string, wind, and percussion musical instruments.” Dr. Fletcher currently serves as Associate Editor of JASA for Music and Musical Instruments, a position he has held since 2001.