Biography of Ralph Coats Roe

Ralph Coats Roe had a life-long interest in the design and construction of modern electric generating facilities throughout the world. He demonstrated a talent for the analysis and imaginative solutions to various phases of this work, whether dealing with plants that were driven by water, nuclear energy, coal, oil or gas. He was probably best known for his developmental work on modern, efficient and reliable steam power plants.

At 42, during the depression of 1932, he was co-founder of the Burns and Roe Partnership. In 1935, he bought out his partner and incorporated to form Burns and Roe, Inc. He was Chairman, President and CEO until 1963 when his son, Kenneth Andrew Roe, became President. Ralph Coats Roe remained Chairman and CEO until his death in 1971 at the age of 81.

Ralph Coats Roe was born in Marcellus, New York in 1890 and began to support and educate himself at the age of fourteen. Although he was the only family member for generations before and since without a college education, he was keenly aware of the formal education he missed and often commented on the value of education and the importance of those individuals who are gifted in inspiring and guiding future engineering professionals.

He was strong, ethical, quiet, perceptive, fair and kind. He had a great deal of common sense, and a keen sense of humor that illuminated his conversation on the most unexpected occasions. His intellectual curiosity was fueled by an interest in mathematics and science.

Previous Roe Award Recipients

1975 B.T. Chao
1976 John R. Dixon
1977 Stothe P. Kezios
1978 Ephraim M. Sparrow
1979 Robert H. Page
1980 W.F. Stoecker
1981 J.W. Swedlow
1982 Frank P. Incropera
1983 L.S. “Skip” Fletcher
1984 I. Glassman
1985 G. N. Sandor
1986 Werner Soedel
1987 John R. Howell
1988 W.J. Minkowycz
1989 William Z. Black
1990 A.L. Addy
1991 C.R. Mischke
1992 Philip S. Schmidt
1993 Lawrence A. Kennedy
1994 John H. Lienhard
1995 Jack P. Holman
1997 C.D. “Dan” Mote, Jr.
1998 Christian Przirembel
1999 K.L. “Larry” DeVries
2000 Adrian Bejan
2001 Michael J. Moran
2002 Christina H. Amon
2003 Richard O. Buckius
2004 William J. Wepfer
2005 Gary Kinzel
2006 Dan Turner
2007 William N. Sharpe, Jr.
2008 Latif M. Jiji
2009 Stephen R. Turns
2010 Richard H. Carwford

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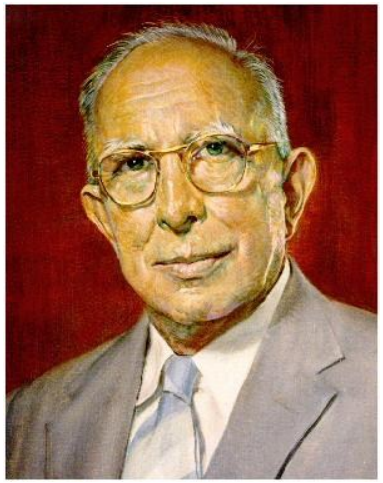

Ralph Coats Roe

2011 Ralph Coats Roe Award Recipient

Dr. Dennis Assanis

The University of Michigan

About the Award

The Ralph Coats Roe Award recognizes a mechanical engineering educator who is an outstanding teacher and who has made a notable contribution to the profession. The professional contribution may be in any appropriate category, including:

- Excellence in classroom and laboratory teaching; writing an outstanding paper or textbook; developing a significant technique or method of analysis, procedure or synthesis; inspiring learning to take place through contact with students;
- Involving students and colleagues with innovate aspects of design through problems that are relevant to real life situations;
- Conceiving of an idea of great importance to the advancement of the engineering profession or engineering education;
- Teaching, directing and conducting significant research or administrative activities;
- Creating an important invention;
- Providing distinguished service and leadership to the college, the community, the nation and mankind.

Details regarding eligibility and the nomination process can be found at the ASEE web site:

http://www.asee.org/

ASEE
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2011 Ralph Coats Roe Award

Professor Dennis Assanis

Professor, Mechanical Engineering
The University of Michigan

Dennis Assanis serves as the Jon R. and Beverly S. Holt Professor of Engineering at the University of Michigan. He is also Director of the U-M's W.E. Lay Automotive Laboratory. A mechanical engineer, Assanis is recognized internationally for his development of modeling methodologies and experimental techniques that shed light into complex thermal, fluid and chemical processes in internal combustion engines to improve their fuel economy and reduce emissions. In addition, he serves as Director of the U-M's Michigan Memorial Phoenix Energy Institute where he manages the development, coordination, and promotion of multidisciplinary energy research and education programs across the University.

Assanis has published with his students and collaborators over 250 articles in journals and conference proceedings. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the Society of Automotive Engineers and a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He is a 2010-2011 recipient of the Stephen S. Attwood Award, the U-M College of Engineering's highest faculty honor. His degrees include: M.S., Management, Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1986; Ph.D., Power and Propulsion, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1985; M.S., Mechanical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1982; M.S., Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1982; B.Sc., Marine Engineering, Newcastle University, 1980.