George C. Hoffmann Award

Franz Rad, Ph.D.

Professor Franz Rad is described as the architect, builder and academic leader of civil engineering at Portland State. With 46 years of service at the University, including 22 as department chair, he was a significant leader in establishing the program, the department, and the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science,

Professor Rad developed 13 courses and taught 17 in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. He secured funding and helped build many of the fundamental labs still in use, wrote the proposal for the Ph.D. program, and played a key role in the vision and funding of the new engineering building.

Professor Rad’s dedication and service record includes seven years on the Faculty Senate, as well as university and departmental committees. His commitment to education is demonstrated by his creation and funding of a $75,000 endowed scholarship for Civil and Environmental Engineering students.

Important and active scholarship is another piece of Professor Rad’s distinguished career. He has over 90 publications in journals, proceedings, and technical reports. Professor Rad was the recipient of the first Arthur M. James Professor of Structural Engineering endowed professorship, elected to the Academy of Distinguished Alumni at the University of Texas at Austin, and selected Engineer of the Year by the American Society of Civil Engineers (Oregon Section) in 2002.

His work in seismic hazards of building in Portland contributed significantly to building safety in the region and laid a solid foundation for the development of a few statewide earthquake safety policies.

The Hoffmann Award is given annually to a faculty member in recognition of distinguished contributions to the University in the areas of instruction, university service, and scholarship which are done in the spirit of humanism, civility, and collegiality with particular dedication to students and loyalty to the University—values especially cherished by the late George C. Hoffmann, a distinguished dean and professor of history at Portland State University.