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26 April 1986

## People in the News

## SMITH HONORED BY COLLEAGUES

C.W. Smith thought he was spending the weekend with two of his former students. When they chose to eat their Saturday Night dinner on the Virginia Tech campus and spent 15 extra minutes driving around the University prior to dining, he assumed they were being nostalgic. However, when he walked in the door of the continuing education center on January 18th, he was greeted by a host of former students and professional colleagues. They had gathered to give him a surprise dinner party in honor of his 60th birthday.

Professor Smith, an alumni distinguished professor, received several gifts from his friends, most of whom are members of or contributors to the Society for Experimental Mechanics. Former student Mitchell Jolles from the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory acted as master of ceremonies. He presented Professor Smith with an original B.J. Anderson etching along with a pair of three-dimensional glasses "to see three-D effects with."

James C. Newman Jr., George Irwin, medalist and senior scientist at the NASA Langley Research Center, presented Prof. Smith with an Exceptional Scientific Award of Merit from former students and colleagues at NASA. Dr. Jolles also read congratulatory letters from Dallas G. Smith, Tennessee Tech; Joseph Walter, research director of the Firestone Central Research Laboratory; and George C. Sih, director of the Institute for Solid Mechanics and Fracture at Lehigh University. A number of personal gifts including a silver watch were also presented to Prof. Smith.

Other former students, including Walter Peters, University of South Carolina; Jon Epstein, Idaho National Engineering Laboratory; and Tom Fleischman, Firestone Central Research Laboratories, reminisced about their former advisor. Other colleagues attending included University Distinguished Professor Emeritus Dan H. Pletta, escorting Ms. Sylvia Owen, Mr. and Mrs. Don H. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Henneke, Mr. and Mrs. Carl T. Herakovich, Dan Post, O. Olaosebikan, Alumni Distinguished Professor Dan Frederick and his wife, and Dean T. Mook, all from the Department of Engineering



C.W. Smith

Science and Mechanics at Virginia Tech. Also attending were Albert S. Kobayashi, University of Washington; Satya A. Atluri, director of the Center for Computational Mechanics, Georgia Tech; and Mr. and Mrs. John G. Merkle, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, who joined Prof. Pletta and Prof. Mook with stories about the honoree.

Others attending included Jo Peters; Judy Fleishman; Mr. and Mrs. Archie Andonian, Goodyear Research Laboratories; George Kirby, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory; Tom Watson, Reynolds Metals Research Center; Prof. Smith's wife Doris, his daughter Terry, and Terry's escort, Larry Kelly.

The festive weekend continued on Sunday with an impromptu brunch at Prof. Smith's home for out-of-town visitors and concluded on Sunday evening with a telephone rendition of "Happy Birthday" from a quartet consisting of former SEM presidents James W. Dally, University of Maryland, and Charles E. Taylor, University of Florida, and their wives, Ann and Nikki. Prof. Smith noted how the harmony within SEM's technical activities had been extended to the performing arts.

Contributed by Lynn A. Nystrom Director, News and External Relations Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University