

# The MacEngineer

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*Applause and Accolades...*

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# Engineering Gala acknowledges successes

The 2006 Faculty of Engineering Applause and Accolades event offered alumni, faculty, visitors and guests an opportunity to recognize the people who have helped to make the Faculty and its programs successful.

Two awards were presented during the May 3rd banquet and gala reception at Liuna Station in Hamilton. The Faculty of Engineering Leadership Award was presented to Dr. Joseph Ng, president of JNE Consulting Limited. He is recognized as a corporate partner who has assisted greatly with the research and educational programs, providing leadership, vision and contributions to the Faculty over many years. The new L.W. Shemilt Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award is intended to honour alumni whose accomplishments and contributions are of a national or international significance, and/or have had a transformative impact on their field of endeavour.

The inaugural recipient was Mike Pley. Pley is recognized for his

leadership contributions to the electrical engineering profession as President of COM DEV Space, a company that designs and manufactures space hardware subsystems. In addition, 48 presentations were made to engineering faculty, staff and students.

Guest speakers during the evening's festivities included Larry Di Ianni, Mayor, City of Hamilton; Peter George, President, McMaster University; Mo Elbestawi, Dean, Faculty of Engineering; Les Shemilt, former Dean, Faculty of Engineering; and Ken Norrie, Vice-President, Academic.

Applause and Accolades was created to publicly acknowledge the success of the Faculty's corporate partnerships and internal successes, and to promote awareness of these achievements to the wider Hamilton community and to engineering alumni. The special gala is a way to celebrate the successes and contributions of the engineering faculty, staff and students through awards, peer recognition, or appointments to positions such as research chairs. 

## Faculty graduates 10,000th student

This year's Kipling Ceremony, the annual event for graduating engineers, marked a milestone for the Faculty of Engineering – its 10,000th engineering graduate received the iron ring.

Software Engineering student Andrew Flak, 23, was the honoured student. He received his ring during the Faculty's 45th Kipling Ceremony from Waldo (Wally) Wheten, one of the Wardens of Camp 13. A total of 539 graduate engineers attended the ceremony and received their rings.

Flak originally heard about the Kipling Ceremony and learned about the iron rings from his sister's best friend who is a professional engineer. "It's something I wanted even before I enrolled in engineering," he said. Now that his five years of study are



Dr. A. D. Spence second from left is pictured with Shamel Elnomany, Tamer Fahmy and Misara El-Gammal at the Kipling Ceremony held on Friday, March 31st, 2006 at Liuna Station. The students commented that "It was an honour Sir to be presented with the Iron Ring by you".

finally over, it's a great feeling to put on his own ring, he added.

"I'm proud to be part of the Kipling tradition here at Mac. Through the Ceremony, you formally enter the profession in such a meaningful way. I look forward to one day presenting a ring to a graduate engineer in my turn."

Wheten, 92, who has been a professional engineer for over 65 years, was for many years Hamilton's City Engineer and manager of the water works department. "I am very pleased and honoured to be asked to present the iron ring to the 10,000th McMaster engineering graduate."

In 1961 at McMaster's first Kipling Ceremony, 23 students received their rings.

Dean Mo Elbestawi noted that the profession has seen many changes and advancements over the years including the use of computers for design work and the admission of women.

The Kipling Ceremony, officially known as The Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer, is a Canadian tradition that dates from the 1920's. It is named after the celebrated British author Rudyard Kipling who had often referred to engineers in his novels and poetry. He was approached by civil engineer professor Herbert Haultain of the University of Toronto to write a ceremony of induction for graduating engineers. The Ritual has been copyrighted in Canada,

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Andrew Flak was presented with the 10,000 iron ring at Kipling by Wally Wheten, Camp Warden.