
Department honors Michael E. Conrad with lecture and graduate student award

The legacy of Michael E. Conrad, one of the university's finest computer scientist, has been ensured through a permanent, endowed graduate student research award and lecture. The first lecture, held on April 16, featured Peter Erdi, Ph.D., Department of Biophysics of the Hungarian Academy of Science. He spoke on "The Complexity of the Brain: What Computer Scientists should know about Neuroscience." Jeffrey O. Pfaffman received the \$250 Graduate Research Publication Award at the department's spring recognition awards program.

Conrad had an international reputation for foundational work in bio-computing, particularly the earliest work in

computer science on artificial life. His work attracted the attention of prominent scientists from a wide range of disciplines. Many came to Wayne State for research collaborations or to discuss their research with him.

Conrad was also known for his vibrant research group, his high standards for research excellence and his exceptional mentoring.

The Graduate Research Publication Award is presented to the graduate student who has published the most significant research article during the previous year. The annual Conrad Memorial Lecture features a prominent computer scientist. The next lecture will be held in April, 2003.

Donations to the Michael E. Conrad Endowed Graduate Research Award Fund can be sent to Susan Emfinger, Director of Development and Alumni Affairs, College of Science, Wayne State University, 2155 Old Man, 4841 Cass Avenue, Detroit, MI 48201. She can be contacted at 313-577-6828, or at susan.emfinger@wayne.edu.

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City of Detroit supports training program for young adults

A change in emphasis reflects new federal guidelines designed to prepare younger people for the workplace, Wolfson explains.

The 14-week program – training up to 180 students per year – is offered three times a year at the Metropolitan Center for High Technology building. In addition to the training being offered free, the students are paid a \$140 weekly stipend to attend 6_

An adult computer skills training program provided by the Computer Science Department for more than 20 years, has shifted focus to younger people, ages 19 to 21, says Seymour Wolfson, who established the program in 1981. The

hour daily sessions. They are familiarized with Windows and Macintosh applications, as well as general word processing skills.

"This program prepares students to be job-ready and helps them get a job," Wolfson said. The job placement rate for these students is 85 percent, which exceeds federal expectations, he adds. Many program graduates are currently employed at Wayne State.

"Our goal is not just for students to learn the material, but to make them proficient, so that when they sit in front of the machine they can start working."

The program funds are provided by the City of Detroit Department of Employment and Training.