

(Excerpt taken from AU report May 10, 2004)

Raju wins first outreach faculty award



P. K. Raju, Thomas Walter Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, has received AU's first Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach.

Interim President Ed Richardson presented the award at a dinner honoring Raju on Wednesday. The award, along with a \$5,000 honorarium, will be presented annually. "Dr. Raju is the ideal recipient of the inaugural Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach," said David Wilson, associate provost and vice president for AU Outreach. "He has had enormous impact on the manufacturing industry in Alabama," said Wilson. "His work has led to the creation of additional jobs, the retention of jobs in the state and the overall increased efficiency of those industries. In addition, he's a first-class teacher and a world-class researcher."

Raju has headed the Auburn Engineering Technical Assistance Program since its creation in the College of Engineering in 1999. That program was the successor to the Auburn Industrial Engineering Service, in which he led the engineering portion of a multidisciplinary partnership from 1996-99.

The current program offers expertise in aerospace, biosystems, chemical, civil, computer science and software, electrical and computing, industrial and systems, mechanical and textile engineering. AETAP provides manufacturers with continuing education, on-site assessments and demonstrations, maintenance solutions, recycling options and problem solving.

"Under the direction of Dr. Raju and supported by AETAP personnel and engineering faculty and students, the program has helped Alabama's companies increase their competitiveness in a rapidly changing atmosphere of national and international commerce," said David Dyer, chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department.

After earning his doctoral degree in India, Raju came to Auburn in 1984. "Not only has he taught a wide range of courses at every level, he has done so with excellence, earning numerous awards at both the university and national levels," Dyer said.