

Brief Biographical Sketch

Professor William Garrard:

Professor William Garrard joined the faculty of the University of Minnesota in December 1967 and served as department head from 1991-2006. He received his BS and his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. During 1995, he was a Visiting Scientist at CERT/ONERA in Toulouse, France.

Professor Garrard's work concentrates on mathematical modeling and control of aerospace vehicles, aerodynamic decelerator systems, and student satellites. Recent projects have included precision pointing of scientific instruments suspended from high-altitude balloons, student satellites and high-altitude balloons, and parachutes for Mars missions.

He has published over 100 technical papers and has received external research funding from NASA, NSF, U. S. DOT, Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Army Research Office, Sandia Labs, and private industry. In 1996, Garrard received the Educational Award for Excellence from the U.S. Army Soldier System Command for his work in parachute systems. Garrard is a Fellow in AIAA. And in 2003 he was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the AIAA for his work in parachute systems. In 2006, Garrard was selected as the recipient of the J. Leland Atwood award. This award is jointly sponsored by ASEE and AIAA and is presented to recognize a recent outstanding educational achievement and to encourage innovative improvements in aerospace education.

Garrard is Director of the NASA-funded Minnesota Space Grant Consortium, which provides state-based higher education programs in aerospace sciences and engineering. He is currently Chair of the National Council of Space Grant Directors which represents all 52 Space Grant Consortia. Garrard has served as an AIAA Commissioner on the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET.