RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF
SENIOR INSTRUCTOR LEE R. MINARDI

May 14, 2014

The members of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering wish to extend our appreciation and recognize the contributions of our colleague, Lee Minardi, who will retire in August 2014. Lee earned his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Massachusetts Lowell in 1968, and then worked as a design engineer at the Naval Ordnance Station in Indian Head, Maryland. In 1969, he enrolled in the College of Engineering at Tufts University and received his Master of Science in Engineering Design in 1972.

From 1972 to 1990, Lee worked for a number of firms that that specialized in Computer-Aided Design (CAD), which at that time represented the forefront of engineering design and computing. While employed at Applicon, Lee traveled throughout the United States, Europe and Asia extolling the virtues of CAD. In 1984, Lee became the product manager for Computervision’s Personal Designer, one of the first commercially-available three-dimensional (3D) CAD systems for personal computers.

In 1974, Lee noticed an advertisement in the Boston Phoenix for hang gliding lessons at Nashoba Valley Ski Area in Westford, Massachusetts. He became hooked on the sport and has been an active hang glider pilot ever since. Lee is an advanced-rated pilot and several of his journeys through the sky can be viewed on YouTube, complete with “point of view” landings. Lee’s forty-two years of hang gliding have taught him much about flying, weather, human anatomy, and fear. Lee recently purchased his seventh hang glider, which he hopes to make good use of during his retirement. Lee invites anyone who is interested in learning more about this natural form of flying to contact him.

In 1990, Lee returned to Tufts as a lecturer in the Department of Engineering Design. When the School of Engineering was reorganized in 1993, Lee joined the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and became responsible for teaching CAD to all engineering students. Since the mid-1990’s Lee has taught the CAD and introductory computing courses to first-year engineering students. Enrollments in these classes ranged from 150 - 260 students per semester for twenty years, and included training more than fifty teaching assistants. Lee is a strong proponent of the value and importance of spatial visualization and reasoning in engineering education. He received the inaugural Tufts University UIT Teaching with Technology Award in 2012. This year one of his students, Sarah Long, received first place in the Tufts Research Visualization Award for her CAD video animation of “Dancing House: Sketch to Model,” which I encourage all of you to view.

Lee’s research interests include geometric modeling of manufactured products and constructed systems, spatial visualization, the use of technology in teaching mechanics, and the use of computer tools for engineering problem solving. In 2010, he submitted a patent application with Robert Lind for a “Doubly-Curved Mesh”. Lee has contributed to both university and department activities as faculty advisor to the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers.
(ASCE) from 2008-2014, and a member of the Tufts Information Technology Committee, which he chaired from 2009-2012.

Throughout his career, Lee has been supported by his wife, Judy, of forty-two years. They have two children; Margot, who is an associate professor of history at Reed College in Portland, Oregon, and Mike, who lives in Aspen, Colorado, and attends the University of Colorado in Denver. Please extend your appreciation to Lee for his twenty-five years of service Tufts University.

On behalf of the faculty of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, I respectfully request that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the faculty of Arts, Science and Engineering, and that a copy of this resolution be provided to Senior Lecturer Lee Minardi.

Steve Chapra
Professor and Berger Chair of Computing, CEE