Distinguished "Fellow" Retires

Tek's Internationally Recognized Expert On Heat Transfer Chooses A Well-Deserved Retirement

Tektronix bid a fond farewell recently to one of its most valued employees, Gordon Ellison — Tek Fellow, world-class authority on heat transfer, university guest lecturer, and highly regarded mentor — who was honored at a retirement luncheon.

Over 75 people gathered to toast Gordon's distinguished 18-year career at Tek, including his family, his business associates, and professors from local universities. Ed Hershberg, Gordon's last manager, reviewed the highlights of his career and presented him with a plaque commemorating his technical excellence in the field of thermal analysis.

As the author of over 20 published articles, a comprehensive text on thermal analysis and design of electronic equipment, and several computer programs, Gordon is recognized internationally for his theoretical and applied knowledge of heat transfer, modeling of multilayer structures, and the use of computational and analytic methods in the analysis of heat transfer in complex structures. He has developed a number of computer programs for thermal analysis of electronic systems that are used worldwide. His work is referred to in the trade literature, as well as at industry conferences, and he receives more requests to present his techniques than he can handle.

Gordon joined Tek in 1976. According to Ed, "A willingness to take on even the most difficult challenges exemplified Gordon's attitude. He is among the most disciplined workers I have ever met, and is entirely self-directed. His performance is consistently at the very highest level, and his title of Fellow was well deserved."

So what does a Tek Fellow do when he retires? Gordon says, "Well, I'm not really retiring. There are still a lot of professional things I want to do."

Gordon plans to do some part-time consulting. He also wants to continue developing software for the heat transfer field. He's currently working on a lesson plan for a heat transfer course he'll teach at Portland State University starting in January. He plans to give seminars around the country. And he wants to edit his book for reprinting.

But it won't be all work. Gordon has a model airplane hobby he enjoys. And he's just beginning to savor his freedom from the 9 to 5. "I don't have to work nights or weekends anymore, and my wife really likes that," he says. "I still get up early and do a little work, but then I put on my sweats and go out and run if I feel like it — for however long I feel like it. I'm going to miss Tek, but I'm convinced I did the right thing for myself and my family."