GANO DUNN AWARD

The Gano Dunn Award is presented annually to an alumnus/na of the Albert Nerken School of Engineering for outstanding professional achievement in the fields of science, engineering, industry or finance. Engineering graduates working in any profession or field may be nominated and will be considered for the Award.

Biography of Gano Dunn (1870-1953)

A native New Yorker, Gano Dunn studied at the City College of New York and worked as a night telegraph operator for Western Union, until he graduated in 1889 with a Bachelor of Science. He continued his education at Columbia University, where he received a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1891, becoming the first electrical engineer to graduate from an American university. Soon he received numerous patents for the design and construction of electrical machinery and, at the age of 28, he was named vice president and chief engineer of the Crocker-Wheeler Electric Manufacturing Company.

In 1911, he was named vice president in charge of engineering and construction, and two years later he was appointed president at J.G. White Engineering Corporation. He directed construction of the United States Naval Oil Bases at Pearl Harbor and the United States Government Airport on the Island of Fernando de Noronha off the coast of Brazil. In the Republic of Haiti, he oversaw a program of roads, bridges and irrigation works, for which he was decorated with the Order of Honor and Merit of the Republic of Haiti.

During World War I, Dunn was chairman of a special committee of the State, War and Navy Departments on Submarine Cables, and a member of the Nitrate Commission of the War Department. Prior to the United States entering World War II, President Roosevelt appointed Dunn to the Committee on Civil Service Improvement, and he served as Senior Consultant in the Office of Production Management. With the Hoover Commission, Dunn was an advisor for the Public Works Task Force.

Dunn served as director of the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) and as honorary member of such distinguished engineering societies as the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers. He was called upon frequently to counsel on the management of railroads, utilities, radio and telegraph companies, oil producers and refiners, as well as to mentor young people in the field of engineering.

In 1937, Dunn was honored as an engineer, educator, humanitarian and industrialist by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers with the Edison Medal. The award was in recognition of his distinguished contributions in extending the science and art of electrical engineering in the administration of great engineering works, and for inspiring leadership in the profession. In 1939, he was awarded the Hoover Medal.
Dunn devoted a quarter-century of service to The Cooper Union. From 1935 to 1951, he was the President of the school while continuing to serve on the Board of Trustees. From 1948 to 1953 he served as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, where he immediately undertook a survey of the institution’s activities. Drawing on the expressed wishes of Peter Cooper, founder of the institution, Dunn instituted policies that brought both the School of Engineering and Art School to prominence in their fields.

Under Dunn’s guidance, Dr. Edwin S. Burdell, the first Dean of Humanities at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was brought on in 1938 to direct the institution’s activities—the first professional educator to head The Cooper Union since the resignation of Charles R. Richards in 1923. The Engineering School became a leader in giving a place to social sciences and the humanities in professional education, rather than limiting training to technical skills. Dunn also guided the investment policies of the endowment and was instrumental in increasing income for The Cooper Union’s free tuition educational activities.

At the 90th Commencement exercises in 1950, Dunn was awarded the Peter Cooper Medal by Walter S. Gifford on behalf of his fellow trustees for his twenty-five years of distinguished service as a Trustee to The Cooper Union.

After a brief illness, Gano Dunn died on April 10, 1953. Although separated by almost a century, Dunn and Peter Cooper each achieved great distinction in the application of science to the practical problems of life. Both men were devoted to furthering the American ideal of equal educational opportunities. Their dedication revealed their shared innate kindness and great integrity, combined with creative inquisitiveness and incisive thinking.

It is in the spirit of Gano Dunn’s accomplishments and ideals that the Gano Dunn Award is awarded each year to a distinguished alumnus.

**Nomination Process**

Please print this nomination form and either fax or mail a hard copy with supplementary documents. If you have any questions, please email: alumni@cooper.edu.

The Cooper Union  
Office of Alumni Relations  
Fax: 212-353-4327  
Attn: Gano Dunn Award  
30 Cooper Square 8th floor  
New York, NY 10003
The Gano Dunn Award is given each year to an alumnus of the Albert Nerken School of Engineering for outstanding achievement in science, engineering, industry or finance. Engineering graduates working in any profession or field may be nominated and will be considered for the Award.

Nominee Information

Full Name of Nominee: ________________________________

Year of Graduation: ________________________________

Major: ________________________________

Home Address: ________________________________

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_________________________________________________

Home Telephone Number: ________________________________

Email Address: ________________________________

Occupation: ________________________________

Employer and Address: ________________________________

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Basis for Nomination

Please describe in detail why you believe the nominee should receive the Award. (Additional pages and/or a resume or curriculum vitae may be attached as necessary.)

Career Highlights (Key appointments, positions held during the nominee’s career, etc.):

________________________________________________________________________


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________________________________________________________________________
Outstanding Accomplishments (Not limited to technical contributions, but also includes any significant contributions to a specific field or society as a whole):

Other Bases:

Supporting Documentation

The Gano Dunn Awards Committee would greatly appreciate receiving resumes, publications and any other supporting materials that further demonstrate why the individual being nominated should receive this Award. Please indicate whether supporting documentation is being supplied.

Yes _____ No _____

Nominator Information

Name: _________________________________________________________________

Year of Graduation (if applicable): ________________________________
Major (if applicable): _____________________________________________________

Home Address: _________________________________________________________

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Home Telephone Number: ______________________________________________

Email Address: _________________________________________________________

This nomination is also supported by the following (list all additional persons supporting the Nominee):

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