

**NSF environmental director named UM Engineer of Distinction**

Joining the ranks of ExxonMobil executives and NASA chiefs, alumnus Clark C.K. Liu (MSCE 69), environmental engineering program director for the National Science Foundation (NSF), was recently named the 2009 Engineer of Distinction by The University of Mississippi. The title is bestowed annually on a truly exceptional engineer associated with the School of Engineering.

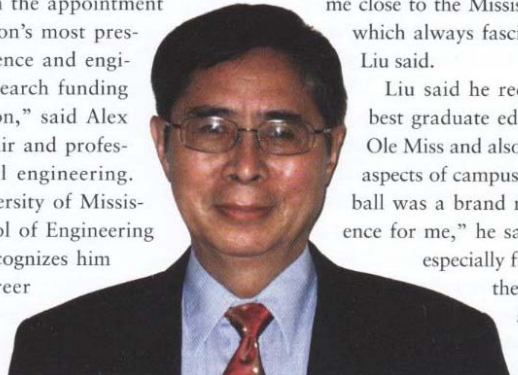
“I was very excited by the news of being selected to receive the Engineer of Distinction award,” Liu said. “It is not only a great honor for me but also presents an opportunity for me to revisit a place that has been so important to my personal and professional development.”

Liu recently completed two federally sponsored research projects: an NSF

project to develop an engineering system for open ocean mariculture using nutrient-rich deep ocean water; and a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation project to develop a wind-powered reverse-osmosis system for water desalination and treatment.

“An expert in environmental fluid mechanics, Dr. Liu’s research has earned him the appointment in the nation’s most prestigious science and engineering research funding organization,” said Alex Cheng, chair and professor of civil engineering. “The University of Mississippi School of Engineering proudly recognizes him for his career achievements.”

Clark Liu



ments and scholarship.” A graduate of National Taiwan University, Liu came to Ole Miss in 1967 in response to an offer from Sam DeLeeuw, retired chair and professor of the Department of Civil Engineering.

“I had a dream that someday I would have an opportunity to work on large rivers. Attending Ole Miss brought me close to the Mississippi River, which always fascinated me,” Liu said.

Liu said he received “the best graduate education” at Ole Miss and also enjoyed all aspects of campus life. “Football was a brand new experience for me,” he said. “It was especially fun to watch the Rebels play and win.”

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After earning his master’s degree in 1969, Liu entered the New York State Division of Water Resources, obtained his New York State Professional Engineer license and received a graduate fellowship from Cornell University to complete his doctorate there in 1979. He joined the University of Hawaii faculty in 1980 and was promoted to full professor in 1989. For 29 years, Liu served as the principal investigator of more than 10 research projects sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, NSF, USBR and other agencies. In all, his research efforts have yielded more than 70 scientific publications.

Liu has been the program director for environmental engineering at NSF since January 2008 through an agreement with the University of Hawaii. He is a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a member of the Chinese Lutheran Church of Honolulu. Liu and his wife, Diane, are the parents of three children and have three grandchildren.