

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

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

In 1911, he was named vice president in charge of engineering and construction and two years later was appointed president at J.G. White Engineering Corporation. He directed vast construction of the United States Naval Oil Bases at Pearl Harbor and the United States Government Airport on the Island of Fernando do Noronha off the coast of Brazil as well as overseeing a program of roads, bridges, and irrigation works for the Republic of Haiti, 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 him to the Committee on Civil Service Improvement and he served as Senior Consultant in the Office of Production Management. Dunn also served as an advisor for the Public Works Task Force of the Hoover Commission.

Dunn served as director of the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) and as honorary member of such distinguished engineering societies as 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 frequently called upon to counsel management of railroads, utilities, radio and telegraph companies, oil producers and refiners, as well as mentoring young people in the field of engineering.

In 1937 Gano Dunn was honored as an engineer, educator, humanitarian, and industrialist by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers with the Edison Medal for 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. He was also awarded the Hoover Medal in 1939.

Gano Dunn devoted a quarter-century of service to The Cooper Union. For fifteen of those twenty-five years, 1935-1951, he served as the President of the school while continuing to serve

on the Board of Trustees. From 1948-1953 he served as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. As Chairman of The Board, Dunn immediately undertook a survey of the institution's activities in the light of the expressed wishes of Peter Cooper, founder of the institution, and instituted policies that brought both the School of Engineering and Art School to eminence in their fields. Under Mr. Dunn's direction, Dr. Edwin S. Burdell, first Dean of Humanities at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was brought in 1938 to direct the institution's activities – the first professional educator to head The Cooper Union after the resignation of Charles R. Richards in 1923. The Engineering School became a leader in giving the social sciences and the humanities a place in the professional education in contrast to a slavish training in technical skills. Mr. Dunn guided the investment policies of the endowment and was instrumental in extending the income for The Cooper Union's free tuition educational activities. At the 90th Commencement exercises of The Cooper Union in 1950, Mr. 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 of The Cooper Union.

Gano Dunn and Peter Cooper, separated by almost a century in time, each achieved in their individual ways great distinction in the application of science to the practical problems of life. In the character of both men were combined innate kindness and great integrity with creative inquisitiveness and incisive thinking. And they both devoted themselves to the furtherance of the American ideal of equal educational opportunities. Mr. Dunn died after a brief illness on April 10, 1953.

It is in the spirit of Mr. Dunn's accomplishments and ideals that the Gano Dunn award is named and 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: singer@cooper.edu

The Cooper Union
Office of Alumni Relations Fax: 212-353-4327
Attn: Gano Dunn
30 Cooper Square 8th floor
New York, NY 10003

GANO DUNN NOMINATION FORM



The Gano Dunn Award is given each year to an alumnus of the Albert Nerken School of Engineering for outstanding achievement in engineering, industry, science 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: _____

Current Home Address: _____

Current Home Telephone Number: _____

Current E-mail Address: _____

Current Occupation: _____

Current Employer and Address: _____

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.):

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): _____

Current Home Address: _____

Current Home Telephone Number: _____

Current E-mail Address: _____

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

	Name	Year of Graduation	Major
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____

Submission Information