Moses D.F. Ling, Associate Professor of Architectural Engineering was selected to receive the 2011 Penn State Excellence in Advising Award.

The award, established by the former Undergraduate Student Government’s Academic Assembly and sponsored by each college, annually honors one full-time faculty member and one full-time professional adviser from any Penn State location who have at least two years of advising experience. Selection criteria are based on excellence in general advising, academic and career guidance, enthusiasm and assistance in decision-making, and goal setting.

Ling, who serves as undergraduate program officer for the Department of Architectural Engineering, has developed an advising manual for faculty advisers and issues Advising Notes to students several times a year. "Recognizing that advice is most welcomed when it is needed," he said, "the Advising Notes provide information 'just in time' for the students in different stages of the program. The publications are intended to reduce the time spent on routine matters, allowing colleagues and students to concentrate on more productive work."

He believes the key to being a good adviser is to be the students' advocate. "I constantly have to remind myself to shed the self-appointed disciplinary role and listen to the students," he said. "Imagining oneself in the other person's shoes can be very powerful motivation."

A member of the University faculty since 1981, Ling holds bachelor's and master's degrees in architectural engineering from Penn State. In 2009 he received the Penn State Engineering Society's Outstanding Adviser Award.

M. Kevin Parfitt, Associate Professor of Architectural Engineering has been selected as one of three Penn State Teaching Fellows for 2011-12.

The Teaching Fellow Award was established jointly in 1986 by the Penn State Alumni Association, in consultation with the Undergraduate Student Government and the Graduate Student Association. Its purpose is to honor distinguished teaching and provide encouragement and incentive for teaching excellence at Penn State.
A $3,000 award and a plaque will be presented to Professor Parfitt at an awards ceremony to be held at the Nittany Lion Inn on campus on March 23, 2011. His name and photograph will also be added to the permanent Teaching Fellow Award plaque located in the Hetzel Union Building on the University Park Campus.

The Penn State Alumni Association will also honor him at a dinner at the Hintz Family Alumni Center in Fall 2011 semester, were he has been asked to give a brief, informal talk on his philosophy and practice in regard to college teaching.

In addition, a $9,000 grant will be awarded to the AE Department for improvement of undergraduate teaching and learning.

The AE Department joins in congratulating Kevin and Moses on these well-deserved honors!