

Chamber of Commerce announces award-winners

Anderson is Business Person of the Year

By Kelly Dickson
Staff Writer

BLACKSBURG — At Thursday night's Greater Blacksburg Chamber of Commerce annual meeting and dinner, held at the Blacksburg Holiday Inn in Blacksburg, Stuart Kendall Anderson of Anderson & Associates was chosen Business Person of the Year. He was nominated by his fellow workers.

Anderson began the engineering firm in 1968 from his Blacksburg home while working toward his master's degree in sanitary engineering at Virginia Tech. Since A&A first opened on Eakin Street, the company has grown to a firm with about 90 employees working in offices in Blacksburg, Greensboro and Richmond. The company is consistently on the edge of computer technology.

Anderson started an employee stock ownership plan at the firm, which enables full-time employees

to share ownership in the company. One of his nominators stated: "Anderson is a visionary. He is continuously encouraging employees to better themselves through continued education and involvement in the community."

Anderson is chair of the Virginia Tech Civil Engineering Alumni Advisory Board, a member of the Blue Ridge Regional Education and Training Committee, and a member of the Blacksburg Telecommunications Committee and the Blacksburg Bikeway and Walkway Committee.

This year, the Distinguished Citizen of the Year award is shared by two Blacksburg women who don't fit the ordinary mold: Sheryl Bolstadt and Elaine Keyes-Alfonso.

Bolstadt and Alfonso, both mothers of young children, got together last year and decided the town needed an innovative playground. The women spoke to their friends about the idea and began organizing other parents; they inspired school children to help

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Chamber holds annual banquet



Staff Photo by Kelly Dickson

The Greater Blacksburg Chamber of Commerce held its annual awards banquet Thursday night. (Left to right) Stuart "Ken" Anderson, Business Person of the Year; Sheryl Bolstadt, Distinguished Citizen of the Year; Beth Ifju, new chamber president; Elaine Keyes-Alfonso, Distinguished Citizen of the Year; Wilmoth O'Dell, winner of Business-Industry-Education Award.