Co-founder of Prentke Romich Company Receives Distinguished Service Award

Edwin M. Prentke, a clinical engineer and resident inventor at Cleveland Metro General/Highland View Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, has been chosen as the 1982 recipient of Brandeis University’s Distinguished Service Award. The award this year recognizes exceptional achievement in the field of medical technology and carries an honorarium of $2,000. Award Committee Chairman David Steinberg explained that the committee searched the country for a “Renaissance tinkerer” and found Ed after following “a path of great complexity.” The plaque presented to Ed reads as follows:

Brandeis University Salutes
Edwin M. Prentke

“Your technological wizardry liberates the physically disabled and your abiding faith in their total humanity restores their dignity.”

Back in 1966 Ed Prentke and Barry Romich, at that time, an engineering student at Case Western Reserve University, combined their electronic backgrounds and interest in meeting the specialized needs of the handicapped by forming the Prentke Romich Company. This partnership was a natural for these two engineers who were aware of the many unmet needs of the handicapped and who were committed to meeting these needs through technological developments.

Prentke Romich Company, specializing in electronic devices for the severely handicapped, was directed by Ed and Barry together until 1979 when Ed decided to leave the business world and focus his efforts full-time at Cleveland Metro General/Highland View Hospital where the patients and hospital staff revere Ed as their in-house “electronic handyman” as Ed has devised a variety of innovative electronic devices for handicapped patients.

The staff of Prentke Romich congratulates you, Ed Prentke. We are proud that you are such an integral part of our heritage. Keep up the good work!!