

ENGINEERING EDUCATION OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS

February 20, 2013

EAST-WEST FACULTY LOUNGE ■ PURDUE MEMORIAL UNION
Purdue University





I'm delighted to present this year's recipients of the Engineering Education Outstanding Alumni Award: Stan Jones, Eric J. Schmidt, and Michael W. Wells, all graduates of the former Division of Interdisciplinary Engineering (now part of the School of Engineering Education).

A continuation of the Outstanding Interdisciplinary Engineering Alumni Award bestowed before the School's founding in 2004, the Engineering Education Outstanding Alumni Award is presented to alumni who have achieved singular accomplishments in their fields,

whose successful careers are role models for our students, and whose achievements set an example for all the School's alumni. In future years, the award will recognize alumni who have interdisciplinary engineering degrees, multidisciplinary engineering degrees, or engineering education doctoral degrees, reflecting all academic degrees offered by the School.

I invite you to discover at tonight's award ceremony how our honorees have used the springboard of Purdue's Interdisciplinary Engineering program to make a difference in their chosen fields. They are shining examples of just what our students can accomplish when they combine an interdisciplinary outlook with a drive to improve and contribute to the world around them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D Radcliffe". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David Radcliffe
Kamyar Haghighi Head, School of Engineering Education
Epistemology Professor of Engineering Education



Stan Jones

+ BSE IDE, ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT, 1973

President ■ Complete College America

+ **SEEKING A UNIVERSITY FAR ENOUGH AWAY**—but not too far—from his Cincinnati home, Stan Jones enrolled at Purdue because of its excellent reputation and his own interest in math and science. Interdisciplinary Engineering was just being formed as an academic division at that time, and with Dr. Dick Grace as his advisor, Jones charted his own path as an engineering management major, combining a strong engineering background with courses that provided leadership skills.

He had ample opportunity to practice those skills as a college student. He served as president of Sigma Chi fraternity and as Purdue student body president during, he says, “interesting times” that saw the end of the Vietnam War, the beginning of Earth Day and the environmental movement, and an increasing emphasis on women’s issues. He was active in voter registration drives and, after graduation, continued his political engagement by serving for 16 years in the Indiana House of Representatives, representing the district that included Purdue.

Jones went on to serve Indiana governor Evan Bayh as legislative director and policy director, then served for 13 years as Indiana’s Commissioner for Higher Education. In that role, he was a primary architect of several landmark education policy initiatives, including the 21st Century Scholars program; the development of Indiana’s new community college system; the creation of Indiana’s Education Roundtable; and the implementation of Core 40, a college prep curriculum.

In 2009, Jones founded Complete College America, a network of states devoted to helping governors, state legislators, educators, and campus administrators enable more students to finish college. Currently, 32 states have joined Complete College America’s Alliance of States. Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and others, the organization collects and analyzes data, analyzes best practices, and shares information to ensure that new programs and policies build on the best knowledge of what works in higher education. ■



Eric J. Schmidt

+ BSE IDE, ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, 1976

Corporate Director, Environmental Engineering
■ *RockTenn Corporation*

+ AS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GROWING UP in Pittsburgh, Eric Schmidt had a technical bent: he liked to see how mechanical things worked and was good in math and science. After graduation, he headed to Purdue for a degree in electrical engineering.

He changed course during his sophomore year. The environment was becoming an urgent issue—the first Earth Day had happened only a few years before—and Purdue was a pioneer in environmental studies, having hosted the Purdue Industrial Waste Conference since 1948. In consultation with Dr. Dick Grace (then head of Interdisciplinary Engineering), Schmidt decided to major in environmental engineering, foreseeing a future in which he could help change the world by working to reduce pollution.

His time at Purdue (the “best four years of my life,” he says) featured, on the academic side, memorable professors including Drs. Al Chiscon (biology), Don Schlueter (physics), and Bob Jacko (civil engineering). Outside the classroom, Schmidt worked at the co-recreational gym, refereed Indiana high school basketball games, and became an advisor in the Department of Freshman Engineering.

Following graduation, he joined the agency that is now the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and then began an industry career in which he has held successively responsible positions in the forest products industry, rising to Vice President, Environmental Engineering, at Georgia-Pacific. He currently serves as Corporate Director of Environmental Engineering for RockTenn Corporation, a paper and packaging manufacturer.

Career highlights include creating the initial group supporting Georgia-Pacific’s Superfund and remediation response at more than 200 sites in North America, including major remediation projects on Wisconsin’s Fox River and the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. He also created and led a network of regional environmental engineers that supported Georgia-Pacific’s manufacturing sites across 42 states, Mexico, and every Canadian province.

In his role at RockTenn Corporation, Schmidt leads a group supporting environmental compliance at more than 80 manufacturing operations, including 10 major pulp and paper mills. The goal: Limit the environmental footprint; be good neighbors; be good citizens. ■



Michael W. Wells

+ BSE IDE, PRE-LAW, 1975

President ■ REI Investments, Inc.

+ **WHEN MIKE WELLS ENROLLED AT PURDUE**, he wasn't exactly sure what he wanted to study but thought engineering would be a good choice. One year into collegiate life, the Decatur, Illinois, native found himself heavily involved in student government and local issues—and he determined, with the counsel of Dr. Dick Grace (then head of Interdisciplinary Engineering) that a pre-law major suited his interests and career aspirations.

While pursuing his studies, Wells joined Beta Theta Pi fraternity, eventually serving as house president, and helped found a tenant-landlord association at Purdue to help represent students. His efforts in that association—writing a model lease, creating a student handbook, disseminating information—and his related service in student government as student attorney general helped lead to the creation of a new dean's position on campus with responsibility for student affairs. He also found time to serve as president of the Purdue Student Publishing Foundation, which owned *The Exponent*. He was a member of Iron Key and was named Purdue's Outstanding Senior Male for 1975.

After graduation, Wells earned a degree from the Robert H. McKinney School of Law at Indiana University (Indianapolis) and began his legal career in the areas of real estate and tax-exempt financing. He then got into the real estate business himself.

As president of the Carmel, Indiana-based REI Investments Inc., which manages REI Real Estate Services, Wells has been involved over the past 25 years in a number of significant real estate projects, including the JW Marriott Hotel, Marriott Place, Circle City Mall, WellPoint Operation Center, Emmis Communications headquarters, and the Indianapolis Marriott Hotel, all in downtown Indianapolis.

In addition to his development activities, Wells manages the portfolio of real estate investments owned by REI Real Estate Partnership. These investments include 300 North Meridian in downtown Indianapolis, several parking garages, and numerous suburban office buildings. REI currently has more than \$200 million of development projects ongoing. ■

OUTSTANDING INTERDISCIPLINARY ENGINEERING ALUMNI 1999 ■ 2003

1999

Gregory M. Ayers

+ BSE IDE, PRE-MED/PRE-LAW, 1985

2001

Paul C. Cloyd

+ BSE IDE, ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING, 1976

Sue Hudson-Abreu

+ BSE IDE, BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, 1978

2002

Michael J. Cave

+ BSE IDE, ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT, 1982

David R. Schwind

+ BSE IDE, INVENTIVE DESIGN, 1974

2003

Geoffrey T. Crowley

+ BSE IDE, TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING, 1974

ENGINEERING EDUCATION OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

2009

Harold M. Aberman

+ BSE IDE, BIOENGINEERING, 1985

Brian E. Farley

+ BSE IDE, BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, 1979

Gary C. Horlacher

+ BSE IDE, SYSTEMS ENGINEERING, 1989

Robert F. Sharpe Jr.

+ BSE IDE, PRE-LAW, 1974

Mary Spiess Smith

+ BSE IDE, ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING, 1974

2010

Howard J. Gobstein

+ BS IDE, TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC POLICY, 1974

2011

Debra S. Echt

+ BSE IDE, BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, 1973

Raymond Michael Klein

+ BSE IDE, BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, 1977

Richard H. Le Sesne

+ BSE IDE, NUCLEAR ENGINEERING, 1975

2012

Leslie Bottorff

+ BSE IDE, BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, 1979

Rick Kosdrosky

+ BSE IDE, COMPUTER ENGINEERING, 1976



PURDUE'S SCHOOL *of* ENGINEERING EDUCATION includes the First-Year Engineering Program; the Interdisciplinary Engineering Program, which includes Interdisciplinary Engineering Studies and Multidisciplinary Engineering; the world's first PhD program in engineering education; and INSPIRE, the Institute for P-12 Engineering Research and Learning.

Our Vision ■ A more inclusive, socially connected, and scholarly engineering education

Our Mission ■ Transforming engineering education based on scholarship and research



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