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.

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

+ 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.

Stan Jones
+ BSE IDE, ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT, 1973
President - Complete College America
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.
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

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

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

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