LETTER FROM EAC PRESIDENT
DIXIE WELLS E’91

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I am honored to serve as your Engineering Alumni Council (EAC) President for the 2015-2016 academic year. The EAC coordinates the activities of the Engineering Alumni Association in support of the Pratt School of Engineering.

Our efforts focus on the following core areas:

**Extracurricular Student Projects**

The EAC provided funding to many diverse organizations this year, such as the Duke Motorsports Team, Duke Electric Vehicles, the Pratt chapters of IEEE, the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), InnoWorks, ASCE, Duke Engineers for International Development (DEID), and Engineering World Health. The number of alumni who pay their annual dues to the Engineering Alumni Association determines the number of groups we support and the level of funding that we are able to provide each group. If you are a regular dues payer, thank you. If you have never paid dues or have not paid dues recently, please think of the funding you could help provide to these groups when you receive your next dues notice. Even a small increase in the number of alumni who pay dues can make a significant impact on our students’ ability to accomplish their project goals.

**Annual Alumni Awards**

Each year, we recognize three outstanding individuals from the Duke Engineering community. The Distinguished Alumnus and Distinguished Young Alumnus Awards recognize individuals who have achieved great success in their careers. The Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who have provided extraordinary service to Pratt and their communities. As always, your nominations for these awards are appreciated as we want to make sure we do not overlook any good candidates.

The annual banquet hosted by EAC in April each year is our opportunity to thank these award recipients for representing Duke and Pratt so well and to celebrate with them. For those of you who have not been able to attend an Alumni Banquet in the past, I recommend trying to attend one in the near future. The event provides a great opportunity to look back on your years at Duke and share a very special evening with award recipients, current Pratt students, Pratt faculty, and fellow alumni.

**Alumni Awareness and Engagement**

We have been expanding our use of online resources to give alumni more convenient tools to stay engaged. Duke Engineering now has a presence on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter, plus online access to the DukEngineer, to help you stay connected with the school and your fellow alumni. You can access the links via pratt.duke.edu.

Finally, I would like to recognize two members of the EAC. Over the past year, Ershela L. Sims PhD, E’93 has served as President. Ershela has worked tirelessly to advance the goals of the Engineering Alumni Association. We appreciate her commitment to Pratt, her leadership of the EAC, and her continued service in the role of Past President. The previous year, Jason O. Piche E’97 served as EAC President. After serving this past year as Past President, Jason now rolls off the EAC after seven years of service. Thank you, Jason, for the many years you have given to Pratt and the Engineering Alumni Association.

Dixie T. Wells E’91
President
Engineering Alumni Council
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Stephen R. Bolze E’85, P’15

Steve Bolze is senior vice president at the General Electric Co., and president and CEO of GE Power & Water, the company’s largest industrial segment. His career at GE began in 1993 as manager for mergers and acquisitions. In 1995, he moved to GE Energy in Schenectady, NY. He has held several leadership roles, including as president and general manager of Energy Management Services. In 2002, Bolze moved to GE Healthcare as the general manager, and a year later, GE appointed him a company officer and vice president of Amersham Integration, based in London. Shortly thereafter, he then became president and CEO of GE Healthcare International, based in Paris. GE then appointed him to lead the power generation business, and in 2008 it made him a company senior vice president. Today he is a member of the senior Corporate Executive Council. As leader for GE Power & Water, he manages a $27 billion business with more than 37,000 employees across over 120 countries. He has led the GE Services Council of industrial business, and most recently played a critical role in GE’s announced $17 billion acquisition of Alstom Power & Grid, which will mark the largest acquisition in GE’s history. Bolze remains active upon the world energy stage by serving as the chair of the World Economic Forum’s Electricity Technology Community, a committee composed of global CEOs from across the electricity industry. Before GE, Steve was a management consultant and a project manager at Westinghouse. Steve has a BS in electrical engineering from Duke and an MBA from the University of Michigan. He is married with three sons, and lives in Duxbury, Mass.

DISTINGUISHED YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD

Mia K. Markey G’02

Mia K. Markey is a professor of biomedical engineering and Engineering Foundation endowed faculty fellow in engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, as well as an adjunct professor of imaging physics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. She earned her PhD in biomedical engineering, along with a certificate in bioinformatics, from Duke in 2002. The mission of her biomedical informatics lab is to develop decision support systems for clinical decision making and scientific discovery. She has been recognized for excellence in research and teaching with awards from organizations such as the American Medical Informatics Association, the American Society for Engineering Education, the American Cancer Society, and the Society for Women’s Health Research. She is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and a senior member of both IEEE and SPIE.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Seth A. Watkins E’92, L’99, G’93, G’96

Seth Alain Watkins is an intellectual property (IP) attorney with Adduci, Mastriani & Schaumberg LLP in Washington, D.C. He handles disputes concerning a wide range of technologies — often involving patents — including cases in the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC), district courts, and appellate courts. Since 1997, Seth has served on Pratt’s adjunct faculty. Beginning in 2011, he has taught each spring semester, on a volunteer basis and now for almost 200 students, the required course “IP, Business Law, and Entrepreneurship” in the Master of Engineering Management Program. Among the other courses in which he has recently lectured, Seth teaches the IP segment of the Mechanical Systems Design/Energy and Environment Design courses for seniors. Seth was a member of Pratt’s Board of Visitors from 2008-2015, and the Engineering Alumni Council from 1995-2002. He regularly engages Pratt’s students, whether meeting with student engineering societies, providing academic and career counseling, or organizing other out-of-the-classroom events, such as a group service activity greeting veterans at the WWII Memorial in Washington.
The Engineering Alumni Council provides funding for extracurricular projects and activities to qualified engineering-based student groups at the Pratt School of Engineering. This year we recorded the student presentations in order to share what our students are doing with the Pratt community.

The videos are in a playlist on the Duke Engineering YouTube channel at duke.is/GFcFF2. Please “like” the videos and share your comments! The videos can also be found on the Pratt website at pratt.duke.edu/eac-student-videos. We hope you will enjoy seeing what our students are doing and your dollars at work!

The EAC was able to help fund many diverse organizations this year, including the Duke Motorsports team, the Duke Eco-Marathon Team, the Pratt chapter of IEEE, the Pratt chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), the Pratt chapter of InnoWorks, Duke Engineers for International Development (DEID) and Engineering World Health, just to name a few.

The number of groups we support and the funding we provide each group is directly correlated to the number of alumni who pay their annual Engineering Alumni Association dues. Please keep this in mind when you receive your next dues notice or other communications from the EAC. Even a small increase in funding can make a significant impact on the ability of our students to accomplish their project goals.

To pay your dues and give to the Engineering Annual Fund, please visit gifts.duke.edu/pratt.

**ENGINEERING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP**

**WHAT DO MEMBERSHIP DUES SUPPORT?**

Dues are spent by the Engineering Alumni Council to sponsor alumni receptions, speakers and open houses to forge connections between the alumni, students and faculty; provide the primary support for engineering student projects, enabling a richer and more fulfilling educational experience for students; host the annual Awards Banquet and determine each year’s Distinguished Alumnus, Distinguished Young Alumnus and Distinguished Service awards. Of the support we receive each year from dues and the Lord Foundation, 50% goes toward Student Projects; 25% for the Engineering Awards Banquet; 16% for Dues Mailing, Meeting costs and other EAC expenses; and 9% for Reunion and Alumni/Student Events.

**HOW TO JOIN**

Engineering Alumni Association dues are $35 a year. You can send your dues in the envelope provided or go to gifts.duke.edu/daadues, then select “Engineering Alumni Association Dues ($35.00).”

**MEMBERSHIP GIFT**

With your paid 2015-2016 Engineering Alumni Association (EAA) membership, you will receive a Duke Engineering drink hugger. Don’t miss out! Be sure to join today!
About the Council

The EAC is responsible for executing the mission of the Engineering Alumni Association. A member of the council is an active observer to the Pratt Board of Visitors, ensuring that an alumni perspective is heard in all deliberations concerning Pratt’s future direction and priorities.

Our Goals

We are committed to celebrating the rich heritage of Duke University. This is accomplished by:

- Cultivating leadership, participation and loyalty from alumni and parents
- Helping alumni reconnect with each other and the university while protecting their privacy
- Facilitating networking between alumni, parents and current students while protecting their privacy
- Providing quality programs to meet the needs of alumni and parents
- Supporting the mission of Pratt by promoting giving in support of student life, scholarship or academic programming
- Communicating information in timely and effective ways
- Respectfully responding to inquiries with prompt information

Join the Council

Contact Pam Hanson at 919-660-5130 or pamela.hanson@duke.edu if you are interested in joining the council or recommending someone.

2015-2016 EAC Members

President
Dixie T. Wells E’91 • Greensboro, NC

President-Elect
Michael A. Wesley E’97, X’98 • Chapel Hill, NC

Vice President
William G. Gardner E’09, G’11 • Fredericksburg, VA

Immediate Past President
Ershela L. Sims E’93 • Durham, NC

Student Representatives
Becky Bauer E’16 • ESG President
Emily Bauman E’16 • Senior Class President
Sebastian Baquerizo E’17 • Junior Class President

Pratt School of Engineering Staff
Robert W. “Judge” Carr, Jr. E’71 • Senior Associate Dean for Development & Alumni Affairs
Pam Hanson • Director, Annual Fund
Kim Davis • Project Coordinator

Council Members
Anthony R. Baldassari X’06 • Raleigh, NC
Ana E. Diaz E’77 • Chadds Ford, PA
Grant T. Hollett IV E’93, B’02 • Chesterfield, VA
Ronald Barton Houck II E’86 • Apex, NC
Andrew J. Longenecker E’07 • Jupiter, FL
Bridge D. L. McDowell E’84 • Kitty Hawk, NC
William Randal Mendez E’82, B’90 • Wilmington, DE
Tracy A. Nickelsburg E’88 • Alexandria, VA
Sara K. Oliver E’06 • New York, NY
Howard Clifton Ray III E’13 • Appomattox, VA
William B. Senner E’06, X’06 • Durham, NC
Allan B. Shang E’83 • Wake Forest, NC
W. Neal Simmons G’01 • Bahama, NC
Judd W. Staples E’92, B’02 • Durham, NC
Robert D. Wescott E’90 • Durham, NC

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pratt.duke.edu/news/duke-engineering-now