

Classnotes

1960s

Jerry C. Wilkinson E'67, his wife, Beverly, and their family have been recognized for their lifetime philanthropic and service contributions with the naming of Duke's newly opened engineering building as the Wilkinson Building.

Jerry Wilkinson, a 1967 electrical engineering graduate and founder of the Wilkinson Companies, and Beverly Wilkinson have been volunteers and donors to Duke's Pratt School of

interdisciplinary research neighborhoods focused on solving challenges related to computing and AI, the environment and human health.

To learn more about the Wilkinson Building and its naming, visit pratt.duke.edu/about/news/dukes-new-engineering-building-named-honor-wilkinson-family.

A past chair of the Pratt School of Engineering Board of Visitors, Jerry Wilkinson received the Duke Engineering

Wilkinson Brammer '00; Bev Wilkinson P'98, P'00, P'03; Jerry Wilkinson BSEE'67, P'98, P'00, P'03; and Hilary Wilkinson Bayer '03

1990s

Valecia D. Maclin E'92 has been named to the CMMC-AB, Software Assurance Forum for Excellence in Code (SAFECode) to support the Department of Defense's new Cybersecurity Framework.

2000s

Christine N. Armstrong E'06, assistant district bridge engineer, VDOT, was named a "Top 40 Under 40."

Lisa Burton O'Toole E'07, a graduate of the Thomas Lord Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science, will receive ASME's Kate Gleason Award, honoring women entrepreneurs who make a significant contribution to the engineering community.

As a mechanical engineer, entrepreneur, teacher and mentor to young women, O'Toole is a powerful advocate for innovative women and proudly demonstrates the qualities of Kate Gleason, who joined ASME as its first female member in 1918.

Since her graduation from Duke, O'Toole received her MS and PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She serves as executive director of HearstLab, where she evaluates and invests in women-led startups in media, data and technology.

O'Toole was an active ASME student member while an undergraduate at Duke University, receiving the Outstanding Member at the Regional Student Conference in 2005 and ASME academic scholarships for her excellence as an

engineering student in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

2010s

Andrew G. Mang E'12, a GCSP Scholar and 2012 Duke graduate with a degree in mechanical engineering and economics, and **Rachael E. Lau E'20**, a Duke CEE graduate and GCSP scholar who is passionate about disaster response and using engineering to improve social well-being, were instrumental in launching a call-to-action by the National Academy of Engineering in April 2020 looking for solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With its Call to Action, the NAE — the most prestigious engineering organization in the country — seeks to create a "virtual incubator of ideas," where a diverse range of engineers can come together to brainstorm ways that engineering could be used to propose and provide solutions to problems that have arisen due to this pandemic. For more information, visit www.nae.edu/230399/National-Academy-of-Engineering-Announces-Engineering-Call-to-Action-on-COVID19.

Mona Dai E'15 is using data to identify unsafe drinking water.

Alison E. Bergmann X'18 was awarded the Society of Women Engineers New Emerging Leader in Technology and Engineering Award this year. There were 15 people in the 40,000-member SWE organization that received this honor.

Ivonna N. Dumanyan E'18 and Gabrielle Levac T'14 started Fathom AI, a company that works with fitness providers to capture user bio data and uses analytics and machine learning to create personalized workouts and recovery plans. ■



Engineering for decades. Their most recent contribution, a cornerstone gift to the Building for the Future of Duke Engineering campaign, will fund the innovative research and educational initiatives that will take place within the new \$115 million engineering building.

In addition to state-of-the-art design labs and active-learning classrooms, the building features a Center for Engineering Entrepreneurship, a Center for Innovation, a Learning Commons and a 200-seat auditorium, expanding Duke Engineering's current student education and programming space by 50 percent.

Located at the nexus of Engineering, Medicine and Arts & Sciences, the Wilkinson Building will also house three

Distinguished Service Award in 1997 and the Duke Alumni Association's Charles A. Duke Award in 2012.

He and Beverly Wilkinson have a long history of philanthropy to Duke, establishing the Beverly A. and Jerry C. Wilkinson Scholarship, Myrtle Coker Wilkinson Scholarship, and Wilkinson Family Fellowship, as well as naming the Jerry C. Wilkinson E'67 Laboratory and The Robert Gordon Wilkinson Center for Engineering Management.

The Wilkinsons have three daughters, all Duke alumnae, and eight grandchildren. They split their time between Atlanta, Georgia and Amelia Island, Florida.

Heather Wilkinson Deguire '98; Hayley

Duke Engineering Faculty



Rhett T. George, Jr. E'55, 87, assistant professor emeritus of electrical and computer engineering, passed away on December 14, 2020. He was born in Columbia, South Carolina to the late Rhett Truesdale George, Sr. and Gladys Doughty George. George earned his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from

Duke University in 1955 and his PhD from the University of Florida in 1965.

George returned to join the faculty of the then-named Department of Electrical Engineering in 1959. He ultimately served on the department's faculty for 50 years, including a five-year term as assistant dean from 1972-77, until his retirement in 2009. He also served on the Engineering Alumni Council from 1995-1997.

He was a member of McMannen United Methodist Church and was also involved in the Red Cross and the United States Power Squadron. His most passionate hobbies included trains and amateur radio, his radio sign being KE4HIH. A dedicated teacher of generations of Duke Engineering students. Among his Duke colleagues, he is also remembered for his kind nature and the annual "procrastinator's holiday party" he would host at his home each January, inviting the entire ECE department.



Robert M. "Bob" Hochmuth, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering and materials science, passed away on November 13, 2020. Bob Hochmuth served as chair of MEMS from 1986-1994 before retiring in 2004.

An expert in fluid mechanics, heat transfer and thermodynamics,

his legacy of scholarship and service are strong and lasting. He is remembered as an outstanding chair, scholar, teacher and wonderful colleague, who had a special sense for identifying, recruiting and supporting talented colleagues.

Hochmuth had a unique career path in the Pratt School of Engineering. Initially he joined the faculty as a professor of biomedical engineering in 1978, where he applied the principles of thermodynamics, and solid and fluid mechanics, to biological problems. He and his colleagues characterized and measured the elastic, viscous and adhesive properties of human red cells and white cells, especially neutrophils. His final work before he retired focused on stretching the individual microvilli that exist on the surface of neutrophils, on extracting receptors from the cell's membrane, and on measuring the forces of attachment between individual receptors and their antibodies. The continuous funding of his work for over two decades by the National Institutes of Health is a testament to its value and impact.

In 1986, he became chair of MEMS, which, as he noted in

InMemory