

ENGINEERING ALUMNI NEWSLETTER 2017

Pratt School of Engineering Alumni Association • Duke University • Durham, NC

LETTER FROM EAC PRESIDENT WILL GARDNER E'09, G'11

Dear Fellow Alumni,

These are exciting times of growth and change for Duke Engineering. The number of high-impact student groups and associations and high-end workspaces continues to grow (foundry.duke.edu). Our faculty continue to perform award-winning research (pratt.duke.edu/research/faculty-awards) and offer groundbreaking coursework (pratt.duke.edu/first-year-experience). Our new Dean Ravi Bellamkonda completed his first successful and action-packed academic year at Duke.

And, as of June 1, the [Duke Forward Campaign](#) had raised more than \$3.75 billion university-wide. Since the campaign's inception, we have moved from raising \$350 million to more than \$500 million annually. The campaign officially ended at midnight on June 30. We look forward to being in touch with you in early August, once we have "closed the books" on Duke Forward, to share an update on our final campaign numbers. You also will be receiving a comprehensive final campaign report in September highlighting campaign outcomes and impact at the Pratt School of Engineering and across Duke.

When I compare the Pratt of today to that which I knew as a student, I feel great pride in how our engineering school has grown and extend my deepest gratitude to the students, faculty and staff who continue to make this such an exceptional place of learning and growth. As alumni, we play a role in the success and growth of Duke Engineering, and it is the role of the [Engineering Alumni Association](#) to help facilitate and encourage alumni engagement.

Last year, the [Engineering Alumni Council](#) made a concerted effort to step back and review our past work against our stated goals as an Alumni Council. From these discussions, two things became very clear:

1. The support we receive from our Engineering alumni is allowing us to do invaluable work. We continue to recognize more amazing alumni award winners every year and the student projects we support and mentor are both expanding in scope and achieving greater results each year. THANK YOU for your support—both of your time and finances.

2. We, as an Alumni Council, need a renewed focus on alumni engagement. We can do a better job helping build the lifelong connections between our alumni and Duke Engineering that transform the school, our students and our alumni alike.

To improve our alumni engagement efforts, we established a new three-year strategic plan outlining tangible initiatives as well as metrics for us to track. In particular, we want to share with you some highlights:

- **Alumni Events:** We held our [first regional event with Dean Bellamkonda](#) in Washington, DC this spring in conjunction with the Duke Alumni Association, and we'll have another local event this fall sharing his vision for the future of the school. We'll also be looking for opportunities to showcase Pratt students and faculty to our alumni.
- **Mentoring Opportunities:** Last year we began engaging alumni as technical advisors for the student projects that we have historically supported financially through EAA dues. In addition to our recurring resume review session with students on campus, we are also looking to facilitate alumni mentoring through an Alumni in Residence program. Stay tuned for details!
- **Service Opportunities:** Duke's mission of "Knowledge in Service to Society" is regularly on display at Pratt. We are actively looking for opportunities to bridge some of this work with the existing [Duke Alumni Engage](#) program and find ways to harness and leverage the unique skills and experience of our engineering alumni in service to society. If you have ideas, please let us know!

The EAC stands ready to execute this exciting strategy due to the steady leadership of our past EAC presidents. Please join me in expressing gratitude to our most recent President Michael Wesley. With support from past Presidents Dixie Wells and Ershela Sims, Mike rejuvenated the EAC and led the charge in putting together a detailed strategic plan. We thank Mike for his service and hope you will join us in implementing the strategy he helped craft.

Will Gardner, E'09, G'11
President
Engineering Alumni Council



ENGINEERING ALUMNI AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Philip J. Hawk E'76

Philip J. Hawk is currently Chairman of Team, Inc. (NYSE: TISI) and Executive Chairman of Evergreen/North American Industrial Services. Each company provides separate specialty industrial services required in the maintenance of refining, petrochemical, and other heavy industrial facilities. Prior to his retirement in December, 2014, Phil spent 16 years as the CEO of Team, Inc. leading the company through a period of sustained growth and expansion. During that time, revenues grew twenty-fold and service operations expanded from a US-only presence to 17 countries on five continents. The company was recognized on the Forbes Best Small Company list and Fortune's Fastest Growing Companies list multiple times over several years. Prior to joining Team, from 1993 through 1998, Phil was president and CEO of EOTT Energy Partners, a publicly traded master limited partnership (MLP) in the energy marketing and logistics space. Earlier in his career, he was a partner with McKinsey & Company. He received an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1978. He served on the Duke Engineering Board of Visitors from 2006 to 2016. He is currently on the boards of the Houston Food Bank and Reasoning Mind, a nonprofit focused on improving math education effectiveness across the country.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Roger C. Barr BS'64, PhD'68

Roger Coke Barr is Professor of Biomedical Engineering in the Duke University Pratt School of Engineering and Associate Professor of Pediatrics in Duke's School of Medicine. Dr. Barr earned his BS from Duke in 1964 in Physics and a PhD in Electrical Engineering in 1968, where he was one of the first students in the emerging field of biomedical engineering. Back then, he was asked at one point if he expected to be lonesome in "such a small field." Dr. Barr's research has involved mathematical analysis and computer simulations of electrically active tissue, especially that of the heart, and the development of computer systems for simultaneous high-speed recordings of many channels of voltages taken from small electrodes in and around the heart. He is author or co-author of more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and has presented results at numerous national and international meetings. He is a fellow of AIMBE, the American College of Cardiology, and of the IEEE, and served as president of the Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society of the IEEE. Dr. Barr's past students have gone on to stellar careers in industry and academia, and as mothers and fathers of the next generations. Dr. Barr continues to be an active teacher of both undergraduate and graduate students. In 2012, he was selected to be the instructor of Duke's first massively open online course (MOOC) given via the Coursera platform, which has attracted thousands of students from about 100 countries around the world.

DISTINGUISHED YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD

Max D. Cohen E'03

Max D. Cohen is the Head of Mobile at Oculus, where he has led the development of mobile virtual reality (VR) from a brand new category to over 5 million consumer devices shipped in under a year. He joined Oculus before its acquisition by Facebook, and has led the partnership with Samsung since its inception to build and market the Gear VR device, which allows people all around the world to access immersive content right from their phones. He has been a Duke fan since he was negative 9 months old, and he followed in his father's and two sisters' footsteps by graduating from Pratt in 2003 with distinction in Electrical Engineering and with a BS in Physics as well. Dreaming of one day going to space, Max joined Lockheed Martin's "Skunk Works" after school and worked on the U-2 spyplane. He spent a year studying Mandarin in Shanghai and then earned his MBA from Harvard Business School, before consulting with McKinsey and working in product at Google.



*Engineering Alumni Awards Banquet
Blue Devil Tower • April 21, 2017*

Guillermo Sapiro, Mark Palmeri, Ravi Bellamkonda, Phil Hawk, Roger Barr, Marc Sommer, Max Cohen, Lauren Stulgis, Matt Brown & Fan Yuan

FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS

Klein Family

Distinguished Teaching Award

Matt Brown

Capers & Marion McDonald
Award for Excellence in
Mentoring & Advising

Marc Sommer, PhD

Stansell Family Distinguished
Research Award

Guillermo Sapiro, PhD

Lois & John L. Imhoff

Distinguished Teaching Award

Mark Palmeri, PhD

Capers & Marion McDonald
Award for Excellence in
Teaching & Research

Fan Yuan, PhD

Dean's Award for Leadership
in Program & Operational
Excellence

Lauren Stulgis

THANK YOU FROM STUDENT GROUPS

The Engineering Alumni Council provides funding for extracurricular projects and activities to qualified engineering-based student groups at the Pratt School of Engineering. Below are just a few of the great results achieved with the support of the Alumni Association.



DUKE ELECTRIC VEHICLES CLUB (DEV)

The [Duke Electric Vehicles](#) team broke through the standings at the Shell Eco-Marathon this year, taking **first place in the prototype battery electric category**. The team relied on an aerodynamic redesign of their vehicle and on-the-spot data analytics to post a score of 296 miles per kilowatt hour—the equivalent of 9,976 miles per gallon. With steadily improving performances over the past several years, the win really demonstrates the passion our students have for their projects during their entire time here at Duke.



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS (ASCE)

Congratulations are also in order for Duke's student chapter of the [American Society of Civil Engineers \(ASCE\)](#), who took home **two awards at the ASCE Carolinas Conference** at UNC Charlotte in April. The team of Karyn Saunders, Alex Simmons, Hannah Wilen and Virginia Pan won **third place in the environmental competition**, where students were required to design and build a process that would remove particles and organic materials from a water source. A separate Duke team also placed **third in the Freshmore challenge**, where freshman and sophomore students completed a series of mental and physical challenges to retrieve parts of a flagpole. The team, which included Hannah Wilen, Virginia Pan, David Onywoki and Courts Montgomery, then raced to the finish line and assembled the flagpole to raise the Duke flag. Good job all, and thanks to faculty advisor Joe Nadeau!



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS (NSBE)

Our chapter of the [National Society of Black Engineers](#) was also busy in April, winning **three major awards at its national convention** in Kansas City, Missouri. The awards included **Regional Distinguished Chapter of the Year, Regional Small Chapter of the Year** and **National Small Chapter of the Year!** But before collecting their awards, student members had approximately 20 interviews, coming away with eight internship offers and two full-time job offers. This success caps off a great year for the Pratt NSBE chapter, due in no small part to advisers Johnna Frierson, our director of diversity and inclusion in engineering, and Adrienne Stiff-Roberts of ECE.



DUKE MOTORSPORTS

The [Duke Motorsports team](#) finished the year with a 36th place finish out of 120 teams at the Formula SAE Michigan competition. The team finished skidpad, acceleration, and autocross with both drivers for each event in one afternoon thanks to a whole team effort to have the car ready. The **21st place finish in endurance** is one of the best in recent years. 28 students attended the competition, making it the largest group to attend for Duke yet. With so many members interested in improving the car for the future, the design and preparations for next year's car have already begun.

To support these and other student groups at Pratt, please visit pratt.duke.edu/gifts.

ENGINEERING ALUMNI COUNCIL (EAC)

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The [EAC](#) is responsible for engaging Engineering Alumni to further the mission of the Pratt School of Engineering. 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

The EAC has recently completed a new three year strategic plan with an increased focus on enhancing alumni engagement, building upon our current work supporting student projects and selecting Alumni Award winners. We strive to engage our alumni in the life of the school, connect our alumni with each other and with resources and opportunities to advance their interests, and celebrate the achievements of Pratt and our alumni around the world.

- Hosting educational and social events on campus and regionally
- Connecting alumni to enhance their personal and professional networks
- Providing opportunities for alumni to mentor students and student projects
- Keeping alumni up to date with Pratt through various communications and social media
- Supporting the mission of Pratt by promoting giving in support of student life, scholarship or academic programming

Join the Council

If you are interested in joining the council or recommending someone, please complete the nomination form (pratt.duke.edu/EACnomination) or contact Kim Davis (919-660-5385 or kim.davis@duke.edu).

2017-2018 EAC MEMBERS

President

William G. Gardner E'09, G'11 • Fredericksburg, VA

Vice President

William B. Senner E'06, X'06 • Durham, NC

Immediate Past President

Michael A. Wesley E'97, X'98, Chapel Hill, NC

Council Members

Anthony R. Baldassari X'06 • Raleigh, NC

Ana E. Diaz E'77 • Chadds Ford, PA

Holly M. Espy E'93 • Chevy Chase, MD

Jessica L. Foley E'01, Washington, DC

Grant T. Hollett IV E'93, B'02 • Chesterfield, VA

Ronald Barton Houck II E'86 • Apex, NC

Anna E. Knight E'15, G'22 • Durham, NC

Emily T. Lim E'15, G'16, G'18, Archdale, NC

Andrew J. Longenecker E'07 • Jupiter, FL

William Randal Mendez E'82, B'90 • Wilmington, DE

Tracy A. Nickelsburg E'88 • Alexandria, VA

Mark W. Pratt E'11, Cleveland Heights, OH

Howard Clifton Ray III E'13 • Charlottesville, VA

Costandi J. Shami E'13, G'14, Ann Arbor, MI

Allan B. Shang E'83 • Wake Forest, NC

W. Neal Simmons G'01 • Bahama, NC

Ershela L. Sims E'93 • Durham, NC

Judd W. Staples E'92, B'02 • Durham, NC

Robert D. Wescott E'90 • Durham, NC

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Social Media



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linkedin.DukeAlumni.com



youtube.com/DukeAlumniVideo



pinterest.com/DukeUAlumni

Alumni Directory, Class Notes & Photos

alumni.duke.edu

Upcoming Alumni Events

alumni.duke.edu/discover/events

Email Newsletter

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

Don't forget to send us your news, Alumni Association dues, and award nominations!