

Department of
Mechanical Engineering-
Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Presidential Council of Alumnae
Display in the Lobby of the
R.L. Smith ME-EM Building



The Department of
Mechanical Engineering - Engineering Mechanics
is proud to recognize alumnae graduates who have been
inducted into the Michigan Technological University
Presidential Council of Alumnae.

Through the Presidential Council, alumnae are
encouraged to continue their involvement in
academic, professional and personal accomplishments,
generously service, conduct research, provide
leadership and support. Alumnae serve the university
and society today and work to advance the
university's mission in the future.

Presidential Council of Alumnae



The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

honors its outstanding women graduates who have been inducted
into the Michigan Technological University

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Selection into this council recognizes achievements in education, professional and personal accomplishments, past student service, current community service, and University support. Members advise the president on campus climate issues and work to enhance the University's environment for students.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Diana D. Brehob (Inducted 1996)



Class of '78, '82, '85

Diana earned her Bachelor's of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1978. She earned her Master's of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1982 and her Ph.D. in 1985, both from the University of California, Berkeley. At the time of her induction, she was a Senior Technical Specialist in Powertrain Research at Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan. She is a member of the Society of Automotive Engineering where she served on the Teetor and ABET committees and the Engineering Education Board. She was a 1988 recipient of the SAE Ralph Teetor Education Award.

While at Michigan Tech, Diana was a member of the Student Advisory Committee, SAE, and the Varsity Club. She was inducted into Pi Tau Sigma and Tau Bet Pi. She also participated in Women's Varsity Volleyball .

Diana is married and has twin daughters. They reside in Dearborn.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Cynthia Protas Hodges (Inducted 1996)



Class of '87, '90

Cynthia received her Bachelor's of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1987 and her Master's of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1989. She is currently working on her MBA at the University of Michigan.

She is a Product Design Engineer at Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan. She is the Membership Chairperson for the Society of Women Engineers in Detroit and the Chair of the Financial and Minority Concerns Subcommittee for the MTU/Ford Alumni Committee. She received the SAE FISTA Traveling Fellow in 1992 and an Outstanding Service Award from SWE of Detroit.

She serves as a director for the Alumni Association Board.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Sheryl A. Sorby (Inducted 1997)



Class of '82, '86, '91

Sheryl came to MTU in the late 1970's and decided to make the Copper Country her home. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from MTU in 1982. She remained at Tech, earning her Master of Science in Engineering Mechanics in 1985 and her Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering- Engineering Mechanics in 1991.

Sheryl has been teaching at MTU since 1984, and in 1996 she became an associate professor in civil and environmental engineering. Sheryl has numerous publications in a variety of areas, both technical and non-technical. As an assistant professor she developed three new General Engineering courses.

In 1996 she was named Dow Outstanding New Faculty for the North Midwest section of ASEE, and in 1993 Sheryl was a finalist for the MTU Distinguished Teaching Award. She is also the faculty advisor for the campus chapter of the Society of Women Engineers.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Nancy J. Cragel (Inducted 1998)



Class of '86

Nancy graduated from Michigan Technological University in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. She also attended the Ford College Graduate Program.

After this, she worked as a Product Design Engineer for over three years and was responsible for design and development of an all-new power tilt, power-telescoping column at Ford Motor Company. She was awarded US Patent No. 5,520,416 Power Tilt, Telescoping and Internally Collapsible Steering Column. Nancy went on to become a supervisor and later a manager at Global Test Operations. She started a new organization within the Ford Motor Company called Women's Marketing and Product Office, which among other things included research of the female automotive market and population trends to identify business opportunities. Presently, she is a Project Manager for the BX179 electric Vehicle Program. Nancy also served on the Advisory Board between Ford and Michigan Technological University.

In her free time, Nancy was the Scholarship and Awards Chairperson for the Society of Women Engineers in Detroit and organized the "Mothers of Young Children" groups for her home church. While Nancy attended Michigan Technological University, she served as a chairperson for the Society of Automotive Engineers, treasurer for the Ski Club, and received the Society of Automotive Engineers Recognition Award.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Rose M. Koronkiewicz (Inducted 1998)



Class of '81

A Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering was awarded to Rose from Michigan Technological University in 1981. She also received a Master of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University (New Orleans) in 1989 and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Pittsburgh in 1996. Rose worked for John Deere in various design, manufacturing, and quality positions. From 1993 to 1997, she worked as Business Unit Manager in the FMC Packaging and Material Handling Division and was recognized for Exceptional Performance as “Champion” of ISO9001 Certification for FMC in Homer City, Pennsylvania. Rose is presently a Registrar Program Manager for the Performance Review Institute in Warrendale, Pennsylvania.

She received an Advocacy Award for Women in Science and Engineering, presented by Iowa State University to an individual who promotes women in these fields. Rose also received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award. She is presently a member of the American Society of Quality Certified Quality Engineer and Society of Manufacturing Engineers Certified Manufacturing Engineer. In the past, Rose has been a Junior Achievement Business Consultant and a member of the Asbury Planning and Zoning Committee. Between Michigan Tech’s Women in Engineering and Minority in Engineering for almost 20 years and has spoken to more than 1500 grade school and high school age women about engineering. Rose is presently a Life Member of the Michigan Technological University Alumni Association.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Susan W. Trahan (Inducted 1999)



Class of '87

Susan graduated from Michigan Technological University with a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1987. In 1994 she received a Master's of Science in Business Administration from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Susan began her career as a Quality Engineer in Precision Weapons Development at Alliance Techsystems/Honeywell. In 1991 she began working for SCIMED, which later became a division of Boston Scientific Corporation, as a Quality Engineer in Manufacturing. SCIMED develops and manufactures disposable medical devices for use in coronary angioplasty and related procedures. In 1993, Susan was promoted to Project Engineer/Engineering Supervisor. From 1996 to early 1999, she was Operations Manager for the assembly of several of SCIMED's products. In March 1999, Susan accepted a new job at ACIMED as Pilot Production manager.

Susan was a role model speaker at Michigan Tech's Women in Engineering Program from 1994 to 1998 and coordinator of SCIMED's INVEST (Industry Volunteers Encouraging Science and Technology) program from 1993 to 1997. She is a member of the American Society for Quality. Susan is also on the Professional Advisory Board for the MTU Center for Biomedical Engineering.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Mary Frances Fisher (Inducted 2000)



Class of '88

Mary Fran graduated from Michigan Tech in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering. After leaving Michigan Tech, she took a position with Pepsi-Cola Company in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and then moved to Connecticut later that year where she began working for United Technologies. She spent five years with United Technologies leaving in 1993 to accept a position with Raytheon, Inc. as a senior environmental engineering specialist. In addition to working full-time, she received her Master's of Business Administration in 1993 from the University of Connecticut. Mary Fran has continued with Raytheon and is now the manager of Facilities Engineering and Environment, Health, and Safety.

As a student, Mary Fran was a standout on the women's basketball team and a member of the Varsity Club. In addition, she belonged to Phi Delta Chi sorority and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. She currently belongs to several professional organizations and is active in a local philanthropic group. In 1998, she was selected to Michigan Tech's Sports Hall of Fame and just this year was voted to the Silver Jubilee Team, which celebrated 25 years of women's athletics at Michigan Tech.

Mary Fran makes her home in Belmont, MA.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Sandra Skinner (Inducted 2000)



Class of '78

Sandra received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan Tech in 1978. After graduating from the University, she accepted a position with Illinois Tool Works in Des Plaines, IL. Over the next several years, she held positions at various companies, joining United Technologies Automotive in 1983 as a manufacturing engineer. Sandra worked for United Technologies for the next sixteen years rising to the position of director, Continuous Improvement in 1999. During this time she also received a Master's degree in engineering from Wayne State University in 1989. In June of 1999, Lear Corporation purchased United Technologies Automotive, and Sandra stayed on as director of Quality and Continuous Improvement. She recently left Lear Corporation and accepted a position with Ford Motor Company as chief engineer, Electrical/Electronic Systems - North American Car.

As a student at Michigan Tech, Sandra was a member of the Pep Band and the Society of Women Engineers.

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Sandra Skinner (Inducted 2000)



Class of '78

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She currently serves as a member of Michigan Tech's ME-EM Industrial Advisory Board and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. In addition, Sandra was a panelist at a US-Mexico Joint Workshop on Research and Educational Opportunities in Manufacturing. Presently, she is studying for her Master's in Business Administration at the University of Michigan.

She and her husband, Michael, make their home in Saint Clair Shores, Michigan.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Susan R. Jesse (Inducted 2001)



Class of '81

Susan received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan Tech in 1981. After graduation she accepted a position with General Motors Corporation. In 1982, Susan left GM and went to work for Texas Instruments in Dallas, Texas. She stayed with TI from 1982 to 1988 and during this time worked as Deputy Program Manager, Lead Mechanical Engineer, and Mechanical Design Engineer for various Fire Control and Ballistic Defense programs.

Over the next several years, Susan chose to stay at home full time with her two young daughters. She rejoined the work force in 1992 accepting a position with Lockheed Martin in Utica, New York. Her first position with Lockheed was as a Senior Systems and Hardware design engineer for radar and missile warning programs. In 1994, she moved to Lockheed's Orlando, Florida operation as the Integrated Product Development Team Lead for various fire control optical, opto-mechanical, and electronic products. From 1998 to the present, she has been the Director of the Target Cost Enterprise Process Center, reporting to the VP of Technical Operations. In this position, she is responsible for developing methodology and tools for designing affordable, producible products.

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Presidential Council of Alumnae

Susan R. Jesse (Inducted 2001)



Class of '81

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Susan is involved with her community as a Girl Scout leader and an elementary school math tutor. She has also served as a guest speaker for various engineering symposia.

She and her husband, David, a 1982 MTU graduate, live in Orlando with their two daughters, Katie and Kristin.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Kathleen A. Grisdela (Inducted 2002)



Class of '84

Kathy received her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan Tech in 1984. After graduation she went to work for General Motors Corporation as a Reliability Engineer at the Detroit Hamtramck Assembly Plant. Four years after leaving GM and accepting a Quality Engineer position with Kelsey-Hayes- a Tier 1 supplier of anti lock braking systems. During her years with Kelsey-Hayes she was promoted to Area Manager and Operations Manager, and then to Plant Manager at their plant in Cincinnati, Ohio. Kathy returned to Michigan in January of 2000 as Plant Manager with TRW, Inc. in Fenton.

During her years as a Michigan Tech student, Kathy was a member of Alpha Sigma Tau sorority.

In addition to working full-time, she is also pursuing a master's degree in Operations Management through Kettering University. She is a member of the Livingston County Workforce Development Board and a member of the Women's Automotive Association.

Kathy and her husband, Paul, reside in Howell, Michigan with their children, Michael, Holly, Autumn, and Paul Jr.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Mary E. Barker (Inducted 2003)



Class of '83, '91, '93

Mary received her bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences in 1983, a second bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1991, and a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1993. Following her "First" graduation, Mary worked as a high school math teacher in Stephenson, MI and then as a computer science teacher at Menominee High School.

After returning to Tech and receiving her next two degrees, Mary accepted a position as Mechanical Engineering II with Kimberly-Clark Corporation's Infant Care Division in Ogden, Utah. While at Kimberly-Clark, Mary was co-inventor for two patents. In 2000, she went to work for OakRiver Technology in Oakdale, Minnesota, which focuses on providing engineering and contract manufacturing solution for medical devices and electronic products industry.

While a student at Michigan Tech, Mary was a member of the Society of Women Engineers, St. Al's Council, the women's Nordic Ski Team and the Varsity Club.

In her spare time, Mary does "dog therapy" work at the Gillette Children's Hospital with her two dogs. Mary is part of a strong Michigan Tech legacy. She has six brothers and sisters, all of whom attended and graduated from Tech. She resides in New Richmond, WI.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Tanya J. Klain (Inducted 2004)



Class of '90

Tanya's 1990 Mechanical Engineering degree from Michigan Tech serves her well in her current position with General Motors Corporation as Program Engineering Manager-Cadillac CTS, CTS-V and SRX. Upon graduating from the University, she went to work for GM and has remained with the company throughout her career. Her initial Validation Engineer position, and subsequent engineering positions, provided her the experience to continue moving up in the company. In 1998, she became General Assembly Launch Manager at the Detroit/Hamtramck Assembly Center, and the following year became Supervisor-Vehicle Architecture Design. Just prior to her current position she was Vehicle Chief-Engineering Business Manager. During her career with GM, Tanya continued her education at the University of Michigan receiving her MBA in 1994.

Tanya was very involved in campus life while attending Michigan Tech. She served as the Douglass Houghton Hall president, Inter-Residence Council Hall secretary, and she was a member of the Undergraduate Student Government. In addition, she joined the Society of Automotive Engineers in 1988, and is still a member today. She was a member of both the MTU Alpine Ski Team and the MTU Ski Club.

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The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

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Tanya J. Klain (Inducted 2004)



Class of '90

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She was also involved in the MTU Peer Mentor program, and the Substance Abuse Advisory Committee. She was an active member of Alpha Gamma Delta, and was recognized in the 1988 and 1989 “Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.”

Tanya is able to help others at General Motors by serving as a mentor to interns and engineers, and by being a member of the GM Affinity Group for Women. Outside of work, she volunteers as an SAE “A World in Motion” coach at Detroit Vetal Elementary School.

She has maintained a strong relationship with Michigan Tech over the years, by serving as a member of the GM-Michigan Tech Relations Team and the GM-Michigan Tech Recruiting Team. She also participates on the MTU ME-EM Endowment Committee.

Tanya resides in Novi, Michigan with her daughters, Samantha and Alexandra.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Sabina Jenny Houle (Inducted 2005)



Class of '85, '87

Sabina is a three-time graduate of Michigan Tech. She received her BS in Chemical Engineering in 1985 then two master's degrees, in Chemical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, in 1987. She also received a German translating certificate from the Gunter Institute. She also studied Polymer Physics through a graduate student exchange program at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology.

In 1987, she began her career with the Dow Chemical Company as an Engineer; in 1989 she was promoted to the position of Senior Research Engineer. During her five-year tenure at Dow, she developed novel processes and equipment for new polymeric materials, BCBs and PBOs. In 1992, she joined the Donnelly Corporation as a Senior Materials Engineer. There she was responsible for the development of an adhesive process, and subsequent patent, that bonds PVC to glass for production of single-sided encapsulation. This development was used on Chrysler minivans and won Design of the Year at the North American Auto Show in Detroit. From there she moved to FKI Automotive as a Materials Engineer for Samsonite where she was lead for a team of engineers and suppliers responsible for developing the thermoplastic/thermoset resins to meet the next generation of luggage design requirements.

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The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Sabina Jenny Houle (Inducted 2005)



Class of '85, '87

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Sabina is currently a Module Engineering Group Leader with Intel Corporation. She began at Intel in 1997 as Senior Material Quality Engineer, became Senior Packaging Engineer in 1999, and Staff Engineer in 2001. She has led development teams in Japan, Germany, and across the U.S., mentoring suppliers to meet the company's packaging requirements and timelines. In her current position she manages a staff of engineers and technicians responsible for chip attach assembly technology for all Intel's Packaging Development programs. She has received eleven divisional awards in the past eight years.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Kimberly L. (Passerelo) Turner (Inducted 2006)



Class of '94

Kimberly received her bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan Tech in 1994 and her PhD in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics from Cornell University. In 1999 she accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Environmental Engineering at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) and has been on the fast track ever since. In 2004, she became a tenured Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering and since 2005 has held the position of Undergraduate Program Director. She is also the co-leader of the Sensors Team in the USCB/ARMY Institute for Collaborative Biotechnology, a \$50M multi-university, multidisciplinary center housed at UCSB.

Kimberly's research interests are focused in the areas of Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems (MEMS) and nanosystems. At UCSB, she quickly ramped up her research program by securing over \$1 million a year to support her research group of 8-10 PhD students. She has received significant awards including the National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award, the NSF/MEXT Young Scientist Fellow, and the 2005 UCSB Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award. She holds several patents in her field and has published over 65 reviewed technical publications. She gives many invited presentations at conferences and research universities each year.

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Presidential Council of Alumnae

Kimberly L. (Passerelo) Turner (Inducted 2006)



Class of '94

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Kimberly is a member of the American Vacuum Society, the American Society for Engineering Education, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Cornell Society of Engineers, and the Society of Women Engineers.

While at Michigan Tech, Kimberly was President of Tau Beta Pi. She worked as a tutor in the Mechanics Learning Center and as an undergraduate researcher in Walter Milligan's lab (Materials Science). She also played French horn with the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra.

She is very active in dog training and showing as has a Gordon Setter, Lincoln, and an Irish Setter, Aidan. She enjoys outdoor sports including running and mountain biking. Kimberly resides in Goleta, California with her husband Michael (MTU M.S. '96).

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Merrily D. Madero (Dente) (Inducted 2007)



Class of '85

Colonel Merrily Madero is Vice Commander, 17th training Wing, Goodfellow AFB, Texas. She is the principle assistant to the wing commander and provides support training for over 10,000 fire protection, special instruments, and intelligence experts for the US Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy and Army, as well as government civilian agencies and allied nations. Prior to this she was the Commander, 50th Mission Support Group, 50th Space Wing, Schriever AFB, Colorado where she managed \$625 million in contracts and was also responsible for ensuring that a wide range of services were provided to over 6,200 Schriever AFB personnel.

Merrily graduated in 1985 from Michigan Tech with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. She also has two master's degree, one in Personnel Management from Troy State University-Alabama and the other in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Merrily has also graduated from Squadron Officer School and Air Command and Staff College at AFB, Alabama. She has completed an Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Seminar Level IV and has achieved certification as a Department of Defense Chief Information Officer. She was also selected to attend War College at National Defense University.

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Merrily D. Madero (Dente) (Inducted 2007)



Class of '85

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Colonel Madero entered the Air Force through the Reserve Officer Training program at Michigan Tech. her assignments over the last 20+ years have been varied. A career highlight was the transitioning of the combined intelligence collection concept from Metro Tango in German to stand up the first Deployable Ground Station (DGS-1) at Langley AFB. She also served as a joint task force deputy director of communications for both US and UN forces in Haiti for Operation Uphold Democracy. Colonel Madero has been deployed twice – from January 1995 to May 1995, as Deputy J6, JTF-190, operation Uphold Democracy, Port-au-Prince, Haiti and from January 2006 to June 2006 as commander, 380th Expeditionary Mission Support Group, operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Al Dhafra AB, United Arab Emirates.

Colonel Madero has received numerous awards and decorations during the course of her career including a Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air and Space Campaign Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal- to name a few. She has also earned a Master Communications Badge and a Parachutists badge.

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The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics *Presidential Council of Alumnae*

Merrily D. Madero (Dente) (Inducted 2007)



Class of '85

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While a student at Michigan Tech, besides ROTC, Merrily was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, the Skydiving Club and was a captain on the intramural hockey team. She is active in her church as a junior high youth leader.

Colonel Madero has one daughter, Leia, and lives in San Angelo, Texas.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Martha N. Sullivan (Newman) (Inducted 2007)



Class of '85

Martha Sullivan earned a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan Tech in 1980 and has since completed studies towards a master's in Business Administration at the University of Michigan.

She started her career with Texas instruments in 1984 and is now the Chief Operation Officer and Vice President of Sensata Technologies, Inc. in Attleboro, Massachusetts. Sensata Technologies is the former Sensors and Controls Group of Texas Instruments. Martha also serves as a member of the Sensata Board of Directors.

Martha's career has firmly established her as a leader in the sensor and control industry. At Texas instruments she held numerous managerial positions including Global Business Unit Manager of Sensor Products, Automotive General Manager for North America, Automotive Marketing Manager, and Detroit Sales Manager. Martha was promoted to Vice President at Texas Instrument in 1998 and has developed into a worldwide industry leader. When Texas Instruments sold the Sensors and Controls Group in 2006, Sensata Technologies became a stand-alone company.

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Presidential Council of Alumnae

Martha N. Sullivan (Newman) (Inducted 2007)



Class of '85

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In addition to her corporate responsibilities, Martha has served on several industrial and educational advisory boards. At Michigan Tech, Martha served on the ME-EM External Advisory Board and was recently selected for induction into Michigan Tech Academy of Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Mechanics.

Other advisory boards including the Ford International Supplier Advisory Council (ISAC), Board of Trustees at Kettering University, and Key Executive Council at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She is also a frequent speaker and panelist in a variety of forums that have included iNEMI Innovation Leadership Forum (International Electronics Manufacturing Initiative) and the Executive Women's Conference at Morgan Stanley. Martha was the keynote speaker in 2004 at the annual Building Our Future Day at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Martha has also volunteered for Odyssey of the Mind, a national academic program for students.

Martha, her husband, Mike, and their two children live in Wrentham, Massachusetts.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Judy J. Swann (Hartman) (Inducted 2007)



Class of '83

Judy Swann earned a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan Tech in 1983. Following graduation, she accepted a position as a Patent Examiner with the Patent and Trademark Office of the United States Department of Commerce in Alexandria, Virginia. Judy has remained with the Patent Trademark Office throughout her career, and now serves as a supervisory Patent Examiner.

During the course of her career, Judy has received numerous professional awards for exemplary service, including two Department of Committee Bronze Medals, Superior Achievement Awards, and Exceptional Career Award, and the EEO Directors Award. She also continued her education in recent years, earning a master's of arts in Public Administration from Syracuse University in 2003.

Judy became a member of the Patent and Trademark Office Society in 1983 and has held various offices within the organization. She was honored by her peers in 1991 when she was elected to serve as the first female president of the PTO Society since its founding in 1917. She previously served as a secretary, administrator, and vice president of the society.

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Presidential Council of Alumnae

Judy J. Swann (Hartman) (Inducted 2007)



Class of '83

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She was re-elected to a second term as president in 1992. Judy is currently the chairperson for the Board of Governors of the Journal of the Patent and Trademark Office Society, a professional development periodical published monthly by the PTO Society. She has also served on the US Patent and Trademark Worklife committee and worked with the Federal Women's Program.

While a student at Michigan Tech, Judy was active ROTC-Air Force as a Regulations Officer and Personnel Officer. She was also active in intramural sports, Volleyball Club, Sabre Jets Drill Team, and with the Michigan Tech Little Theatre as the drama club backstage manager. Judy also volunteers in her community and schools and recently raised \$20,000 for Hurricane Katrina support.

Judy her husband, Tod, live in Alexandria, Virginia, with their daughter, Taylor and son, Travis.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Christine R. Roberts (Przybysz) (Inducted 2009)



Class of '91

Christine is a senior executive and technology leader in the telecommunications industry. Currently she is the Senior Director of Asia Product Operations for Motorola Inc., a Fortune 100 company. As Senior Director, she manages a complex global team that is responsible for launching over 100 different models of mobile phones per year into the Asia Pacific region.

Christine graduated from Michigan Tech in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. After graduation, she accepted a position as a Manufacturing Engineer with Motorola Inc. Christine continued her education while working for Motorola, earning an MBA in 2000 in International Business from the Kellstadt Graduate School of Business at DePaul University and a Masters Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University.

Within five years at Motorola she had advanced to Production Manager with P&L responsibility for three different product lines. Her next assignment was as a System Planner, working with the Pennsylvania Sales/Technical Team in statewide system development and support for the first APCO25 2-way radio system. Taking on international responsibilities, Christine accepted a job as multi-million dollar telecommunication infrastructure program with responsibilities in Brazil, Argentina, Colombia and other Latin American markets.

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The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics *Presidential Council of Alumnae*

Christine R. Roberts (Przybysz) (Inducted 2009)



Class of '91

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In 2000, Christine was promoted to Director of Engineering and Program Management, where she led a global deployment team in the execution of wireless infrastructure installations and upgrades worldwide. Her achievements here led to her next promotion to Director of North American Business Operations, where she was responsible for business case development, sales, and value added services associated with Motorola Mobile Devices. Before assuming her current assignment as a Senior Director, Christine accepted a one-year rotational assignment as Director of Global Talent Development, where she led all initiatives related to training and personnel career development.

Christine is an active proponent of Women in Science and Engineering (WISE). She believes starting young is the key to engaging women in the sciences and, to that end, has been a four-time presenter at the seventh and eighth grade Math and Science Conference in Southwest Michigan. In addition, she has participated in similar math and science programs for young women at the University of Illinois G.A.M.E.S. (Girls Adventures in Math, Engineering, and Science) summer camp, Junior Achievement, and Motorola's sponsored Day of Science for local Girl Scout Troops.

Christine and her husband, Eric, live in Inverness, Illinois with their daughter, Kylie.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Paula Feira Zenner (Inducted 2009)



Class of '87, '93

Paula earned a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1987 and worked in industry immediately following graduation. She returned to Michigan Tech to earn a master's degree in operations Management, which was received in 1993.

She began work at Michigan Tech in the Mechanical Engineering Department as an academic advisor in 1991 and has advanced to her current position as Director of Operations and Finance. She directs the financial and operation activities for this nationally ranked academic department with annual external research expenditures of over \$4 million and a salary and wage budget of \$7.5 million. Paula also serves as a member of the Department Executive Committee and advises the Department Chair on all matters related to the entire operations (human, financial, and capital) of the department – she is the go-to person for many of the high level projects for the department as a whole.

Additionally, Paula is responsible for the administrative and logistical characteristics of the undergraduate and graduate programs and courses, including resource allocation and accreditation. She served as the project manager for two major laboratory and facilities renovations. She has also co-authored papers providing national and international dissemination of engineering education advances in undergraduate programming.

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The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Paula Feira Zenner (Inducted 2009)



Class of '87, '93

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As a student at Michigan Tech, Paula was an active member in several campus groups such as the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the Alpine Ski Team, and Ski Coach of the Copper Country Ski Club. Paula also worked on campus in the Central Ticket Office as a student assistant.

Within the Houghton community, Paula has coached children's athletics, served as a board member of the Houghton All Sports Booster Club, and volunteers for a variety of school/service fundraising activities.

She currently resides in Houghton, Michigan, with her husband, Mark ('93), and daughters, Blaire and Sloane.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Elzbieta G. Berak (Inducted 2010)



Class of '81, '85

In 1978 Elzbieta graduated from Technical University of Wroclaw, Poland with a master's degree in Civil Engineering. While at Michigan Tech, she earned two degrees – a master's in Civil Engineering in 1981 and a PhD in Mechanical Engineering–Engineering Mechanics in 1985. Elzbieta is the first woman in Michigan Tech's history who has obtained a PhD in Engineering.

After graduation from Tech, Elzbieta started her career in the nuclear power plant industry at Sargent and Lundy Engineers, ABB Impell Corporation, performing design and seismic analysis of nuclear power plant systems, as well as analysis of erosion-corrosion effects on structural performance of piping components. Subsequently, Elzbieta worked in other industries diversifying her technical background. She has performed design development and Finite Element Analysis (FEA) of fluid mixing machines (Fluid Management) and conducted FEA of fully configured telecommunication cabinets, racks and distribution frames, providing technical support and recommendations on all aspects of design for seismic applications at Marconi. Next, Elzbieta performed multi-disciplinary Finite Element Analysis of Liquefied Natural Gas storage tanks at CBI and then returned to the nuclear power industry. She is currently working on projects related to thermal and vibration fatigue issues, providing technical support to the engineering groups to ensure safe and reliable operation of nuclear power plants at Exelon Corporation.

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The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Elzbieta G. Berak (Inducted 2010)



Class of '81, '85

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Currently, Elzbieta is a senior member of ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) and PAEA (Polish–American Engineers Association). She has developed and chaired sessions on Seismic Equipment Qualification for ASME International Conferences on Pressure Vessels and Piping, authored technical papers, edited proceedings, participated in the local chapter seminar meetings, workshops and webinars. Recently, she has received a distinguished member award from PAEA. Other professional memberships include the American Society for Civil Engineers, Society for Experimental Mechanics, and the Institute of Environmental Sciences and Technology.

Elzbieta continues her relationship with the University by keeping in touch with the Alumni Association and the ME-EM Department. While a student at Michigan Tech, she was an active member of the International Club, the German Language Club, and Phi Kappa Phi.

In her community, Elzbieta is involved in American and Polish Catholic church activities, including the John Paul II Foundation. She is passionate about skiing, skating, swimming, and playing tennis. Elzbieta lives in Park Ridge, Illinois, with her husband Andrzej Badziak and daughter Natalia.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Wendy L. Kram (Davidson) (Inducted 2010)



Class of '91

Wendy received a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan Tech in 1991. She is currently the President of Edgestone Consulting Inc., a firm she founded in 2002. Wendy is also a graduate of the FastTrac II Entrepreneurial Program from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, and a business coach who completed the co-active coaching program through the Coaches Training Institute.

Wendy began her career as a Project Engineer with Flint Hills Resources (formerly Koch Refining Company) in St. Paul, Minnesota. Her experience at Michigan Tech helped prepare her to work in the primarily all-male environment of an oil refinery. She held several leadership roles during her seven-year tenure with Koch, successfully managing multi-million dollar construction projects and increasing profitability through process improvements.

In 1998, Wendy became a business consultant with GE Capital Consulting. She provided project management and business analysis guidance to companies such as Target, Best Buy, 3M, Northwest Airlines and UnitedHealth Group while at GE.

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The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Wendy L. Kram (Davidson) (Inducted 2010)



Class of '91

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In 2001, Wendy moved into the world of small business when she joined The Credit Department, Inc., a provider of outsourced credit management services. There she assisted clients in improving cash flow.

Her experience at The Credit Department exposed Wendy to the development needs of emerging small businesses. She saw an opportunity to use her passion to help small businesses succeed. In 2002, Wendy founded Edgestone Consulting Inc.; she has since helped dozens of small business owners overcome growth challenges, seize new opportunities and increase their business success.

Wendy is passionate about helping women succeed in business. In 2007, she launched Entrespect®, a ground-breaking online community where women entrepreneurs link up to share best practices, solve tough problems and amplify their business insight and skills. Entrespect.com offers free expert interview podcasts, hosted by Wendy, featuring successful business owners and nationally recognized experts. Entrespect's "Strategy Club" provides entrepreneurs access to practical resources and tools to take their businesses to new levels of success.

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The Department of Mechanical Engineering – Engineering Mechanics

Presidential Council of Alumnae

Wendy L. Kram (Davidson) (Inducted 2010)



Class of '91

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In 2009, Wendy launched the Propel Business Leadership Program for women business owners. This powerful development program is designed to give women business owners the knowledge, skills, and support they need to take their business to the next level. Propel is a unique 12-month program that brings women business owners (in like industries and similar stages of business maturity) together to help them define and achieve their business growth goals.

Wendy currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Association of Women Contractors. She is a member of the Minnesota Coaches Association, Women Construction Owners & Executives USA, and the National Association of Women Business Owners. While a student at Tech, Wendy was a member of Alpha Delta Alpha sorority and continues to participate in alumni activities.

Wendy resides in Eagan, Minnesota with her husband, Lynn, and their two children, Rachel and Joe.