

2009 Distinguished Career Alums Selected

Five distinguished alumni will be honored at the Mechanical Engineering Business & Career Conference, to be held on April 24, 2009: E. Fenton Carey, John W. Gillespie Jr., E. Douglas Huggard, James Laser, and Eric Svendsen. Alumni are selected for recognition based on several criteria, including achievement, impact, uniqueness, and interest.

“As with those honored during the past four years, we continue to be impressed with the breadth of the careers and the credentials of our award recipients,” says planning committee member Bill Wagamon ('62). “This year’s selection includes graduates of the University of Delaware ME program during a fifteen year span beginning in the mid-50’s. Many have advanced mechanical engineering degrees, and two are licensed professional engineers.”

“Highlights of their various careers include living abroad while managing their company’s international operations, working with the Federal Aviation Authority and military, forming consulting companies focused on global leadership, achieving national ranking as a marathon runner, active community and industry involvement, serving as Chairman & CEO, and directing a cutting-edge research group at the university, just to name a few.”

The following highlights the careers of this year’s distinguished alumni.

E. Fenton Carey, Jr. ('67, '70M),



who currently runs his own consulting business, has been a national policy maker in the areas of defense, energy, transportation, and the environment. A former Navy Captain and naval aviator who did combat duty, Carey holds

a Ph.D. in aeronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, in addition to bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Delaware. He has won awards for superior achievement and service from the U.S. Departments of Defense, Energy, and Transportation as well as the U.S. Navy.

For the past two years, Carey and his former intelligence officer in the Navy have been working to establish a Center for Global Leadership and Innovation with an initial focus on China. “I want to help create an environment that enables people, organizations, nations, and regions of the world to work together to accelerate the generation of new ideas and knowledge,” Carey says, “as well as their transformation into internationally competitive, products, services, processes, business models, and markets quickly and affordably to satisfy their customers.”

This sounds like a tall order, but Carey is not one to back away when he hears the word “impossible.” During the course of his career, he has been told that many things were impossible — including the rapid deployment of weapons systems and the development of a national transportation science and technology strategy — and he has defied the odds.

“I’m known for doing the impossible,” he says, “but only because I have had champions who gave me ‘cover’ and knocked down the barriers. They enabled me to demonstrate that government can operate better, cheaper, faster, and smarter while delivering quality products and services to its customers, the American people.”

A competitive swimmer at UD and later a nationally ranked marathoner, Carey has recently begun swimming in the national master’s program. He has also traveled extensively.

“After being in the Navy, I had traveling in my blood,” he says. “As a result, I have made every effort since to take my family on extended summer vacations, so they have the same opportunity the Navy gave me to learn about America and the world. We have been to Australia and New Zealand, rafted the Colorado

River through the Grand Canyon, gone to a dude ranch in Montana, and toured the Rocky Mountains from New Mexico to Edmonton, Canada. Last summer, we went to China for a month to tour the country and attend the Olympics. It was a trip of a lifetime. Next summer, we are off to visit London, England, and the Baltic capitals.”

Carey feels strongly that students need to be better prepared to work together across professions and traditional organizational boundaries, and he recommends establishment of a required class on innovation in every university.

“Success in life is all about ones ability to create, adapt to, and take advantage of change,” he says.

John W. Gillespie, Jr. ('76, '78M, '85PhD) is Donald C. Phillips Professor



at the University of Delaware and Director of UD’s Center for Composite Materials. An internationally recognized authority in composites, he has led four Centers of Excellence in Composites on processing, mechanics, and performance of multifunctional composite materials, as well as an industrial consortium with more than 60 companies conducting research at the forefront of composites science and engineering.

“ME offered me my first exposure to engineering and composites through class work and senior design,” Gillespie says. “This clearly had an impact on my career as a faculty member. It has been a great honor to work with my colleagues and have the opportunity to continue the tradition of composites research, started in ME and now widespread across campus, as well as advise the next generation of undergraduate and graduate students for industry, government, and academic positions.”

Gillespie has served as a member of the influential National Research Council Board on Manufacturing and Engineering Design, Chair of the National Materials Advisory Board Committee on High-Performance Structural Fibers for Advanced Polymer-Matrix Composites, and Editor of the Journal of Thermoplastic Composite Materials. He also serves on numerous international editorial boards.

Gillespie was awarded the Paul A. Siple Memorial Award in 1998 by the U.S. Army for his research on processing of multifunctional materials and the prestigious Jud Hall Composites Manufacturing Award in 2000 by the Composites Manufacturing Association of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. Gillespie has co-authored more than 200 journal publications and patents. During his career, he has been a principal or co-principal investigator on more than \$100M in research projects. He has advised 44 master's and 40 Ph.D. students, of whom ten are currently faculty members at other universities and involved more than 100 undergraduates in his research. His research interests include processing-structure-property relationships, interphase and adhesion science, and mechanical properties and durability of composites.

Gillespie's main hobby is sports cars. "What could be more appropriate than the Corvette, which uses lightweight composites," he says.

E. Douglas Huggard ('55, '61M)



spent his entire career with Atlantic Electric, a Utility servicing the southern one-third of New Jersey, and then with Atlantic Energy, a holding company formed in 1987 consisting of four non-regulated energy-related subsidiaries.

Huggard was instrumental in

directing the company into the holding company format, which enabled participation in activities other than regulated areas, such as cogeneration projects, real estate development, conservation projects, and energy-related investment opportunities.

He joined Atlantic Electric as a junior engineer in 1955 and held various engineering, operational and management positions until becoming a corporate officer in 1974. He was elected President & Chief Operating Officer and Director in 1984, Chief Executive Officer in 1985, and Chairman of the Board & Chief Executive Officer in 1989. Huggard then served as Director of four Atlantic Energy, Inc. subsidiaries from 1987 to 1993. He retired from active employment in April 1993, continuing as Chairman of the Board, and then retired from the Board of Directors in April 1996.

"One of the highlights of my long operational career with Atlantic Electric occurred during the major power blackout in the northeastern U.S. in 1965," Huggard recalls. "My company assigned me to investigate the series of events that led to the failures experienced by all of the other utilities and why Atlantic Electric was able to maintain electric service during this event. My report was accepted by the Federal Power Commission and incorporated into their final report of the cause and effect of one of the biggest power outages in the history of our nation."

Huggard is also credited with designing an acceptance test for major new steam generating units located at Atlantic's B. L. England Generating Station. "This entailed adhering to ASME test procedures and submitting a comprehensive report that would be the basis of the acceptance of the work done by the contractors to meet the specifications," he says. "My final report became the basis for Atlantic Electric's challenge to the major engineering construction corporation because it was concluded that the unit did not meet design specifications."

In addition to his industrial career, Huggard was an Engineering Officer in the U.S. Navy, serving on active duty from 1956 to 1959 and reserve from 1960 to 1985. He was awarded four commands and retired with the rank of Captain.

A lifelong resident of Wilmington, Delaware, Huggard now lives in Ft. Myers, Florida. He has six children and 15 grandchildren.

Jim Laser ('69) is currently self-



employed as a consultant, primarily to the pharmaceutical and biotech industries. Before establishing Whitney Consulting in 2002, Jim spent 28 years with Merck & Co. Inc., where he held increasingly responsible positions in operations, materials management, engineering and technical services in the manufacture of pharmaceutical and biological products. His last position at Merck was Vice President of Vaccine and Sterile Operations.

Laser, whose bachelor's degree is in mechanical engineering administration, feels that he benefitted greatly from the breadth of the curriculum, which offered him problem-solving skills in engineering complemented by business administration knowledge.

A resident of Doylestown, Penn., Laser is a licensed professional engineer in Pennsylvania and Virginia. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Wave 80 Biosciences, Inc. as well as the Board of the Bucks County Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Additionally, Jim is active in church and other civic organizations in the Central Bucks community.

Laser played football at UD where he was an all-conference center in his senior year. He had such a good experience that in 2004, he endowed a scholarship for an athlete majoring in engineering. The first Jim Laser Scholarship was awarded in 2005.

"The scholarship has been very important to me," Laser says. "So far,

we have found two excellent recipients, Kyle Campbell and Kervin Michaud. They are both willing to work hard to succeed in both engineering and athletics. I'm looking forward to the College of Engineering finding another good candidate for next year."

Eric Svendsen ('71) is CEO of Foster



Wheeler Energia in Madrid, Spain and CEO for Foster Wheeler Global Industrial Boilers, providing leadership of the Spanish office of Foster Wheeler

as well as worldwide industrial boiler products for Foster Wheeler Global. "My career path began with practical knowledge and hands-on learning as a commissioning start-up engineer traveling the world for Foster Wheeler," Svendsen says. "The multicultural experiences I gained working in at least 12 different countries had a direct impact on my career while also serving to provide me with valuable technical knowledge."

Svendsen admits that becoming fluent in Spanish was one of his greatest challenges, but it was also what paved the way for his appointment as CEO of the Spanish operation within the company. He is proud of having made a difference in the world through projects focusing on reducing harmful emissions and improving the environment.

"The education I received during my years at the U of D provided a strong technical basis from which I could make appropriate decisions, especially during my early employment years," Svendsen says, "yet it also provided a

sense of community within the group of mechanical engineers in my class, whereby we worked together as a team to solve lab problems and complete our senior projects. In the real world, very few things are performed in solitude. Rather, everything is performed in community with your customers, be they internal or external, and must be performed with transparency, with uniformity of purpose, and with accountability."

His advice to current students? "Remember that for every problem there is a solution. Simply look at the problem once, and again, and from different perspectives, and with others. The answer will come to you."

"Be consistent in your work ethic, be open with your work community," he adds, "and be accountable for your work performed."

Svendsen and his wife Ana, a Spanish citizen and naturalized US citizen, were married in Spain in August 1976. They have three children: Hope, a fifth grade teacher; Edward, an insurance manager; and Richard, a college student.

Alumni News Briefs

Stephen Shuler '89 of Wixom, Mich., has been named Chief Technology Officer of Exatec, LLC.

Alex Dee '98 announced the birth of his daughter Danielle Jazmin Dee, June 1, 2008, joining brother Zaiden Jarrett Dee. Alex Dee has been promoted from Director of Engineering and Development to Vice President of Fujikura Composites.

Sylvia Pineda '03 and Wilson Fisher Steele '02 were married on September 1, 2006, and reside in Huntington Beach, Calif. Sylvia is production superintendent for Praxair, Inc. for two air separation plants and one CO₂ plant. Wilson received a master's degree in biomedical engineering from Drexel University in July 2006 and works as a design and manufacturing engineer

for lower limb prosthetics for Freedom Innovations, LLC in Irvine Calif.

Charles McAllister '69, a member of the Corporate Facilities Team of W.L. Gore & Associates Inc., is serving as treasurer of the Council of the Delaware Association of Professional Engineers (DAPE) and as chair of the DAPE Law Enforcement and Ethics Committee. He also reports that his first granddaughter, Carolyn McAllister, was born January 25, 2008.

John R. (Jack) Dick Jr. '48 died at the age of 85. Dick retired from Delmarva Power and Light, where he worked as a plant engineer for 24 years. He was a graduate of Rehoboth High school and the University of Delaware and was a member of the Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company and St. Mark's Episcopal Church in

Millsboro. He was also a veteran of the U.S. Army. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Dorothy E. Dick, four children, and five grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Delaware.

Carl W. Hall '50 recently published his thirtieth book entitled *A Biographical Dictionary of People in Engineering*. It was published by the Purdue University Press in 2008, as written in the Tau Beta Pi Bent.

Additionally, Carl received the Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of outstanding sustained contributions to global research and development. The award was given at the International Drying Symposium held in Hyderabad, India in November 2008.