Notable Alumni

College of Engineering
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

Making a Difference
Our engineering graduates make their mark on the world in many ways and here is a short list of people whose contributions are exceptionally notable.
Jack St. Clair Kilby—MSEE '50
• Co-inventor of the integrated circuit
• Nobel Prize in physics, 2000

John Bardeen—BSEE '28, MSEE '29
• Inventor of the transistor;
  major advances in superconductivity
• Nobel Prize in physics, 1956 and 1972

Patrick Hanrahan—BSNE '77
• Developed Pixar's RenderMan animation software

Rob Engelke—BSEE '68
• CEO, Ultratec Inc.; advances in deaf-communication technology

Michael Dhuey—BSEE '80
• Co-inventor of the Macintosh II and the iPod
Edward Schildhauer—BSCE 1897

- Chief electrical and mechanical engineer on the Panama Canal project (opened on Aug. 15, 1914)

John L. Savage—BSCE 1903

- Dam engineer: Engineer of many dams, including Hoover Dam
- Member of the National Academy of Sciences

David H. Geiger—BSCE’60

- Designer of domed stadiums

Oscar Boldt—BSCE’48

- Chairman, The Boldt Company
**William S. Harley**—BSME 1907
- Founder, Harley-Davidson

**Charles Lindbergh**—BSME 1920-21x
- Aviator, made the first solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean

**Richard V. Rhode**—BSME ’25
- Awarded Wright Brothers Medal for aerodynamic loading research, NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement

**James Lovell**—BS 1946-48x
- Apollo 8 and Apollo 13 astronaut

**Brewster Shaw**—BSEMA ’68, MSEMA ’69
- Space Shuttle astronaut

**Adam Steltzner**—PhDEP ’99
- Chief engineer and development manager for the Mars rover *Curiosity*
**Thelma Estrin—PhD EE ’52**
- Professor of computer science, UCLA
- First female president of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society
- Tireless advocate for women in STEM well before modern efforts

**Mathukumalli Vidyasagar—BS, MS, PhD EE ’69 (Earned PhD at age 21)**
- Founded Department of Bioengineering in 2010 at the University of Texas, Dallas

**Randy L. Jirtle—BSNE ’70**
- Epigenetics and genomic imprinting pioneer
- Senior scientist, McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research, UW-Madison
- Professor of epigenetics, Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences, University of Bedfordshire, UK
- *Time* magazine Person of the Year, 2007

**Michael Amiridis—PhDChE ’91**
- Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago (2015-)

**Emily Hahn—BS Mining Engr ’26**
- First female UW-Madison engineering graduate; journalist; author of 52 books

**William Marr—PhD NE ’69**
- Nuclear engineer, (Argonne); poet; artist
Arthur Nielsen Sr.—BSECE ’18
Founded the ACNielsen Co. (market research, Nielsen ratings) in 1923; elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1971 and appointed a Knight of the Order of the Dannebrog in 1961 by Denmark

Philip D. Reed—BSEE ’21
President, General Electric (1937-1942, 1945-1958)

William Beverly Murphy—BSChE ’28
CEO, Campbell Soup Co. (1953-1972)

David Grainger—BSEE ’50
President, The Grainger Foundation

Claude Rockwood Whitney Jr.—BSEE ’50
Chairman and CEO, Allen Bradley Co.

Ken Wright—BSCEE ’51, MSCEE ’57
CEO, Wright Water Engineers; co-founder, Wright Paleohydrological Institute

Ernest Micek—BSChE ’59
CEO, Cargill Corp. (1995-1999)

Richard Wilkey—BSMetE ’59
Founder, president and CEO, Fisher Barton Inc.

Lee Raymond—BSChE ’60
CEO, ExxonMobil (1999-2005)

Duane Collins—BSME ’61
Chairman, Parker Hannifin Corp.

Mary Baker—BSEMA ’66
President, ATA Engineering Inc.

Kenneth Schroeder—BSEE ’67
CEO, KLA-Tencor (1999-2005)

Dong-Soo Hur—BSChE ’68, PhDChE ’69
Chairman, GS Caltex Corp., Seoul, Korea

Keith Nosbusch—BSEE ’74
CEO, Rockwell Automation (2004-)

Michael Splinter—BSEE ’72, MSEE ’74

Jeff Sprecher—ChE ’78
Founder, NEA Ventures; founder, chair and CEO, IntercontinentalExchange, which purchased the New York Stock Exchange

Valerie King-Bailey—BSCEE ’82
CEO, Onshore Technology Group

Thomas Werner—BSIE ’82
CEO, SunPower Corp.

Winslow Sargeant—PhDCE ’95
Chief Counsel for Advocacy, U.S. Small Business Administration; co-founder, AANetcom