

Penn State University

College of Engineering












Alumni Volunteer Handbook

An Overview of Volunteer Opportunities



2009

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Welcome Letter

Dear Engineering Alumni:

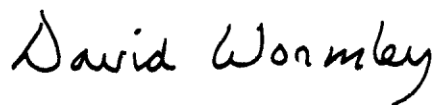
Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the College of Engineering. Alumni involvement plays an important role in helping the College of Engineering further its mission of providing a World-Class engineering education to our undergraduate and graduate students.

With more than 70,000 living alumni, the College of Engineering boasts one of the largest alumni populations at Penn State. We sincerely appreciate the time and expertise that our alumni lend to our endeavors. There are many ways alumni support the College. Whether through their service to the Penn State Engineering Alumni Society, membership on the Industrial and Professional Advisory Council, mentoring an undergraduate student, or reviewing student résumés at the annual Engineering Career Fair, alumni are an integral part of the College community.

Whether you live around the block or around the world, we want to hear from you! Our goal is to help you stay in touch with the university, the College and each other. Be sure to bookmark us on the web at www.engr.psu.edu/AlumniFriends to submit news of your achievements and milestones, update your contact information, and stay informed of the latest news from the College.

We invite you to review the following information to learn more about getting involved with the College. Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations for more information about how to join the Penn State Engineering Society. Thank you again for your interest and we hope to see you on campus in the near future.

Sincerely,



David N. Wormley
Harold and Inge Marcus Dean
College of Engineering



Jennifer Theiss
Director of Alumni Relations

The Penn State Engineering Society

The Penn State Engineering Society (PSES), the only all-alumni advisory body in the College of Engineering, is the oldest alumni society at Penn State University. Founded in 1959, the Society has a rich tradition of alumni involvement with the college. Members work closely with the dean, faculty, staff and students to promote and improve engineering programs at Penn State.

PSES is governed by a Board of Directors that includes officers and the chairs of the program committees. The PSES Board and Committee members meet four times a year at the University Park campus. Members are strongly encouraged to return to campus for these meetings although much committee work is completed between meetings via teleconference.

If you are a member of the Penn State Alumni Association, you are a member of PSES. There are no additional dues or fees. However, becoming an active member of PSES means that you actively participate in one or more of the Society's programs and activities.

If you are not yet a member of the Alumni Association, please consider joining. [Click here](#) to visit the Alumni Association member center for a list of membership benefits. Becoming a new life member will directly benefit the College. For every Engineering alumna/us who becomes a life member, the Alumni Association will donate \$50 to the Penn State Engineering Society: [Click here](#) and select the Alumni Society button; choose the **“College of Engineering Alumni Society AAH.”**

PSES Faculty and Staff Awards Program

Every year, PSES honors outstanding teaching, research, and advising among the faculty of the College of Engineering. Award recipients are nominated by their respective departments and are selected by a panel of peers and PSES representatives. Those who are selected stand as exemplars of faculty excellence. In 1993, PSES established the Faculty Awards Endowment which will carry on the tradition of support for quality engineering education for many years.

Two additional awards are given to recognize exceptional service to the College. The Outstanding Staff Award recognizes individuals who have given time and effort to the College of Engineering above and beyond their normal duties. The Distinguished Service Award recognizes and honors current or former faculty, alumni, or friends who have donated their time, expertise, and/or energies to a department within the College of Engineering.

Affiliate Program Groups (APGs)

An Affiliate Program Group, or APG, is a formal or informal group of alumni and friends of Penn State who share a common interest in a particular academic department. It is a separate sub-organization of the Penn State Alumni Association and the Penn State Engineering Society. APG members work closely with department heads to promote the activities and development of their respective academic departments. APG members are actively involved in activities such as networking, mentoring, and student recruitment.

The College of Engineering currently has six active Affiliate Program Groups:

Penn State Architectural Engineering Alumni Board: <http://www.engr.psu.edu/ae/alumni.asp>

Society of Penn State Electrical Engineers (SPSEE): www.engr.psu.edu/spsee

Penn State Engineering Science and Mechanics Alumni Advisory Board:
<http://www.esm.psu.edu/alumni/advisory-board/>

Penn State Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering Society (PSIMES):
<http://www.ie.psu.edu/AdvisoryBoards/PSIMES/PSIMES.html>

Penn State Mechanical Engineering Society (PSMES): <http://www.mne.psu.edu/Alumni/PSMES/>

Penn State Nuclear Engineering Society (PSNES): <http://www.mne.psu.edu/Alumni/PSNES/>

Women in Engineering Alumnae Society

If you are a female engineer, please [Register](#) with the Women in Engineering Alumnae Society and make a difference in the lives of the next generation of women engineers. Registration is free and you will receive information about Women in Engineering Program activities and volunteer opportunities. WEAS is seeking alumni volunteers to help recruit prospective students, E-mentor current students, participate in orientations, classes and advisory activities. For more information about the Women in Engineering Alumnae Society, please contact Dr. Amy Freeman, director of the Women in Engineering Program at wep@engr.psu.edu.

Resumania

Held in conjunction with the Fall Career Fair, alumni meet with engineering students for short periods of time to review students' résumés and provide immediate feedback on ways students may strengthen their professional materials. The Penn State Engineering Society is always looking for alumni to participate in this fun event. For more information, contact Jennifer Theiss at jtheiss@engr.psu.edu.

Alumni Mentoring Programs

Of the many ways alumni give back to the College of Engineering, perhaps none has a greater impact or provides more personal satisfaction for alumni than by serving as mentors to undergraduate students. Alumni mentors are paired with an undergraduate student from the same academic department who shares similar professional interests. Alumni have the opportunity to share their expertise and experiences with a young person and assist the student in their academic and professional development.

To learn more about serving as a mentor to an undergraduate student, please visit us on the web at www.engr.psu.edu/alumnifriends/ or contact Jennifer Theiss at jtheiss@engr.psu.edu.

The Penn State Rube Goldberg Machine Contest

Sponsored by the Penn State Engineering Society, the annual Penn State Rube Goldberg Machine Contest invites College of Engineering student groups to build a machine that takes the greatest number of steps to complete a simple task. The winning team has an opportunity to travel to Purdue University and compete in the national contest. Alumni volunteers are needed to serve as judges during the Penn State contest. If you are interested in spending a fun-filled day witnessing the ingenuity of our students, please sign up on-line at: <http://www.engr.psu.edu/RubeGoldberg/> or contact Jane Harris in the Engineering Dean's Office at jharris@engr.psu.edu.

The Rube Goldberg Machine Contest is named after cartoonist Reuben Lucius Goldberg, the spirit of whose work inspires the contest's weird machines and crazy mechanisms. The best-known Rube Goldberg machine contest is the national event held annually by Theta Tau at Purdue University (<http://www.rubegoldberg.com/>).

Network with Fellow Engineering Alumni

Stay connected with your Engineering classmates and colleagues by joining the PSES groups on Facebook (www.facebook.com) and LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com). These Engineering networking communities offer an opportunity to build and strengthen your professional contacts. You may also want to consider joining the more than 1,000 PSU alumni fans in the Penn State Alumni Association Facebook group (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Penn-State-Alumni-Association/24332892809>).

The College periodically hosts alumni receptions on campus and in cities around the country. If you have a unique venue to recommend for an event, please let us know. Visit our online Alumni Events Calendar at <http://www.engr.psu.edu/AlumniFriends/> for details on upcoming events.

Alumni Profiles

The College wants to spread the word about the accomplishments of our alumni. We do this through postings on the on-line Class Notes, alumni profiles and related stories on the College web-site and in *Engineering Penn State*, the college's bi-annual alumni magazine. To suggest an alumna/us for a profile, or to share your own news, please submit the information to Jennifer Theiss, director of alumni relations, at jtheiss@engr.psu.edu.

Engineering Alumni in the Classroom

Alumni volunteers are often called upon to speak to students on a particular topic or in a field of expertise. Volunteers must be willing to invest some or half of their day to serve as a guest speaker in an undergraduate or graduate class. In addition, volunteers must provide their own transportation to and from University Park campus. In conjunction with a campus visit, professors will often schedule a luncheon or reception for guest speakers to allow students the opportunity to interact with alumni visitors in a more informal setting.

Sponsor a Student Internship at Your Company

Since 1985, the Engineering Cooperative Education & Professional Internship Program at Penn State has helped more than 12,000 students obtain domestic or international career-related work experience prior to graduation. Ours is one of the largest optional cooperative education programs in the United States, with 700-900 students per year working for large and small corporate and government entities located across the nation and around the world.

The Program sponsors or co-sponsors a variety of engineering and technical co-op/internship and full-time recruiting events each year, bringing in hundreds of employers from government and industry who are seeking Penn State engineering students. We also assist our employer partners with their strategic planning efforts for recruitment within the College of Engineering. Alumni volunteers serve on the selection committee to pick the college's top co-op and internship students of the year.

If you represent a company that is interested in recruiting students or in developing a new internship and cooperative education partnership with the College, please contact Mr. Rick McClintic, Director of the Office of Cooperative Education and Professional Internships, at rdmcp@engr.psu.edu.

The Office of Alumni Relations in the College of Engineering

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