

Harrison named a 2015 Outstanding Engineering Alumnus



Michael Harrison '85 was a recipient of the 2015 College of Engineering Outstanding Engineering Alumni Award at a ceremony held on campus on April 14. The award recognizes graduates who have reached exceptional levels of professional achievement. Established in 1966, the award is the highest honor bestowed by the college.

Harrison graduated from the architectural engineering program with a bachelor's degree in 1985. He went on to attain his master's degree in 1990, in real estate development at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. Harrison's career path has taken him into the real estate development and management field and he has proven himself to be extremely capable, successful, and dynamic in this field. He is the Senior Managing Director for Hines, Inc., responsible for the development and/or acquisition of projects and properties in Florida, the Caribbean, and other markets located in the Southeastern region of the United States. Since joining Hines in 1990, Harrison has been involved in all phases of the development and/or acquisition of more than \$1.8 billion of projects totaling more than 5.4 million square feet and 3,800 acres. He has been responsible for establishing Hines' presence throughout Florida and the Caribbean with projects and/or offices located in Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Orlando, Miami, Miami Beach, Coral Gables, Doral, Marco Island, St. Lucia and Puerto Rico. He has also been instrumental in establishing Hines' land and resort development platform in the Southeast and the Caribbean, including Palencia, a 2,300-acre master-planned golf course community in Jacksonville; Troumassee, a 1,100-acre luxury resort community in St. Lucia; and Punta Guyanez, a 450-acre luxury resort development in Puerto Rico.

Outside of his highly successful business activities, Harrison has maintained an active leadership role in a variety of professional organizations and affiliations. In addition, he has a long-standing friendship with Penn State and the AE Department. In particular, he has been an active member of the AE Industrial and Professional Advisory Council (IPAC) and served a term as chair of IPAC. His enthusiastic input on this council has been very useful to the department. In addition, he wrote an open letter to the AE alumni which was published in the Fall 2009 issue of the AE Newsletter in which he emphasized the importance of alumni support for the AE Department and of our ongoing initiatives. It is clear that he has a sincere interest in the success and growth of the AE program and he is proud of his connections here. In 2010, Harrison was named an AE Centennial Fellow.

Harrison is an excellent role model and mentor for the architectural engineering students and he is well respected by our faculty and staff. We are very pleased that he is among the college's 2015 Outstanding Engineering Alumni.