BUT FOR OHIO STATE

Ralph Rockow (BS/MS ’58 ME) and his wife Barbara Rockow have been generous supporters of Ohio State for many years. He and Barbara are just two of the alumni now prominently featured in the “But for Ohio State” campaign. While Ralph attributes a great deal of his success in life to his wife Barbara, he’s also happy to recognize how his study of engineering changed his life. Ralph’s mechanical engineering degrees from Ohio State led him to work on the engines of the Titan and Atlas rockets. In 1970, an engine he developed helped save the lives of the Apollo 13 astronauts. He has been the President and Chairman of the Board of Exodyne, Inc., located in Phoenix, Arizona for over 30 years.

To succinctly explain how Ohio State influenced his outlook on life, he points to the concept of finite elements — recalling that big problems are just many small problems put together. Ralph advises “solve each one of the small pieces and one day you look up and say we solved the whole problem.”

Passionate About Problem Solving

“The department’s faculty are passionate about teaching theory and how to apply it to solve problems and develop solutions through relevant lab experiences, capstone design, and homework. My career has benefited significantly from learning how to break down complex problems to first principles and develop optimal solutions across a range of technologies. I learned this as a mechanical engineering student at Ohio State. As an External Advisory Board member to the department, I am confident the department is continuing to raise the bar on excellence in developing engineers.”

Steve Swartzmiller
SVP & Chief Technology Officer
Masonite

In Fiscal Year 2012, the department’s research expenditures exceeded $22 million. While many of our researchers receive prized grants in recognition of their potential and outstanding abilities, the continued support of their work by alumni and friends of the department helps to fuel their aspirations and our reputation for excellence.

Donor Acknowledgement
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What does it mean to you?

The Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Points of Pride

mee.osu.edu

$22 Million in research expenditures

The education of professionals

The dissemination of knowledge and technology

The development of innovative solutions

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The mission of the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering is the education of professionals in mechanical, aerospace, and nuclear engineering, the dissemination of knowledge and technology, and the development of innovative solutions to problems in these fields. The department is currently home to 52 tenured and tenure-track faculty and also includes 4 clinical faculty. Department faculty members not only engage in their own award-winning research, but they also support graduate students' research efforts by serving as advisors and mentors. Many best paper or presentation awards have been bestowed upon department researchers, consistently competitive.

Students admitted to the mechanical engineering B.S. degree program are now earning an average GPA of 3.5. Our undergraduates and graduate students alike embody the definition of scholar. Some of the more prestigious awards and scholarships recently bestowed upon our students in the department include:

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships to mechanical engineering graduate students Kelsey Shaler, Marie Finti, and Sarah Schloemer
- ASEE SMART Scholarship to mechanical engineering graduate student Mark Riggs
- National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowships to aerospace engineering graduate students Stuart Benton and Zach Riley
- Ohio Student-Faculty Research Fellowship to aerospace engineering graduate student Majid Sabih and Professor Datta Gaitonde, by the Air Force Research Laboratory/Dayton Area Graduate Studies Institute
- Department of Energy, Nuclear Energy University Programs Fellowship to nuclear engineering graduate students Rachel Benish and Michael Pietrykowski. In addition, a NASA STTR grant was awarded to nuclear engineering graduate student Michael Eades including faculty members, students and research staff.

In the past four years, our junior faculty have received 15 prestigious research grants from institutions such as the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Energy among others. Along with our more senior faculty, they continue to conceive, design and build innovative engineering applications that bolster the reputation of our department.

Inspired Success

From the speed records set by the Buckeye Electric Motorcycle Team to the fine textbooks recently authored by our faculty and the research published in noted journals such as Nature, the work of our students and faculty inspires us all to challenge the limits of what we imagine to be our personal best. In recognition of their many achievements, please consider making a contribution to an engineering fund that will have a lasting impact on the next generation of engineers.
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What does it mean to you?

In Ohio State we do things a little differently. We believe that knowledge is the key to understanding the world around us. That’s why we’re passionate about problem solving. And that’s why we’ve invested in our faculty and staff to turn the latest research into solutions for our community.

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