



2011 Toledo Area Engineer of the Year

Richard Springman, P.E.

2322 Middlesex Drive | Toledo, OH 43606



Richard A. Springman, the eldest of the four children of Eugene R. and Alice Harris Springman, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Upon his father's graduation from Lehigh University, the family moved to Niagara Falls and then to Marietta, Ohio, where Richard grew up from the age of nine.

He graduated from Marietta High School, where he was active in a variety of activities including band, orchestra and wrestling, in 1965. Upon graduation, he entered The Ohio State University to major in engineering, which at the time was a five-year program of study. Receiving his Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree in 1970, he remained at OSU to pursue graduate studies, earning the Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1972. Following graduation, he continued his graduate studies while working in an engineering capacity in the Columbus area. In doing so, he gained widespread experience through employment with the Ohio Department of Highways, Shell Chemical Corp., Union Carbide Mining and Metals, and as a consultant to Midwest Environmental Research Corp., North American Heating and Air Conditioning Home Study Institute, Robert H. Fuller & Associates, and Systems Engineering Associates. He became registered as a Professional Engineer in 1973 and has appeared in court as an expert witness in a number of cases.

Though satisfied with his industrial and consulting experiences, he had always harbored an interest in teaching. That seed had been originally planted with service as a National Honor Society tutor in high school, followed by a position as a teaching aide during his undergraduate career. Positions as both a graduate teaching associate and a graduate research associate gave him ample opportunity to flex his educational wings, such that by the time he had completed his MS degree, he had decided to pursue a career in higher education.

Richard became acquainted with The University of Toledo through Dr. Jim John, Chairman of Mechanical Engineering at OSU and previous Chairman of Mechanical Engineering at UT. At his urging, Richard applied to and was asked to join the faculty of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at The University of Toledo in 1979. Recognized for his intense interest in the students, he was given the unofficial title of chief adviser before being named Assistant Chairman in 1986. He continued in that role, including a year as Acting Chairman, until 1988 when he was named Interim Assistant Dean. After serving in that capacity for a year, he was made Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies in the College of Engineering, a position which he held until 1989. At that time, he returned to full-time teaching, this time for the Department of Engineering Technology. He served as the Program Director for Mechanical Engineering Technology from 1996 till 2000, at which time he became Director of Student Support, a position which he currently occupies.

Throughout his teaching history, he has taught a wide array of courses to include thermodynamics, heat transfer, automatic controls, engineering safety, applied engineering mathematics, statistics, and freshman orientation. This latter course was one that he inherited with the job of assistant dean and one which especially caught his attention. After researching the subject and consulting with retention experts, the course was redesigned to provide incoming students with skills necessary to complete their education. The course was unique and successful, triggering invitations to speak at two national conventions on student retention.

He has long viewed participation in technical societies as a means of contributing not only to the profession but to the community as well. Believing that membership should also mean participating, he has been active with several organizations, beginning with the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) as a student at OSU. In the Toledo area, he has been active with ASHRAE (1978-1989), American Society for Engineering Education (1989-1994), Toledo Society of Professional Engineers (1992 – present), and Technical Society of Toledo (2007-present). He has held a variety of board positions with the latter two organizations, including that of president of TSPE (2005-2007) and president of TST (2010-



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present). He is a member of Triangle Fraternity and has served on the local Alumni Board for several years.

Richard attended Covenant Presbyterian Church from the time of his arrival in Toledo until it closed a few years ago. Active in all phases of the church, he was an ordained elder and served on a variety of committees. He was a member of both the chancel choir and the bell choir for more than twenty five years.

He is a member of Pi Tau Sigma for which he served as faculty adviser (1988-1994), Phi Kappa Phi, and Sigma Xi. Mr. Springman has been the recipient of several awards, including the Dr. Robert Schlembach Award for outstanding service to the UT Office of Admissions (1994), UT College of Engineering Outstanding Teaching Award (2002), and the Outstanding Engineering Educator Award from the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (2008). He has been listed in *Who's Who in Engineering* and *Who's Who in Teaching*.

In his spare time, Richard has an avid interest in too many things to mention, but some of those pursuits include antiques, art pottery and antique automobiles. The first two of these (antiques and the arts) are made manifest in annual trips to the Pottery Lovers Festival in Zanesville each year, accompanied by a stop at Wooster College for the Ohio Light Opera on the return to Toledo. He has been a patron of both the Zanesville Museum of Art and the Ohio Light Opera for many years. The third involves participation in the activities of the Western Lake Erie Region of the Model A Ford Club with a green and black 1930 Ford Model A Coupe with twin side mounts and a rumble seat.

Richard has two children, Jenny and Lindsay, and three grandchildren. Jenny is married to Jeff Perin; they reside in Waterville, Ohio. They have one son, Charlie, who is 5. Lindsay is married to Joe Kunis and they reside in Berkeley, California. They have two children: Jonah, who is 6, and Elanna, who is 4.