

ME Welcomes New EAB Members

Close to twenty distinguished friends and alumni of the Department of Mechanical Engineering comprise the External Advisory Board, a valuable resource to Department Chair Dennis Assanis and the Department as a whole in shaping and meeting its strategic goals. Members represent industry, academia and government, and they meet on campus twice annually to share their expertise and to advise the chair.

Several new members joined the EAB during the 2005-2006 academic year.



Gregory Ohl is the manager of the Advanced Powertrain Controls Development group at DaimlerChrysler Corporation. Greg began his career with Chrysler in 1983, after earning his bachelor's degree from Lehigh University. He returned to school in 1991 to earn master's and doctoral degrees in mechanical engineering from U-M in

1992 and 1995 respectively. His research focus was the utilization of dynamic systems modeling for improving fuel cell propulsion and other alternative powertrain technologies.

Upon his return to DaimlerChrysler, Greg joined the powertrain systems and controls area. In his current position he is responsible for the advanced research and production development of controls and associated diagnostics for Chrysler Powertrain. In 2000 he initiated a research collaboration with the Department of Mechanical Engineering, which has led to the transfer of knowledge in a number of important areas, leading to the resolution of several production development issues. Greg holds several patents, has authored many technical publications and holds a Professional Engineer license in Michigan.



Mark Perlick serves as the vice president of Technology for BorgWarner Inc. He is responsible for driving the innovation process, managing the corporate technology investment and assuring a pipeline of new product development on a global basis. He is executive sponsor of the Technology Council and serves as an officer of BorgWarner

Incorporated. Perlick joined the company in 1999 and has held several positions, each with increasing responsibility and scope.

Prior to joining BorgWarner, Perlick spent 35 years at General Motors Corporation, starting in 1964 as a co-op student. He held numerous positions in engineering and program management. His most recent role there was chief engineer in Automatic

Transmission Engineering. Perlick holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from General Motors Institute (Kettering University).



E. Charles Gulash serves as vice president of Research and Materials Engineering at Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing North America. Gulash earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from U-M in 1972 and an MBA from U-M in 1978. He joined Toyota in 1996 as general manager of the Toyota Arizona Proving Grounds and has been vice president of

Vehicle Evaluation and Engineering. In his current position he is responsible for materials development and leads North American advanced research activities at their laboratories in Ann Arbor, Cambridge, Mass., Berkeley, Calif. and Akin, S.C.

Prior to joining Toyota, Gulash held various engineering and management positions with General Motors Corporation. He also serves on the U-M Transportation Research Institute's External Advisory Board and the Visiting Committee at the U-M Dearborn's College of Engineering and Computer Sciences.



Stephanie LaCrosse currently serves as senior manager of Advanced Planning and Strategy at Nissan North America in Los Angeles. Her group is responsible for establishing the future product and powertrain line-up for the U.S. market and developing concept directions for future vehicles. Prior to joining Nissan, LaCrosse led the Advanced Electrical Technologies

Group at Hyundai-Kia Tech Center. There, she developed new vehicle technologies and strategic programs to incorporate advanced technology into Hyundai and Kia North American vehicle platforms.

LaCrosse also spent three years developing telematics systems in Silicon Valley and six years at Ford Motor Company in Dearborn. She held positions at Ford Research Labs in Materials Science and Powertrain Software Development and received a U.S. patent for her research on using neural networks to predict hydrocarbon emissions. She has successfully launched vehicles in the United States and Philippine Islands.

LaCrosse earned her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering (1997) and a master's in Automotive Engineering (1999) from U-M, where she was inducted into Pi Tau Sigma, Tau Beta Pi and the Epeians Engineering Leadership Honor Society.