



### External Advisory Board Welcomes New Member

Simon Pitts, who directs University Alliances and the Ford–MIT Alliance at Ford Motor Company, has joined the Mechanical Engineering External Advisory Board (EAB). Comprised of distinguished alumni and friends of the department, the EAB convenes twice annually and serves as an advisory body to the department chair.

Pitts was born in London and graduated from the Loughborough University with a degree in automotive engineering and design. He joined Ford Motor Company in 1976, where he worked for the Research and Development Centre in the United Kingdom. His early work was on advanced powertrain development and research. This was followed by assignments in engineering and launching methanol, ethanol and compressed natural gas alternative fuel vehicles prior to his appointment as chief engineer of powertrain systems engineering. In addition to his work at Ford in Great Britain, Germany and the United States, Pitts pursued executive education in France at the international business school INSEAD.

Pitts held the positions of global vehicle line director of C class vehicles (Focus and Escort model lines), North American director of manufacturing operations and director of worldwide powertrain planning. He also served as director of product development operations for the Ford Motor Company, Jaguar, Land Rover and Volvo brands.



### Richard Heglin wins Alumni Society Merit Award

Alumnus Richard (Dick) Heglin was recognized by the College of Engineering with a 2007 Alumni Society Merit Award.

Heglin earned a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from U-M in 1959. He joined General Electric's Major Appliance division and also consulted on mechanical design projects for Michigan hospitals and extended care facilities. In 1970 he joined the Tecumseh Product Company. He held several positions there, each with increasing scope and responsibility. Heglin has also worked for American Standard Company, Amcast Industrial Corporation, Leybold Vacuum Products, Inc. and Balzers and Leybold Taiwan.

Heglin has served the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the College of Engineering for many years, including membership on the ME External Advisory Board since 1995. He served on the college's Alumni Society board from 1990 to 1996, as chairman from 1994 to 1996. As chair he also served as a representative to the Dean's National Advisory Committee.

Heglin has been a member of the U-M Club of Detroit since 1960. He also remains active as the president of R.T. Heglin, PE, LLC, a management consultancy.



### Paul J. Kern Elected to National Academy of Engineering

Alumnus and General (retired) Paul J. Kern (MS ME, MS CE, '73) has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE).

Kern was selected for bringing modern digitization technology to bear on military effectiveness, training and procurement. During a distinguished career spanning more than four decades he worked to digitize and transform war fighting capabilities. He earned wide respect for improving supply chain and weapons systems readiness while controlling costs, and he led initiatives to consolidate major munitions production operations, employ radio frequency identification, manage supplies of rebuilt equipment for front lines and implement Lean Six Sigma. He has earned Defense and Army Distinguished Service Medals, several Silver and Bronze Star medals and three Purple Hearts.

Since retirement Kern has served as chair for Advanced Technology at West Point, an adjunct professor at University of Southern California and as a director of several corporations. He received a Society of Automotive Engineers Teetor Award and an Alumni Society Medal from U-M. He has served on the ME External Advisory Board since 2001.