

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

2015

# HALL OF FAME

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



**DR. ROBERT W. BRODERSEN (EE 1966)**

*Professor Emeritus, Department of Electrical and Computer Science  
UC Berkeley*

**STEVEN HEALIS (IE 1982)**

*Entrepreneur  
Pass The Baton*

**MICHAEL HUGGINS (ARO 1985)**

*Site Director & Chief of Rocket Propulsion Division  
Air Force Research Laboratory*

**JACOB LIPA (CE 1976)**

*President, Psomas  
CEO, Micropolitan LLC*

**MEL MELAKU NEGUSSIE, ESQ. (CHE 1987)**

*CEO, NT Group LLC  
COO/General Counsel, Ethio-American Doctors Group Inc.*

**GANPAT "PAT" PATEL (EE 1970)**

*President & Founder, Cherokee International Inc.  
Founder & Patron-in-Chief, Ganpat University, Gujarat, India*

**JOAN ROBINSON-BERRY (ET 1982)**

*Vice President, Supplier Management, Shared Services Group  
The Boeing Company*

**SOHRAB ROB SALEK (ME 1973 & MSE 1975)**

*Executive Vice President  
Minimax Viking Group*

**PETER S. SILVA (CE 1977)**

*President  
Silva-Silva International*

**HALL OF FAME 2015 INDUCTEES**

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING  
HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015

## PROGRAM

Reception

*Tom Luer and Project Popular*

Welcome

*Dr. Mahyar Amouzegar, Dean  
College of Engineering*

Master of Ceremonies

*Shayla Rivera  
Emcee and former NASA Aerospace Engineer*

Remarks from Dignitaries

Dinner

*Cal Poly Pomona String Ensemble*

Induction Ceremony

Closing Remarks

*Dr. Mahyar Amouzegar*

Hall of Fame Class of 2015

*Group Photo*

Adjourn



California State Polytechnic University, Pomona • 3801 West Temple Avenue, Pomona, CA 91768

**College of Engineering  
Office of the Dean**

March 12, 2015

Dear Inductees and Honored Guests:

As you put on your elegant gowns and your debonair tuxedos, as you drove your car or were driven to tonight's event, as you checked your last text or email before your arrival tonight, as you took the stairs or the elevator to come to this room, as you took a sip from the glass of water in front of you, and now as you hold this program in your hand and thumb through each page, you won't be remiss if you did not acknowledge that everything you have used or touched today has been imagined, designed, developed, and built by an engineer.

The impact of engineering (and by extension science and mathematics) is so prevalent in our daily lives and innovation and technology have become so mundane that most people do not even notice them, and yet they have fundamentally transformed every aspect of our society — from sophisticated equipment that harvested the wool and the cotton in our clothes, to amazing designs of more efficient and comfortable automobiles and airplanes, to aesthetically pleasing and environmentally conscious buildings, to clean water supply and distribution, to seamless supply chain and advanced manufacturing, and of course to the Internet and fast speed wireless communication. The absence of any one of these is not simply an inconvenience, but rather detrimental to our health, to our society and culture, and to the wealth of our nation.

Tonight, we are celebrating the induction of nine new members to the College of Engineering Hall of Fame who were selected by a distinguished committee of past Hall of Fame members, and their task was, to be sure, a formidable one—identifying the most accomplished alumni from among the twenty-five thousand engineers who have made their marks in the community and the global marketplace over the past 55 years.

The 2015 class represents an international group of individuals, each having created a legacy of truly inspired leadership coupled with exceptional contributions to industry and society. Tonight's inductees represent an extraordinary group not just because they hail from diverse engineering disciplines, and not only because they come from four different continents, but also because of the heterogeneity of their career arc, illustrating the multitude of pathways an engineering education can offer an individual.

The college takes immense pride in tonight's inductees and the distinction that each brings to our program and the Learn by Doing teaching philosophy.

Therefore, it is my honor to extend a warm welcome to the Hall of Fame inductees on behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of the College of Engineering. Everything we do on this campus is for our students and their educational wellbeing, and our inductees, through their own achievements, are showing our current and future students the many pathways to success, starting with a solid engineering educational foundation from Cal Poly Pomona.

Regards,



Mahyar Amouzegar  
Dean





Office of the President

March 12, 2015

Dear Inductees and Guests,

Upon joining a campus community, one of the first priorities is to get to know the people who make the institution a remarkable place. As the new president of Cal Poly Pomona, it is a great honor to begin the process of getting to know the College of Engineering, one of the largest and best engineering schools in the nation, by meeting some of its most notable alumni and hearing their personal stories of success.

It is my hope that inductees recognize the significance of this impressive distinction. You have been selected from an alumni body of over 25,000 engineers who have graduated since the college's inception more than 55 years ago. Today, it is estimated that one out of every 14 engineers in the state of California graduated from Cal Poly Pomona, and only the most accomplished engineering graduates who have demonstrated leadership, innovation, and creativity in their diverse careers have been selected to be inducted into the College of Engineering Hall of Fame. Each inductee helps to showcase the college's rich history of Learn by Doing, which blends theory and practice and prepares students to succeed in industry and beyond.

Tomorrow's unveiling ceremony at Cal Poly Pomona will be a truly rare opportunity as your stories of success are shared on a larger stage, gracing the engineering halls for thousands of students to see and be inspired by as they travel on their own path to success.

Congratulations on your achievements and thank you for contributing to the impressive legacy of the College of Engineering.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Soraya M. Coley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Soraya M. Coley, Ph.D.  
President

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR



BAKERSFIELD

March 12, 2015

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Dear Inductees and Guests:

CHICO

It is a special time in the history of a campus when the legacy of some of its finest alumni are acknowledged, and at the same time there is a platform to inspire students and instill a great sense of pride in their college. I am pleased to share in this celebration of the Cal Poly Pomona Engineering Hall of Fame ceremony and I join Dean Mahyar Amouzegar in offering congratulations to each of the inductees.

DOMINGUEZ HILLS

EAST BAY

FRESNO

Across the California State University system, Cal Poly Pomona serves as a center of excellence in undergraduate engineering education, producing graduates who make immediate and lasting contributions to society and the economy. Combined with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, this is the largest engineering program in the country and is of vital importance to the state as well as the nation's economic growth.

FULLERTON

HUMBOLDT

LONG BEACH

LOS ANGELES

As many of you know, a generation ago higher education was able to fulfill its mission of offering access to an affordable education that would lead to greater opportunity and prosperity. Today, the mission of the CSU has been threatened as public funding has decreased and student fees have increased. For this reason, I urge inductees to act as ambassadors for Cal Poly Pomona College of Engineering by sharing your success stories and the value of your education, and by helping to spread the message that this college is worthy of investment and important for the future of California.

MARITIME ACADEMY

MONTEREY BAY

NORTHRIDGE

POMONA

SACRAMENTO

Congratulations Cal Poly Pomona Engineering Hall of Fame Inductees on your personal and professional achievements. It is my hope that your membership in the College of Engineering Hall of Fame inspires others as they hear your stories.

SAN BERNARDINO

SAN DIEGO

Sincerely,

SAN FRANCISCO



SAN JOSÉ

SAN LUIS OBISPO

Timothy P. White  
Chancellor  
The California State University

SAN MARCOS

SONOMA

STANISLAUS



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
856 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012



Dear Inductees and Guests:

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona is very dear to my heart. Being an alumna and having taught there I am honored to be a part of a university that provides students with high quality education and serves as a vital resource for the community.

Cal Poly Pomona has among one of the best Engineering Colleges in the nation. The hands-on training, student focused teaching, and highly educated faculty produce well-qualified engineering graduates that are workforce-ready.

As the Los Angeles County Supervisor for the First District I would like to congratulate each of the Hall of Fame inductees for their accomplishments and contributions to the College of Engineering at Cal Poly Pomona. The Hall of Fame class of 2015 represents some of Cal Poly Pomona's best graduates who have used their educational experiences to improve the industry, economy and society every day. I commend the inductees for becoming innovators and inspiring future generations of engineers.

Thank you for contributing to the impressive legacy of the College of Engineering and Cal Poly Pomona.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hilda L. Solis".

**HILDA L. SOLIS**  
Supervisor, First District



## DR. ROBERT W. BRODERSEN

EE 1966

Professor Emeritus, Department of Electrical Engineering  
and Computer Science, UC Berkeley

National Academy of Engineering, 1988

Growing up, Dr. Robert W. Brodersen enjoyed figuring out how things worked. So it is no surprise that he gravitated to the field of engineering—and ultimately to Cal Poly Pomona. He was inspired by the university's practical, hands-on electrical engineering program, and particularly enjoyed working in the lab, making measurements and building electrical devices. During his time at Cal Poly Pomona, Bob had a competitive spirit, challenging his friends to see who got better grades. It motivated Bob to achieve his very best and that vigor would translate into success throughout his career.

After graduation, Bob went on to achieve his master's and PhD in Electrical Engineering at MIT and later became a world-class professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at UC Berkeley. During his notable career, he also worked at the Texas Instruments Central Research Lab, where he developed Charge Coupled Device Technology, and was founder and co-director of the Berkeley Wireless Research Center, which is on the forefront of research in wireless technology.

Bob was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, an organization which consists of only 2,300 members from around the world, and is one of the highest professional honors accorded an engineer. Bob is a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and received the IEEE Morris N. Liebmann Memorial Award for pioneering contributions and leadership in research on switched-capacitor circuits for analog-digital conversion and filtering.

Bob's career is balanced by some commercial success too. He contributed to several start-up companies by raising money from venture capitalists, developing teams, defining products and executing business plans. "I found this real-world experience made me a better professor."

Throughout his many successes, Bob still has fond memories of the skills he learned at Cal Poly Pomona. "The Learn by Doing engineering teaching paradigm made me comfortable working in a laboratory, even though my PhD was in solid state physics theory and I spent most of my career in academia. I was always happiest being in the lab working with students."

Bob urges students to go outside their comfort zones. "Don't be afraid to venture into areas, projects, and companies that are outside your past experience."



# STEVEN HEALIS

IE 1982

Entrepreneur, Pass The Baton

Wherever Steven Healys goes, successful business ventures tend to follow. Throughout his 30-year career, this Cal Poly Pomona alumnus has owned many large, successful companies.

Steve's career started in a fairly traditional way. During his junior year, the Learn by Doing paradigm helped Steve rise above students from other schools. After graduation, Steve was presented with a wealth of opportunity and possibility. He received four solid offers from top companies and eventually decided to join Procter & Gamble, a company he interned with during his college career. During his two year tenure at the company, Steve developed valuable skills found in great leadership.

“I learned how to hire, discipline, motivate, and manage professionally.”

Over the years, Steve moved up the corporate ladder and worked at Frito-Lay and Technicolor Videocassette, but ultimately corporate America wasn't Steve's passion. Steve wanted something more, and armed with six years of industry experience, his Cal Poly Pomona education, and his entrepreneurial spirit, he believed he was ready.

In 1988, he joined a friend's part-time janitorial business, growing it from one to 50 employees in six years. Next, he started his own company, Avalon Building Maintenance, growing it from 20 to 450 employees in five years and making the Inc. magazine 500 list in the year 2000.

Several years later, instead of selling his successful company to the highest bidder, he found an innovative way (PassTheBaton.com) to sell to key employees for no money down and provide them a rare opportunity for company ownership. He has since helped many other businesses sell their companies this way.

Over the next 11 years, Steve went on to launch 22 more businesses with 28 partners and employ over 1,500 people globally, before recently retiring. These successful enterprises included York Employment Services starting with 2 partners and growing it to \$5 million in annual revenue in the first 3 years and Axis Technical Group with \$5 million in revenue, several restaurants, a supply company, a transportation company, a hot rod shop, a home cleaning company and a commercial real estate investment company.

Steve attributes his many successes and career advancements to always being open to opportunity, and using each one as an invaluable learning experience.

“I advise students not to start a business out of college but instead work for companies that will teach them management skills that can be applied to their future business. Be open for opportunities, do your research, but don't be afraid to pull the trigger.”



# MICHAEL HUGGINS

ARO 1985

Site Director & Chief of Rocket Propulsion Division, Air Force  
Research Laboratory

As a product of the sixties, Michael Huggins grew up fascinated by the “space race” and the idea of man walking on the moon. As far back as he can remember, he wanted to build and fly rockets—and even used his home chemistry set to mix rocket propellants in the garage.

Mike was raised in then West Germany where his father was stationed and returned to the U.S. after high school and chose to attend Cal Poly Pomona. During his time in the College of Engineering, Mike received an education that would prove to be invaluable for fueling his passion—and propelled his future success.

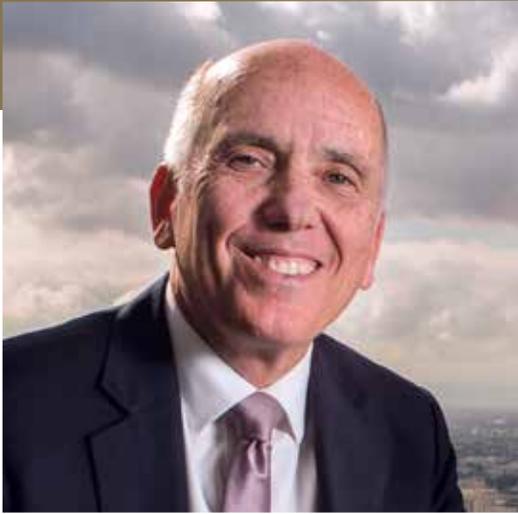
“Cal Poly Pomona Engineering gave me a solid foundation on working in teams, operating state of the art laboratory hardware, a broad curriculum to apply to a variety of activities as well as professors with plenty of practical experiences.”

After graduation, he started as a propulsion engineer, working on the initial production and flight testing of the Air Force’s B-1 bomber. From the beginning, Mike had the edge over many of the junior engineers he worked alongside. Many of his peers came from colleges with more theoretical-based curriculums, whereas Mike had the hands-on experience to work on projects.

“My engineering education at Cal Poly Pomona gave me a real advantage because I had worked on several teams, had plenty of lab equipment experience, worked with a wide variety of instrumentation and control systems and also had a class on how to function professionally in an engineering organization.”

Later, he moved into engineering management and eventually organizational leadership, serving Rockwell International, the Air Force Aeronautics Laboratory and the Air Force Phillips Laboratory. Ultimately, he rose to hold a variety of impressive positions within the Air Force Research Laboratory, as the chief of the Space Technology Planning Division, chief of the Advanced Concepts Division and chief of the Rocket Propulsion Division.

When asked about the secret to his career advancement, Mike explains, “I actively sought career advice from all levels of people I worked with. I spent time in all major organizational functions—both engineering and business. I always volunteered for the most challenging jobs. And I worked hard to take care of the good people below me in the organization.”



## JACOB LIPA

CE 1976

President, Psomas

CEO, Micropolitan LLC

Born and raised in Israel, Jacob Lipa came a long way to study at Cal Poly Pomona. After completing military service in Israel, he sought temporary work that could help him save enough to travel internationally. He was hired by a soil lab that trained him as a technician—and inadvertently introduced him to the field of civil engineering.

Jacob's parents instilled in him the importance of education, and Cal Poly Pomona was the perfect choice for him. He enjoyed the university's emphasis on hands-on engineering, and the opportunity to apply knowledge and imagination to real projects. By the time he graduated, he was ready for real work at an engineering firm, and his talents were immediately recognized by his first employer. Jacob was hired solely based on the applied, hands-on knowledge he obtained at Cal Poly Pomona, providing drafting support and field survey work and even making long-term impacts to the firm.

“My engineering education at Cal Poly Pomona prepared me to do my work with relatively very little coaching. In addition, since this was a small engineering firm, I was able to help them develop certain work procedures that were taught to me by my professors with industry experience.”

Jacob would go on to earn his master's in civil engineering from CSU Northridge soon after graduation from Cal Poly Pomona. His next career move landed him at Psomas, where he started as a design engineer. Jacob would move up to project engineer, project manager, team leader, group leader, board member and ultimately president of the company.

“While devoted to life-long learning, I also paid special attention to our clients and became their trusted advisor. The combination of up-to-date knowledge and enhanced relationships with clients positioned me to obtain work, do it well and attract repeat business.”

Jacob credits his education at Cal Poly Pomona and his learning philosophy for his success every step of the way.

“I never stopped being curious and learning and getting better at my craft. At each position, I tried to become the best that I could be by further ‘sharpening’ the tools in my toolbox. Above all, I learned that engineering can only be successful through enhanced teamwork. Your projects will not be successful unless you truly believe in the strength of your entire team.”



**MEL**

## **MELAKU NEGUSSIE, ESQ.**

CHE 1987

CEO, NT Group LLC

COO/General Counsel  
Ethio-American Doctors Group Inc.

Born and raised in Ethiopia, Mel Melaku Negussie immigrated with his brother to the U.S. to escape what had become a communist state under a brutal regime. Eventually, they settled in Los Angeles and both attended Cal Poly Pomona. Seeking a practical and hands-on career that would help him readily obtain employment, Mel found Cal Poly Pomona the perfect fit. His choice was sound. Mel was inspired by his professors and learned valuable lessons that he would apply to his highly diverse career.

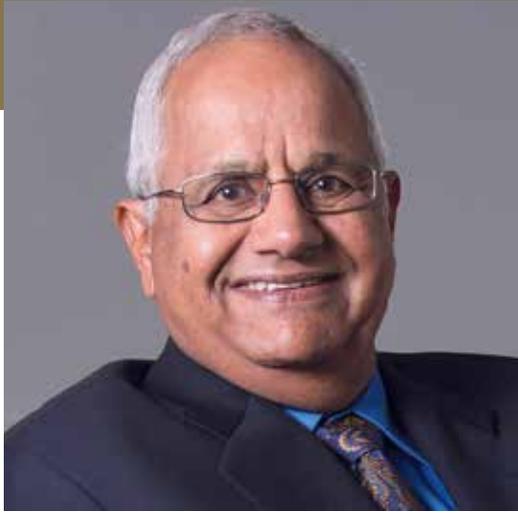
Right before graduation, Mel accepted a chemical engineering position with Dow Chemical Company, where he met a lawyer who sparked his interest in getting a law degree. Mel went on to get his Juris Doctorate from University of Southern California and worked for several law firms focused on intellectual property, international trade and product liability matters.

A few years later, Mel pursued several entrepreneurial efforts, including a dot-com startup, Africa.com, an executive search firm for attorneys and various information technology ventures. Today, he leads an initiative to build a 300-bed, state-of-the-art hospital in Ethiopia, along with 250 physicians. Serving as the COO and general counsel for the company, he has already raised \$9 million in seed capital for this \$100 million project. Mel's unique blend of a Cal Poly Pomona education and his diverse career of law and start-ups was the right combination to manage and lead this great endeavor.

“This is the most gratifying project I have been involved with and I believe my training as an engineer at Cal Poly Pomona and my career experiences have enabled me to handle this project with confidence.”

Mel urges students to continue to learn beyond the classroom, especially in gaining knowledge outside of your expertise because it can present new opportunities and spark unexpected passion in a different field of work.

“Take risks in your career to go after something that interests you. If you fail, accept it and move on. No one succeeds without failing in something in life.”



# GANPAT "PAT" PATEL

EE 1970

President & Founder, Cherokee International Inc.

Founder & Patron-in-Chief, Ganpat University  
Gujarat, India

Originally from Gujarat, India, Ganpat "Pat" Patel immigrated to the U.S. at age 19 to pursue an undergraduate degree. Expected to become either a doctor or an engineer, he eventually found his passion in electrical engineering, but not without a lot of work and some luck.

He started college at Iowa State, but after experiencing his first icy winter, his friends prompted him to move west and apply to Cal Poly Pomona. The hands-on approach to education was instrumental in his success, and after completing his undergraduate degree at Cal Poly Pomona, he later enhanced his knowledge by attending graduate courses at UCLA.

Pat began his career at GlenTronics making military supplies for Lockheed Martin, then worked at Leech Corporation (a division of Lockheed). After several jobs supporting military initiatives, Pat shifted to the commercial sector and worked at Burroughs (now Unisys Corporation), a large computer company.

When his wife was pregnant with their third child (and Pat was not earning enough to make ends meet), he asked his boss, Bob Phillips, for a raise. Bob was not able to offer him anything tangible since his own salary was only \$1,000 or so more than Pat's. Pat promptly announced he was going to resign and set up his own business. Excited by the possibility of working with his favorite engineer, and understanding Pat's vision, Bob helped him out and eventually followed suit by quitting his job and joining Pat's company.

Together, they started a business in Pat's garage—a power supply design and manufacturing company, named Cherokee International, after Bob's wife's Native American heritage. At its peak, the company employed over 1,000 people in the U.S., Mexico, India and Belgium, and was highly profitable with more than \$111 million in revenue. In 1996, Pat sold Cherokee but remained on as president. In 1999, he sold his remaining stake but served as chairman until he stepped down in 2004.

In 2005, Pat decided that he was at the right moment in his life to do something that could impact the lives of many people, and thereby entered into the field of education. He established Ganpat University in his home state of Gujarat, India. It is a private university offering undergraduate and graduate degrees, and research programs in engineering and technology, pharmacy, management, computer applications, sciences, education, humanities and social science and human potential development. He further developed a township around the university to support the students and their families. Today, the university has more than 10,000 students. True to his generous nature and commitment to education, Pat has also pledged \$1 million in support for student success initiatives in Cal Poly Pomona's College of Engineering.



# JOAN ROBINSON-BERRY

ET 1982

Vice President, Supplier Management, Shared Services Group, The Boeing Company

Joan Robinson-Berry's inspiration to become an engineer began in high school, where she met a classmate who encouraged her to study engineering. Although her high school counselor discouraged her from pursuing such technical fields, she was lucky to have met a Cal Poly Pomona counselor who took note of her abilities in science and mathematics and urged her to not only attend Cal Poly Pomona but also pursue engineering.

The university's hands-on teaching approach was the right fit for Joan's energetic spirit and curious mind. Overcoming intimidating college studies, financial challenges and feeling isolated as one of the few women in the program, Joan never gave up.

She went on to become one of the first African-American women in her community to graduate with an engineering degree. Later she continued her education by earning a master's degree in engineering management from West Coast University. Joan is also one of a handful of minority women in the nation to hold an associate fellowship with the Aerospace Industries of America.

Not long after graduating, Joan co-founded a small engineering company in inner-city Los Angeles. The experience nurtured her program management skills and soon her engineering career evolved into management. She joined McDonnell Douglas (later The Boeing Company) in 1986 as a senior engineer in aircraft production.

At Boeing she has built a successful career with the diverse business opportunities that the global aerospace company offers: from senior engineer, to manager of the MD 80/90 commercial airplane program, to directorships of engineering processes and technical workforce excellence, and finally to leadership positions in Boeing's multibillion dollar supply chain system. Currently, Joan is vice president of Shared Services Group Supplier Management. She leads the overall strategy, contracting, management and development of the non-production goods and services supply chain for The Boeing Company.

Her distinguished career is a study in making a difference: from a simple numerical control programmer to vice president at one of the largest aerospace corporations in the world, The Boeing Company; from one of the handful of women in the engineering industry to being an active member in the National Society of Black Engineers and the Hispanic Engineers of America as an outspoken advocate for diversity in careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

“Striving for diversity and reaching the young people of our country is a lifelong activity,” she said. “And it’s something I’m sure I will pursue long into retirement.”



# SOHRAB ROB SALEK

ME 1973 & MSE 1975

Executive Vice President, Minimax Viking Group

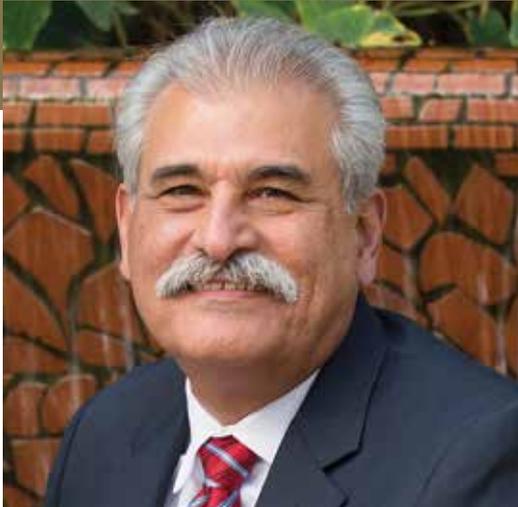
An accomplished growth-focused global business executive, Sohrab “Rob” Salek is a true world citizen. Born in Iran, he immigrated to the U.S. to attend university—a decision he says is the best one he ever made. Always interested in the technical aspects of how things work, he followed his brothers’ footsteps and chose to attend Cal Poly Pomona.

“The hands-on approach and extensive lab work really prepared me for the real world and shortened the learning curve. The College of Engineering taught me that anything in life is achievable—and not to be afraid of new challenges or the unknown.”

After graduation, Rob earned his master’s degree from Cal Poly Pomona. While completing his graduate studies, Rob joined the fire protection field and became a professional engineer in fire protection engineering. After graduation, Rob went back home, working for the Iranian Radio and Television organization for four years. Exposed to a completely different working environment, Rob took on management work for the first time and was able to grow and learn very quickly.

Upon his return back to America, Rob went on to be a designer for another fire protection company located in Los Angeles. He would then later become a design manager, and then worked his way up to branch, district, and regional management positions, responsible for directing over 40 engineers and managing projects for the multi-million dollar company.

Later, he joined Tyco International as the vice president for Asia, where he relocated his family to Singapore and spent five years managing the Asian sector of an \$11 billion global enterprise. Rob moved back to the U.S. again and took over as CEO for a mid-size company, Consolidated Fire Protection (CFP), helping the business double its revenue to \$220 million, and overseeing the transition as CFP was acquired by Minimax Global, before retiring in 2014. During this time, he traveled extensively throughout the world. The experience of a multi-cultural diverse organization proved to be both very challenging and very fulfilling at the same time.



## PETER S. SILVA

CE 1977

President, Silva-Silva International

Growing up in the Imperial Valley area in California with a farm-working family and few resources, Peter Silva quickly realized he did not want to do backbreaking work in 100-degree temperatures for the rest of his life. This experience wasn't futile though since he learned the critical importance of water.

After joining Cal Poly Pomona's Civil Engineering program with an emphasis on water, Peter quickly learned that performing well is not just about technical skills, but also about working with people—a skill that would be essential in his future career.

“I truly believe that if you want to grow and develop a career, the ability to manage and interact with people is a critical skill that you will need to develop and hone.”

Following graduation, Peter worked for a variety of regional water boards and water districts in Los Angeles and San Diego, where he learned first-hand about water quality issues that he had earlier studied at Cal Poly Pomona. Before long, he was working for an international water commission interacting with high-profile U.S. and Mexico officials, including mayors, governors and congressmen.

Over the next decade, Peter continued to rise professionally. He would go on to manage San Diego's Water Distribution Division, directing and managing the operation of major water systems. Peter's experience in

managing staff and various parties helped him transition to more governmental positions, where he would make greater impacts on water issues. He was appointed by President Clinton to the Board of Directors of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission, by Governor Gray Davis as the vice-chair of the State Water Resource Control Board and then reappointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger four years later.

“This was one of my favorite and most satisfying jobs I have had. As one of five Board members, I could see the impact my decisions had on water issues in the state.”

Later, Peter worked for the Metropolitan Water District on major water policy issues and, in 2009, was appointed by President Barack Obama to be assistant administrator for the Office of Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—the most intense, yet most memorable, experience of his life. Afterwards, Peter returned to San Diego to start his own firm, focusing on water policy and regulatory concerns.

Peter’s advice to students is to “Pick a career role that you enjoy and that you are comfortable with. Engineering has many career paths and especially now with technology advancements, there are so many opportunities to have an enjoyable and fulfilling career.”

# SPECIAL GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE 2015 HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

**Mr. Ron T. Coley**

Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Services  
UC Riverside

**Dr. Soraya Coley**

President  
Cal Poly Pomona

**Mr. Richard A. Croxall (ME 1963)**

Vice President & Chief Engineer  
Northrop Grumman Corp.  
Hall of Fame Class of 2014

**Mr. Nato Flores (ME 1979)**

Independent Consultant  
Flores Consulting Services  
Hall of Fame Class of 2014

**Mr. Lawrence M. Gates (CE 1987)**

President  
DRC Engineering Inc.  
Hall of Fame Class of 2014

**Ms. Virginia Grebbien (CE 1986)**

President  
Parsons Environment & Infrastructure  
Hall of Fame Class of 2014

**Mr. Peter Hadinger (EE 1981)**

President  
Inmarsat Inc.  
Hall of Fame Class of 2014

**Dr. Sharon Hilles**

Dean  
College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences  
Cal Poly Pomona

**Mr. Brian Jaramillo (ET 1987)**

President  
Tilden-Coil Constructors Inc.  
Hall of Fame Class of 2014

**Mr. Bob Kallenbaugh (CE 1974)**

CEO  
RBF Consulting  
Hall of Fame Class of 2014

**Mr. Kevin Klowden**

Director, California Center, Managing Economist  
Milken Institute  
Dean's Leadership Board Member

**Ms. Maria Mehranian**

Managing Partner / CFO  
Cordoba Corporation  
Dean's Leadership Board Member

**Mr. Rick Morrow (CHE 1972)**

Independent Consultant  
Hall of Fame Class of 2014

**Dr. Cordelia Ontiveros (CHE 1978)**

Associate Dean for Academic Programs & Student Services  
Cal Poly Pomona, College of Engineering  
Hall of Fame Class of 2014

**Dr. J. Michael Ortiz**

President Emeritus  
Cal Poly Pomona

**Ms. Rebecca Ritt Rhoads (EE 1980 & MSEE 1986)**

President, Global Business Services, and Chief Information Officer  
Raytheon Company  
Hall of Fame Class of 2014

**Mr. Joseph M. Rivera (CE 1973)**

Director, Gas Engineering  
Southern California Gas Company  
Hall of Fame Class of 2014

**Mr. Michael P. Smith (ET 1985)**

Director of Engineering  
CBS Inc. - KCBS Radio  
Industry Advisory Board Member

**Mr. Perry Tollett (CHE 1989)**

Coachella Engineering  
Owner, The Glass House

**Dr. Tom Welton**

Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences  
Imperial College London

The College of Engineering Hall of Fame initiative is designed to honor the outstanding accomplishments of eminent engineers, but it also serves as a vehicle to provide inspiration for students and faculty. It is telling, when every single person from the class of 2014, along with members of the college's advisory board, Cal Poly Pomona senior administrators and alumni and corporations step up to support the college. The generous donations from these individuals has not only made tonight's event possible but also accelerated our efforts in upgrading our infrastructure in support of student success.

## PLATINUM

Fluor Corporation  
Dr. Soraya M. Coley  
Dr. J. Michael and Betty Ortiz  
Lawrence M. Gates

Eddy W. Hartenstein  
Darcel L. Hulse  
Mark A. Stevens

## GOLD

Ahmad Adel Al-Khatib  
Dr. Mahyar Amouzegar  
Daniel Man-Chung Cheng  
Parsons (Virginia Grebbien)  
Peter Hadinger  
Bob Kallenbaugh

Brian Jaramillo  
Lynne and Todd Lachenmyer  
Rick Morrow  
Rebecca Ritt Rhoads  
Gerry Salontai

## SILVER

Dr. Behnam Bahr  
Martin J. Colombatto  
Richard A. Croxall  
Nato Flores  
Jack H. Kulp

Dr. Cordelia Ontiveros  
Joseph M. Rivera  
Michael Smith  
Thomas Vos  
James R. Williamson

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

An initiative such as the College of Engineering Hall of Fame, which includes the black-tie induction ceremony, the public unveiling and the beautification of our buildings requires months of preparation and dedication and relentless hard work of many individuals who subscribe to our vision of striving for excellence and celebrating success. It is with deep appreciation of this team who is making imagination real.

Steve Quintero



Mark Bailey

Norma De La Llata

Chelsea Duran

Alicia Hansell

Dan Mello

Christopher Park

Son Phan

Mary Shōo



Special thanks to:

Donna Hanson at HansonLA

**AHMAD ADEL AL-KHATIB (EE 1983)**

*Founder & CEO, SIGMANet*

**DANIEL MAN-CHUNG CHENG (IE 1981)**

*Managing Director, Dunwell Enviro-Tech (Holdings) Limited*

**MARTIN J. COLOMBATTO (ET 1982)**

*Independent Consultant  
Director of the Board, ClariPhy Communications  
Luxtera Corporation, and PLX Technology*

**RICHARD A. CROXALL (ME 1963)**

*Vice President & Chief Engineer, Northrop  
Grumman Corp.*

**NATO FLORES (ME 1979)**

*President & Majority Owner, Tower General Contractors*

**LAWRENCE M. GATES (CE 1987)**

*President, DRC Engineering Inc.*

**VIRGINIA GREBBIEN (CE 1986)**

*President, Parsons Environment & Infrastructure*

**PETER HADINGER (EE 1981)**

*President, Inmarsat Inc.*

**EDDY W. HARTENSTEIN (ARO 1972)**

*Publisher & CEO, Los Angeles Times*

**DARCEL L. HULSE (ME 1970)**

*President & CEO, Sempra LNG*

**BRIAN JARAMILLO (ET 1987)**

*President, Tilden-Coil Constructors Inc.*

**BOB KALLENBAUGH (CE 1974)**

*CEO, RBF Consulting*

**JACK H. KULP (ME 1963)**

*President, Traffix Devices Inc.*

**LYNNE LACHENMYER (CHE 1980)**

*Senior Vice President, ExxonMobil Chemical Company*

**RICK MORROW (CHE 1972)**

*Senior Vice President, Gas Operations & System Integrity  
Southern California Gas Company  
San Diego Gas & Electric*

**DR. CORDELIA ONTIVEROS (CHE 1978)**

*Associate Dean for Academic Programs & Student Services  
Cal Poly Pomona, College of Engineering*

**REBECCA RITT RHOADS (EE 1980 & MSEE 1986)**

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Chief Information Officer, Raytheon Company*

**JOSEPH M. RIVERA (CE 1973)**

*Director, Gas Engineering, Southern California Gas Company*

**GERRY SALONTAI (CE 1977)**

*President, CEO & Chairman, Kleinfelder Inc.*

**MARK A. STEVENS (ME 1975)**

*Senior Vice President, Corporate Risk, Fluor Corporation*

**THOMAS VOS (EE 1964)**

*Vice President & General Manager, Hewlett-Packard*

**JAMES R. WILLIAMSON (EE 1982)**

*Vice President, Technology Standards, Sony Electronics and  
Member of Iggy and The Stooges*

**HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2014**



FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015

**HALL OF FAME**

Unveiling Ceremony

CAL POLY POMONA  
3801 W. Temple Ave. Pomona, CA 91768  
(909) 869-2513

**8:30 a.m.**

VIP Breakfast  
Bronco Student Center  
Ursa Major

**9:15 a.m.**

Inductee Group Photo in Hall of Fame Jacket

**10:00 a.m.**

Unveiling Ceremony  
Engineering Building 9  
First Floor, Olive Lane Entrance

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**CAL POLY POMONA**

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