



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Kenneth R. Diller, Sc.D., P.E.

Honorary Mechanical Engineer, 2017

BSME, Ohio State University, 1966

MSME, Ohio State University, 1967

Sc.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1972

Leibrock Professor of Engineering

The University of Texas at Austin

Ken Diller has been an engineering professor at UT Austin since 1973. He is the former founding chairman of the UT Biomedical Engineering Department, and previously was chairman of the Mechanical Engineering Department (these administrative appointments spanning a 19-year period). His primary areas of research focus on the broad field of biomedical heat transfer, with current studies focused on temperature control to enhance the ability to have consistent quality sleep, to lower blood pressure overnight to reduce the incidence of vascular diseases, and the manipulation of body core temperature to keep patients warm during surgery or to cool patients suffering a loss of brain blood perfusion following heart attack, stroke, or traumatic brain injury.

He has published about 300 refereed articles and book chapters, has three dozen filed or issued patents, and has edited or authored sixteen books on these and other topics. He has been elected Fellow of the ASME, BMES, AIMBE, AAAS, and the Society for Cryobiology, and has won the ASME Heat Transfer Memorial Award, ASME Bioengineering Lissner Award, and ASME/AIChE Max Jacob Heat Transfer Award. He was elected an Outstanding Mechanical Engineering Graduate of Ohio State University. He has been faculty advisor for more than 40 years of the UT organization Christian Students

on Campus, during which time he has mentored thousands of students during their time at UT.

As a UT professor, Ken is very passionate about his teaching, which covers a spectrum of courses and students ranging from incoming freshmen to advanced Ph.D. students. He created and teaches an award-winning course in the Freshman Signature series on the topic "Science and the Bible." He also created and teaches a class on how to construct and deliver a course using inquiry learning methods for Ph.D. students who are intending to pursue careers in academia. Additionally, for more than 30 years Ken has held a Life Fellow position in Clare Hall College at the University of Cambridge in England, where he takes UT students each summer for a Maymester study abroad experience as he teaches them the UT course on Biotransport.

A humorous experience occurred early in his teaching career when his secretary made a typo in preparing the syllabus for his Heat Transfer course, ME 339. On the first day of class after passing out and reviewing the syllabus, Professor Diller asked if there were any questions. One student put up his hand and timidly asked, "Is there any significance to your name being Dr. (K)iller?" at which point the class burst into laughter. The course went well.