



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Marvin E. Odum, III

Distinguished Mechanical Engineer, 2006

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1982
MBA, University of Houston, 1994

Chairman and President (Retired)
Shell Oil Company
Americas Director
Royal Dutch Shell, plc

Marvin Odum, a native Texan, is the third generation in his family in the energy business – and proud of it. After studying liberal arts at Washington & Lee University for two years, Marvin returned home to UT Austin to focus on mechanical engineering. Nearing graduation in 1982, his first interview was with Shell Oil Company. A job offer was extended and he accepted. This was his one and only professional job interview.

Marvin began his career with Shell in New Orleans working as a reservoir engineer. His 34 years with Shell took him to all corners of the world in a variety of technical and managerial roles. He contends that the energy business is ‘intensely interesting’ because it is highly technical, a driver of global economies, deeply intertwined with geopolitics, and involves some of the best people in the world.

Marvin retired in 2016 as the chairman/president of Shell Oil Company (since 2008) and executive committee director (Americas) for Royal Dutch Shell, plc. After joining Shell in 1982, he held a variety of management positions in technical and commercial operations across multiple business areas, including executive vice president for

exploration and production in the Americas and director of Shell Americas Gas and Power. He was also CEO of Intergen (a global power generation business) in 2004-2005. These roles allowed him to develop deep expertise in many aspects of the oil and gas business as well as renewable energies. He spent considerable time working with governments and civil society leaders on the transitioning macro energy system, and the political, economic and societal implications of the choices to be made.

Marvin served on the American Petroleum Institute Executive Committee and Board from 2008-2016. In September 2017, Marvin was asked by Houston’s Mayor Turner to lead the recovery efforts for Hurricane Harvey. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations; board member of the National Urban League; Dean’s Council member of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government; proud member of the Engineering Advisory Board for UT Austin; and Board of Visitors member of both the University of Houston and the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Marvin and Mariloli were married in 1984 and have three children: Lauren, Marvin IV and Taylor. They are also blessed to have one grandchild, so far.