



Mechanical Engineering  
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

## George A. Helland, P.E.

*Charter Member, 1977*

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1959  
MBA, Harvard Business School, 1961

*Senior Associate (Retired 2014)*

IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates, Inc.,  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

George Helland was born and raised in San Antonio, where he graduated from Alamo Heights High School. His parents were Ruth Gorman Helland and George Archibald Helland, who was a life insurance agent. He earned his BS in mechanical engineering from The University of Texas at Austin in 1959. After earning an MBA with distinction from the Harvard Business School in 1961, he began a 17-year career at Cameron Iron Works in Houston, one of the world's leading manufacturers of oilfield equipment. Beginning as a trainee in the stock room, George moved to coordinating engineering and sales of a new product line; sales manager positions in Houston and London; plant manager positions in Houston and Leeds, England; manager of data processing and information systems; and finally into general management. He was made executive vice president of all operations in 1977. George traveled to more than seventy countries for Cameron.

After leaving Cameron, George was president and CEO of Weatherford, International, Inc., Houston, and then president and CEO of McEvoy Oilfield Equipment Company, later a division of Smith International, Houston. Following a time as president of Lockwood Corporation, Gering, Nebraska, a subsidiary of McCall Industries, Inc., Houston, he engaged in general management consulting until he was appointed deputy secretary for export assistance at the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C., in the administration of President George H. W. Bush. During his tenure at the DOE, hundreds of oil wells in Kuwait were set on fire, and George found himself as the person in the DOE most familiar with oil well fires. His expertise led the DOE to identify and draft the Texas oil well control teams of Red Adair, Boots and Coots and others to extinguish the fires, a mission which

they accomplished in record time. After serving at the DOE, George was vice president for Dresser Industries, managing its businesses in the former Soviet Union, China and Vietnam. Finally, he was a senior associate at IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates, Cambridge, Massachusetts, until his retirement. Over his career, George traveled professionally to more than 85 countries.

George served on boards of various companies, including Gas Turbine Efficiency Ltd., UK; NS Group, Newport, Kentucky; Hunting PLC, London; Tokheim Corp., Ft. Wayne, Indiana; and Athens Group, Austin, Texas.

At UT Austin, he was a member of Tau Beta Pi, Phi Eta Sigma, Pi Tau Sigma, Sigma Nu, the Silver Spurs, the Friars Society, and the "T" Association. He was recognized as one of Five Outstanding Texans and named an Outstanding Young Houstonian by the Houston Jr. Chamber of Commerce in 1972. As an UT Alumnus, he joined the Engineering Advisory Council.

George was a devoted board member of the Briarwood School, Houston; the Brookwood Community, Houston; Junior Achievement of SE Texas; and Junior Achievement Worldwide. He served as a trustee of the Eurasia Foundation, Washington, D.C., and as an advisory trustee of Southwest Research Institute, San Antonio. As a leader in professional organizations related to oil field equipment, he served on the boards of the American Petroleum Institute, American Wellhead Equipment Association, and the Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association.

He lives in Houston with his wife of 25 years, Antonia Day. Together they enjoy seven grandchildren.