



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Greg DeKunder

Distinguished Mechanical Engineer, 2013

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1993
MBA, University of Houston – Clear Lake, 2001

TOTAL Petrochemicals & Refining

Greg DeKunder studied mechanical engineering at The University of Texas at Austin from 1989 to 1993. He was named an Engineering Scholar in 1991, 1992, and 1993, as well as a General Motors Scholar in 1991 and 1992. Greg was also a member Tau Beta Pi, the National Engineering Honor Society. While attending the university, Greg enjoyed playing trumpet in the Longhorn Band. He graduated from UT Austin with highest honors.

After graduating, Greg moved to Houston and began his career with Fina Oil & Chemical as a Product Development Engineer. He worked in a polymer processing laboratory developing new applications for Polyethylene and Polypropylene in various end-use markets, including packaging, automotive and construction. From 1993 to 1997, he developed eight new products generating \$65 million in revenue annually, wrote over 75 technical reports, and was granted a U.S. Patent (U.S. Patent Number 6,812,286). In 1998, Greg became the manager of Fina's Technical Services group, where he was responsible for engineers and scientists who provide technical assistance to customers. While working in this role, Greg attended the University of Houston-Clear Lake, earning an MBA in 2001.

TOTAL, one of the five international oil majors,

purchased Fina in 2001. Between 2001 and 2009, Greg held various marketing and management roles for TOTAL's Plastics business in Houston. In 2009, he accepted a position in Brussels, Belgium, as vice president of TOTAL's Styrene business, where he directed the global styrene monomer activity, representing over 1 million tons of production and \$2.5 billion in turnover.

Greg returned to Houston in 2013 taking over responsibility for TOTAL's basic chemicals business in North America. The business has an annual turnover of \$5 billion with world scale assets including a 1 million ton flexible feed, steam cracker in Port Arthur, Texas and the world's largest styrene production complex in Carville, Louisiana (1.2 million tons). Greg is also a member of the management committees of two joint ventures TOTAL has with BASF Corporation and Saudi Basic Industries (SABIC) in the United States.

Greg married Staci Althaus (UT BS, ChE, '94) in 1995, and they have been blessed with three daughters. Greg enjoys playing soccer, snow skiing, and backpacking. The family enjoys traveling extensively in Europe and the United States.