



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Kenneth S. Ball, Ph.D., P.E.

Honorary Mechanical Engineer, 2013

BSME, Lehigh University, 1982
MSME, Drexel University, 1984
Ph.D., ME, Drexel University, 1987

Dean

Volgenau School of Engineering
George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

Dr. Kenneth S. Ball is Dean, Volgenau School of Engineering (VSE) at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, appointed in August 2012. He oversees a school comprised of eight academic departments, two multi-disciplinary academic programs, six research centers, and numerous laboratories. VSE employs approximately 200 full-time and 175 part-time faculty members, more than 300 staff members, and over 7500 students (approximately 20% of Mason's total enrollment of 36,000 students). New programs proposed, developed, and approved under Ken's leadership include Bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering and cybersecurity engineering; Master's degrees in data analytics engineering and biostatistics; and the Ph.D. in bioengineering. Total student enrollment in VSE has grown over 70%.

Ken previously served as the L.S. Randolph Professor and head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Virginia Tech from 2004-2012, and was Temple Foundation Endowed Faculty Fellow in Engineering and professor of mechanical engineering at The University of Texas at Austin from 1989-2004. Prior to joining the faculty at UT Austin, Ken was a post-doctoral research associate in applied mathematics at Brown University. Ken is recognized internationally for his research in computational fluid dynamics and heat transfer. He has chaired three international conferences and is a past associate technical editor of the ASME Journal of Heat Transfer. He has published more than 100 technical articles and has obtained funding in excess of \$20M for research projects and program development in engineering, with applications

in biomedical engineering, semiconductor manufacturing and materials processing, nuclear systems, non-proliferation of weapons-grade plutonium and special nuclear materials, homeland security and counter-terrorism.

Ken is a registered professional engineer in the State of Texas, a Fellow of ASME, an Associate Fellow of AIAA, and an active member of ASEE and numerous other professional organizations. He is also very active in engineering program assessment and accreditation activities, both in the U.S. and internationally, particularly in the Middle East. He is an ABET Program Evaluator and a Commissioner on the Engineering Accreditation Commission, and has participated in numerous conferences and workshops related to engineering education and program accreditation. In 2012, he was awarded the Edwin F. Church Medal by ASME for "eminent service in increasing the value, importance, and attractiveness of mechanical engineering education."

Ken and his wife Sandy have four sons: Steven, Owen, Aidan, and Colin. They were all born in Austin, and are proud Texans and avid Longhorn fans. They are all also engineers! Steven earned a BS in bioengineering from Lehigh University in 2014 and a MS in bioarcheology from George Mason University in 2017. Owen earned a BSME from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2015 and a MS in bioengineering from the University of Maryland at College Park in 2015. Aidan and Colin will earn their BSME degrees from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2018.