



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Robert E. Grimes, P.E.

Distinguished Mechanical Engineer, 2018

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1979

MSME, University of Houston, 1989

Technical Advisor

Baker Hughes, a GE company

Robert E. (Bobby) Grimes is a native Texan, born in San Antonio and raised in Houston. He learned to turn wrenches at an early age, first on small motorcycles, then on various muscle cars of the late 1960's. He knew virtually every nut and bolt on his beloved 1970 Mustang, and had many adventures both on- and off-road between bikes and cars on the west side of Houston and around Texas.

After graduating from Memorial High School, he entered The University of Texas at Austin in the fall of 1975 to study mechanical engineering. He did not recognize at first he was following in the footsteps of his father Robert H. Grimes, who returned from WWII in 1945 and earned his BSME from UT Austin. They both took many classes in Taylor Hall. Bobby loved the many fields covered by ME coursework: materials, design, fluids, heat transfer, etc. All these provided him the actual science and understanding for the seat-of-the-pants development he had done on cars and bikes as a youth.

Bobby had several campus interviews in the spring of 1979, the one that seemed most intriguing was at Hughes Tool Company on the east side of downtown Houston. He had no idea he would spend the next four decades in the Oil & Gas drilling industry, specializing in drill bit technology. Hughes Tool became Baker Hughes in 1987, and now Baker Hughes, a GE company (BGHE) in 2017, but it evolved far beyond all the corporate mergers with the myriad advances in computational design and analysis, material science, & testing methodologies over the years. He earned his MSME at University

of Houston from 1987-89. Bobby enjoyed technical and management roles in product design, R&D, CAD/CAM, product management, and application engineering. He has visited most of the major drilling areas around the world, introducing new drill bit product lines and technologies to operators and BHGE engineers. He now serves as a technical advisor for BHGE, leading and serving on product development teams, mentoring earlier career engineers, and leading special projects for customers. He has numerous drill bit related patents and technical papers.

Bobby has been a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers for over 35 years, and has been actively involved in leadership positions at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) for over 25 years. He is currently serving on the ASME Board of Governors (2017-2020).

Bobby is a fellow of ASME, and a registered P.E. in Texas. He received ASME's Frank Walk Service Award (1997); Eckart Service Award (1998); Dean W.R. Woolrich Engineer of the Year Award (2006); IPTI Exceptional Volunteer Award (2009); ASME Distinguished Service Award (2016); and the Geoca Mechanical Engineering Achievement "Oil Drop" Award (2017).

Bobby and Diane were married in 1985 and have two wonderful daughters, Emily and Sally, both married, and one delightful granddaughter, Jane. He feels very blessed indeed.