



Mechanical Engineering  
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

## Thomas J. Fallon

*Charter Member*

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1983  
MBA, The University of Texas at Austin, 1985

CEO  
Infinera

Tom Fallon was born in Indiana and spent his early years moving around the country. As college approached, even though he had never been to Texas, he chose The University of Texas at Austin, as it offered a great engineering education and a tremendous value. It wasn't long before he bled Burnt Orange - falling in love with Austin, The University, Longhorn Football, country music, and chicken fried everything. At UT, Tom learned the process of critical assessment and independent thinking, developing both academic and personal skills. After achieving his BSME, he earned his MBA at UT, hoping to complement his technical foundation with a broader business perspective.

In 1985 he moved to Silicon Valley to participate in the burgeoning high tech industry. His first job was as a process engineer with the iconic Hewlett-Packard Company, building circuit boards for mini computers. After a couple of years he had the opportunity to join Sun Microsystems as they were creating the workstation market. Their explosive growth created opportunities for Tom to have several career-enhancing job changes: supply base engineer, program manager, procurement manager

and materials manager. This broad foundation allowed him to join Cisco Systems as director of materials as Cisco began to create the infrastructure of the internet. This was a life-changing experience.

Tom had several responsibilities at Cisco, including VP of Materials, plant manager, GM of the Optical Business Unit, and corporate VP of Quality. From Cisco, Tom joined Infinera, a start-up building the world's first commercial PIC (photonic integrated circuit) for the DWDM transmission industry. He joined as VP of Operations and became the COO and then the CEO.

Tom and his wife, Shannon (BA Accounting UT), are blessed with five children, two who are also Longhorns. They are active philanthropists in areas of education for the underserved. Tom continues his commitment to UT by participating in both the Engineering Advisory Council and The President's Development Board. The entire Fallon Family feels blessed to be part of the Longhorn community and are grateful for the opportunities created by The University of Texas at Austin. Hook'em!