Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

William F. Schneider

Distinguished Mechanical Engineer, 2019

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1993
MSME, Georgia Institute of Technology, 1995

Structural Dynamics Tech Fellow
Lockheed Martin Corporation

On April 12, 1981, a young and impressionable Bill Schneider experienced the thunderous transmission of acoustic energy across miles of Florida swamp land as it created a memorably strong resonant response in his chest while witnessing the launch of the first Space Shuttle (STS-1). Wiping an unexpected tear from his face, he realized Structural Dynamics was calling him. Bill grew up in Houston, TX in the shadow of NASA's Johnson Space Center and was regularly surrounded by engineers and astronauts. Bill's Dad, a retired NASA engineer and professor, was his inspiration and always fueled his curiosity through hands-on home experiments. Bill is thankful that his Mom, an early childhood education specialist, enthusiastically encouraged and facilitated his experiments/antics.

While studying at The University of Texas at Austin from 1989-1993, Bill is particularly thankful that Professor Billy Wood took him under his wing and provided friendly guidance regarding school and life. The UT Mechanical Engineering curriculum stimulated Bill's growing love for engineering and motivated him to pursue graduate school. In 1995, Bill earned an MSME in Structural Dynamics at the Georgia Institute of Technology with research focused on Eigenvalue Veering and Mode Localization phenomenon. Bill is a member of Tau Beta Pi and was President of Pi Tau Sigma, the Mechanical Engineering Honor Society, during his Senior year at UT. What started here is changing the world.

In 1995, Bill was recruited by Lockheed Martin to work for The Skunk Works in Palmdale, CA. For over two decades, Bill has contributed to the successful development and sustainment of multiple hardware programs, such as F-117, U-2, F-22, X-35, Linear Aerospike SR-71 Experiment (LASRE), JASSM, Polecat, as well as multiple classified efforts. Bill's expertise includes landing gear transient dynamic loads analysis and test programs, rapid motion deployment mechanism dynamics, nonlinear dynamic system simulation and development of vibroacoustic and shock environments. Bill was responsible for the successful development and testing of the highly transient Wing and Tail Deployment System for the AGM-158 Joint Air to Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM) and developed an innovative ground test method for application of simulated air loads using "ply-tear webbing" straps. Bill was the primary researcher/inventor of a pioneering patent for a Multi-Modal Dynamic Resonance Method for Anti-Icing and De-Icing of Aircraft Inlet Grids. This unique method of applying low power tuned vibrational excitation to an air intake grid could provide a discriminating capability for aircraft operations during in-flight icing conditions.

Bill is currently a Structural Dynamics Tech Fellow at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) and an active member of the AIAA Structural Dynamics Technical Committee. Bill annually organizes hands-on STEM outreach efforts during Engineer's Week. He developed and teaches the Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Structural Dynamics class and leverages interactive demonstrations to illustrate key principles. He loves spending time with his energetic and supportive wife, Dawn, and inspiring playful curiosity in their kids: Myra, Max and Vivian. In his spare time, Bill can be found backpacking, coaching baseball or exploring the structural dynamic response of his guitar.