Thank you for reading the SIUE School of Engineering’s newly named publication, J.E. - Engineering, Excellence, Education. We are proud to share recent highlights and points of pride in this annual magazine.

Through the support and dedication of many, the Student Design Center is now on its way to completion. The nearly $6 million price tag posed a real challenge to our goal of building a place where teams of students could work together to bring their projects to life. However, we believe that the building was absolutely necessary, and we are grateful to all who contributed to bringing this goal to reality. We especially want to thank:

• The Fowler family of J.F. Electric who donated $1.25 million toward the completion of our Student Design Center, which will be known as the Fowler Student Design Center
• Ed Grady who provided $1 million to not only support the design center project, but also to provide scholarships for both engineering and business students
• Ralph Horne who allocated $100,000 to go toward the design center project

Note that our Student Design Center campaign has come to a close, and we are working on new development priorities to continue to enrich the educational opportunities.

Other accomplishments the School has seen in 2018:
• We continue to move forward with two new and innovative programs
  • BS program in cybersecurity engineering
  • M.S. program in bioengineering
• We are diligently increasing awareness of the School across the region and the nation
  • A notable increase in female and minority enrollment has shown that our efforts to increase our School’s diversity are paying off
• The School sees a record 381 students graduate during the 2018 academic year
• A notable increase in female and minority enrollment has shown that our efforts to extend our sincere appreciation to those alumni and friends who have offered their support to our School in any form. Your participation allows us to enrich the educational experiences we provide, and helps our students and faculty continue to be recognized for the excellent work they do.

Sincerely,

Cem Karacal, PhD
Director

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

The mission of the School of Engineering is to provide excellent undergraduate and graduate education to citizens of Illinois, the greater St. Louis metropolitan area and representatives of the global community. The School focuses on recruiting undergraduate and graduate programs that serve the needs of full-time students and employed professionals. The faculty conducts basic and applied research and outreach activities in partnership with others who contribute to technological advancement in our fields.

Increasingly high enrollment, rising academic qualifications of applicants, and a nearly 100 percent placement of graduates in the engineering fields are clear testimonies to the quality of engineering education at SIUE.

Since 1982, the School of Engineering has prepared students to meet the growing needs in our region and nation for more engineers, computer scientists and construction managers. During the period of our region, the School has graduated more than 7,000 engineering professionals. More than 60 percent of our graduates have taken positions in the St. Louis metro area.
With off-the-shelf components, and they will progressively improve their technical backgrounds to real systems, Erten said. "Initially, the Cougar Rockets team will build a rocket prototype to test materials and improve the design to make a difference."

"Students will experience teamwork while applying engineering concepts to real systems," Erten said. "SIUE students. … engineering, electrical engineering, industrial engineering, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, computer science, and fiery launches, rocketry holds broad appeal. Charter members of the organization include 35 students from mechanical engineering, civil engineering, computer engineering, electrical engineering, industrial engineering, finance and physics. The organization is open to all SIUE students. … Students will experience teamwork while applying their technical backgrounds to real systems," Erten said. "These holding leadership positions will also learn management skills and planning."

"Initially, the Cougar Rockets team will build a rocket with off-the-shelf components, and they will progressively improve the design of student-designed rocket. They did a great job, and I was very proud of the student effort. However, I think there is room for improvement in future projects."

"They integrated the joystick control into the code Mitch had already developed to do automatic instrument tracking for the project. They didn’t just add the joystick control, they integrated the joystick control into the existing code Mitch had already developed."

"We had built a proof-of-concept prototype, but there was an alternate design based on pneumatics and hydraulics to provide the pan and tilt functions," York said. "For example, a computer science student needs to learn what type of electrical signal is defined by the size and thrust of the rockets," Denn said. "Some of the team members will earn National Association of Rocketry certifications in order to purchase HPR motors and ensure they are complying with safety codes." Erten, who is pursuing his master’s in mechanical engineering, also wants to see the group bring about lasting impact on the School. "I’ve never seen a group as engaged and responsive as the students at SIU. … our goal is to create a design that can be used by hospitals and provide demonstrations to high school students at the School’s Space Day event.""

"The interdisciplinary team aims to develop a system that allows multiple, small cameras to fit inside a single incision between two ribs. Once inside, the cameras are capable of panning, tilting and following the surgeon’s instruments. "The project was funded through an SIU School of Medicine/SIUE Collaboration Support Grant. "The students worked hard all spring and summer to develop a prototype, which is a pneumatics- joystick driven method of panning and tilting the camera," York said. "They integrated the joystick control into the code Mitch had already developed to do the automatic instrument tracking for the project. They did a great job, and I was very fortunate to have them work on the project."
students attending SIUE will begin spring 2020. A School of Engineering faculty member will teach a River Delta. It is located in the center of the Yangtze a provincial public university, which is characterized by students to earn a degree from a U.S. institution. CIT is the university is located in a culturally rich, industrialized Gu believes the relationship with CIT is desirable because to CIT for one semester, earning a degree from semesters, and come to SIUE for two years, then return program director, and director of new program mechatronics and robotics engineering cooperative "One of the first programs we are offering is a Bachelor's program," said Keqin Gu, PhD, distinguished research professor of mechanical engineering, PhD "I enjoyed the group activity most," said Tianna Sherman, junior industrial engineering major from Washington, Ill. "However, the unstructured moments open for free discussion between the mentor and students were most beneficial. I gained valuable advice regarding interviewing and job searching."

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The event also included the following guest speakers to discuss the current state and future role of autonomous vehicles in personal and commercial transportation:

• Alonzo Byrd, assistant vice president, public affairs, of Enterprise Holdings Inc. in St. Louis. Byrd, BS mass communications '81, develops and executes strategic corporate public policy initiatives.

"Through the years, the ERTC has established a strong presence in Illinois that has positioned us for growth," Maas said. "As an employee of Missouri American Water, I was always extremely impressed with the new hires trained through the ERTC," Maas said. "The success of this program and the opportunity to develop innovative solutions for the opening of future water and wastewater operators made the position highly attractive."

"A relationship with CIT will contribute substantially to the diversity and international exposure of the ERTC student population, and create opportunities for SIUE students and faculty members to gain international experience," Gu said.

Maas also believes the ERTC’s assets, combined with knowledgeable staff, create excellent opportunities for growth and development both inside and outside the University. This year, ERTC worked with the Department of Chemistry, the Department of Biological Sciences and the NCERC at SIUE on projects such as pharmaceuticals in the water, algal growth, watershed management and legionella testing. Externally, new business relationships were established in Chicago and St. Louis that provided paid internships for those already employed in such systems seeking additional education. In addition, the ERTC offers courses for licensees in water management and legislation training.

ERTC WELCOMES MAAS AS NEW DIRECTOR

Since 1977, the Environmental Resource Training Center (ERTC) at SIUE has been equipping students with the job skills and resources needed to thrive in the water industry. It offers specialized courses for both entry-level personnel who are preparing for a career in drinking water and wastewater treatment systems, and those already employed in such systems seeking additional education. In addition, the ERTC offers courses for licensees in water management and legislation training.

Maas said, "The unique combination of classroom and hands-on training provided by the ERTC will position students to take advantage of those opportunities," he said.

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Externally, new business relationships were established in Chicago and St. Louis that provided paid internships for ERTC students. The ERTC also added new speaking engagements and conferences to promote the program. The ERTC is designated by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) as the center for training of water and wastewater operators in the state of Illinois. In November, the NRP awarded a $1.23 million grant with the ERTC to support training programs and infrastructure upgrade at the center.

"Through the years, the ERTC has established a strong presence in Illinois that has positioned us for growth," Maas said. "The unique combination of classroom and hands-on training provided by the ERTC will position students to take advantage of those opportunities," he said.
INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM RESEARCHES SYSTEM TO ANALYZE CARDIAC RISK

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, and the School of Engineering is leading research to develop a new system to identify risk of cardiac events. An American Heart Association grant supports the research, which is being led by Jon Klingensmith, PhD, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering. Klingensmith’s primary background is in ultrasound signal processing and coronary imaging.

Closely collaborating on the project is Maria Fernandez del Valle, PhD, an expert on obesity and the use of intervention to affect the deposits of fat around internal organs. Closely collaborating on the project is Maria Fernandez del Valle, PhD, an expert on obesity and the use of intervention to affect the deposits of fat around internal organs.

The team is developing a cost-effective system that could be widely deployed for evaluating cardiac fat and less expensive, “This could make measurement of cardiac fat a standard diagnostic test for risk of heart attack.” Klingensmith said. “This could make measurement of cardiac fat a standard diagnostic test for risk of heart attack.”

One study in the result of a 2013 wildfire that burned out riparian vegetation, such as cottonwood and willow trees, along the South Fork Boise River in Idaho. Modeling can predict where cottonwood trees would be naturally recruited. If conditions are not suitable for natural recruitment, the question becomes where to plant in order to restore the riparian ecosystem. The answer lies in Benjamin’s spatially distributed hydrological model to simulate cottonwood seeding recruitment along rivers, which has been published in the Journal of Environmental Management.

RESEARCHERS RECEIVE FUNDING TO ADVANCE TELEPRESENCE ROBOT

Fat simply, a telepresence robot being created at SIUE functions like “walking Skype.” And, while the end goal is simplicity for users in a classroom setting, the critical thinking and technological design and development involved in its creation are complex.

The Dugald McGregor, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, along with his team of graduate and undergraduate research students. The team is adding advanced capabilities to their telepresence robot, including the ability to interact with existing classroom technology, such as projectors.

Put simply, a telepresence robot being created at SIUE functions like “walking Skype.” And, while the end goal is simplicity for users in a classroom setting, the critical thinking and technological design and development involved in its creation are complex.

The technology can bring powerful, effective teaching to areas that may be otherwise inaccessible,” Zhang said. "The technology can bring powerful, effective teaching to areas that may be otherwise inaccessible.”

According to Zhang, the platform offers an innovative way to fulfill instructional needs and support positive learning outcomes. According to Zhang, the platform offers an innovative way to fulfill instructional needs and support positive learning outcomes.

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The novel model could be used beyond hospitals, such as in weight-loss clinics and other facilities with properly trained personnel, to increase its accessibility and, thus, its benefits. “This volumetric model will be useful not only to assess the effects of different types of exercise, but also other strategies such as diet, drugs, bariatric surgery and more,” Fernandez del Valle said. “The impact of this project is significant, as results have the potential to change exercise recommendations for weight loss, and cardiac risk management, and cardiac health.”

Graduate students from the Schools of Engineering and Education, Health and Human Behavior, and undergraduate-student studying exercise science are playing an integral role in the research.

“This is a unique opportunity for students that will enhance their academic experience,” Klingensmith said. “By being involved in this interdisciplinary work, our student researchers will participate in an applied-learning setting, gain opportunities to establish a network by making corporate connections, and develop interpersonal skills.”

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said Cem Karacal, PhD, dean of the School. “Our students are already known for complementing their command of theory with hands-on competency,” Grady said. “Both were key in my personal success at SIUE. They pushed and encouraged me when things were tough and were engaged in my learning experience.”

Ed Grady

Civil engineering alumnus Ed Grady, BS ’72, demonstrated his support of the SDC and said the foundation for its success was partially contributed $300,000, the first private donation toward the project. Through a recent, additional $400,000 gift, Grady acquired interior naming rights of the second floor. Rooms will be named after him, and at his request, after Alfred Korn, PhD, and Harry Duffey, PhD, pioneering emeriti professors of civil engineering.

“Dr. Korn and Dr. Duffey were two of the people, along with others, who proved the value and validity of the School of Engineering,” Grady said. “Both were key in my personal success at SIUE. They pushed and encouraged me when things were tough and were engaged in my learning experience.”

Grady has high hopes for SIUE engineering students and believes the SDC will elevate the School as a premier educational institution across the nation. He also graciously donated $500,000 to create two endowed scholarships that will support entrepreneurship among engineering professionals.

The Fowler Family

The Fowler family donated $1.25 million, the largest single cash investment in the School’s history. Subsequently, the SIU Board of Trustees approved Fowler Student Design Center as the new building name.

“This advancement of the School is propelled by the incredible contributions and faithful support of distinguished alumni,” said Cem Karacal, PhD, dean of the School of Engineering. “Their support helps us excel in educating future technology leaders.”

• Acknowledgement in the Honor Roll of Donors among the University’s leading contributors
• Receipt of the School of Engineering quarterly newsletter

For more information on the Dean’s Society, contact the School at 618-650-2541.
In its third year, the School of Engineering’s eHacks competition has allowed approximately 200 college students from around the region to produce unique, marketable and intuitive devices, mobile applications or computer programs. At the 48-hour competition, known as a hackathon, engineers and recruiters from St. Louis’ leading tech companies served as the event’s judges and networked with students.

This year’s event challenged close to 90 participants to build something new with software and computer hardware. The winning team from SIUE’s College of Arts and Sciences created a mobile graffiti app, artDrop. Eli Ball, a senior studying computer science, helped organize this year’s competition.

“Planning the competition is a year-round event,” Ball said. “As a volunteer, it forces you to step back and figure out how to host an event that encourages every participant to make their best project.”

Ball and two fellow School of Engineering students won the 2017 eHacks competition with their creative application, Photo Code, a system of educational tools used to teach kids with no programming experience.

“Core programming concepts and skills to kids with no programming experience.” Anderson currently is pursuing his master’s in computer science at SIUE. Since his 2016 eHacks win, he has helped organize the 2017 and 2018 eHacks events.

“A real testament to the value our participants see in eHacks is that they return as volunteers to make the experience available to others,” said Dennis Bouvier, PhD, associate professor of computer science and faculty advisor for the hackathon. “We couldn’t have this event without them.”

The competition quickly outgrew its first home on the SIUE campus and moved to the downtown St. Louis’ T-REX Innovation Center in 2017.

“The competition is a great place for eHacks. It offers a co-working space with high-speed Internet and allows students to see where business start-ups happen,” Bouvier said.

T-REX is a great place for startups. It offers a co-working space with high-speed Internet and allows students to see where business start-ups happen,” Bouvier said.

The fourth annual eHacks competition will take place March 8-10, 2019, at T-REX.

ENGINEERING STUDENTS SECURE TOP TWO SPOTS IN “THEOTHER40” BUSINESS COMPETITION

School of Engineering seniors Dylan Mueth, of Waterloo, Ill., and Eli Ball, of Rockford, Ill., stunned judges with their business plans and earned first and second place at SIUE’s eighth annual “TheOther40” Competition.

Hosted by the School of Business, “TheOther40” Business Plan Competition allows SIUE students the opportunity to take a business idea into stages needed to launch a product or service. Participants have access to business resources and develop entrepreneurial skills over the three-month process. “TheOther40” derives its name from data that shows approximately 60 percent of startups fail within five years. The program’s goal is to find, engage and support “the other 40” percent.

Dylan Mueth, a civil engineering major, captured first place and won $5,000 to fund his start-up, VAST Produce. Given the global water crisis and demand for food, along with the explosive world population, VAST Produce aims to market a sustainable, aquaponics system for local growers of fish and produce.

“Aquaculture, the growing of fish, and hydroponics, the soil-less growing of fruits and vegetables, have been around for centuries, but the combination of the two is relatively new,” Mueth said. “This combination allows the two systems to gain the nutrients needed from each other.”

VAST Produce’s uniquely designed aquaponics grow towers will use one-tenth less water and require a fraction of the space as traditional growing techniques. The system will initially be designed for the production of tilapia and lettuce, and marketed to local restaurants and grocery stores.

Ball, a computer science major, won second place with his pitch for Midway Spark. The start-up looks to push the limits of human-machine interaction by creating interactive digital systems that use speech, emotions and virtual characters to build engaging experiences. The core technology is re-usable for different uses and can be deployed to phones, mobile apps and websites.

Ball pushed his entrepreneurial skills further and entered Saint Louis University’s Pitch & Cash Investor Pitch Desk Competition held at Busch Stadium in downtown St. Louis. At the event, Ball introduced a voice-activated virtual tour guide for zoos that interacts with guests. The software can replace ineffective signs with an engaging and educational virtual tour guide.

Upon graduation, Ball hopes to turn Midway Spark into a full-fledged business and pursue graduate studies in artificial intelligence and machine learning. Ball encourages other people to develop creative solutions to life’s problems.

“We see problems every day. Some are big and we have no idea how to tackle them, but most are small quirks that get on our nerves,” Ball said. “If you see something that could be better, there is no reason that you cannot come up with a solution.”

“T-REX is a great place for startups. It offers a co-working space with high-speed Internet and allows students to see where business start-ups happen,” Bouvier said.

“If you see something that could be better, there is no reason that you cannot come up with a solution.”
HEISE INDUCTED INTO ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

SIUE honored the School of Engineering’s Angela L. Heise, BS computer science ’96, at the Alumni Hall of Fame ceremony in September.

Heise is president of the Civil Group at Leidos in Reston, Va. She is responsible for providing solutions to U.S. Cabinet-level civil agencies and major elements of the public and private sectors across the globe. Since 2016, she has led the 10,000-person, $3.6 billion business focusing on information technology and cybersecurity, air traffic automation, energy and the environment, federal infrastructure and logistics, and transportation security.

“Female representation in computer science and other engineering fields continues to lag behind,” said Cem Karacal, PhD, dean of the School of Engineering. “Our School, and the field of engineering, is lifted by the achievements of alumnae such as Angela. The number of people she has worked with and magnitude of projects she has managed are strong indicators of her skills.”

Heise previously worked at Lockheed Martin for 19 years, where she was vice president of commercial markets. She is also an alumna of Harvard Business School’s Advanced Management Program.

Despite being one of only two females in her computer science classes at SIUE, Heise said her professors gave her the gift of feeling nothing but equal and empowered.

“I want to thank SIUE for that gift, because it meant I entered the professional world not knowing any differently,” Heise said. “It meant that every job that I took, I raised my hand and I always used my voice.

“For the 10,000-person company I have the distinct privilege of representing every day, I give employees the same sense of inclusion and encourage them to use their voices to make the world better.”

Heise is committed to promoting STEM career options, particularly among young girls and minorities. Her strong foundation of ethics and integrity guide her in all she does, ensuring that she always treats people with kindness and respect.

Heise was recently named to WashingtonExec’s Top 25 Executives to Watch, in what has been dubbed “The Year of the Transformational Leader.” She also was recognized in 2013 as one of Federal Computing Week’s Top 100 Executives and in 2012 as one of Aviation Week’s Top 40 Under 40.

ALUMNI AMONG RISING STARS OF THEIR FIELDS

Each year, the St. Louis Business Journal celebrates a group of rising stars in their respective fields, who have been nominated among hundreds of their peers. Known as the “40 Under 40,” the honorees are featured in the publication and celebrated at an awards dinner.

Mike Machal, BS Construction Management ’94
President, Richard Construction Services
2012 “40 Under 40”

Ryan Freeman, BS Mechanical Engineering ’04
Vice President of Operations, McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.
2015 “40 Under 40”

Matthew J. Plum, BS Construction Management ’96
Senior Vice President, Turbon Corporation
2013 “40 Under 40”

Aaron Dolms, BS Mechanical Engineering ’05
Mechanical Engineer, Woodport Engineering
2018 “40 Under 40”

Tobía Taarnøren, MS Computer Engineering ’05
Founder and CEO, Girl Interrupted, LLC
2015 “40 Under 40”

William Stehman, BS Civil Engineering ’03
Director of Engineering and Construction, America’s Central Port
2017 “40 Under 40”

Devin Gatts, BS Construction Management ’10
Project Manager, Paris Corporation
2018 “40 Under 40”

Ryan Pantiker, BS Construction Management ’05
Vice President of Project Management, Pantiker Construction Company
2018 “40 Under 40”

Jonathan Fowler, MS Electrical Engineering ’10
Vice President, J.F. Electric
2018 “40 Under 40”

Devin Gates, BS Construction Management ’10
Project Manager, Paric Corporation
2018 “40 Under 40”

Tolga Tanriseven, MS Computer Engineering ’03
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ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

Jim Heinz
BS Construction Management ’83
Vice President, MC Hotel Construction
School of Engineering Advisory Board

Why do you serve on this board?
The construction management degree I received from SIUE allowed me access to a very rewarding career. From the
beginning, I have felt a great deal of gratitude for the education I received at SIUE and wanted to pay the School back in
the best way I could.

What are the School’s best strengths? How does the School benefit this region?
The engineering education at SIUE is excellent. I would argue that the education the students get is just as strong,
if not stronger, than what is offered at other universities. The cost of the education also makes it a great value for
students of all walks of life. The School continues to raise the bar and attract top students from across the region.

Vicki LaRose
BS Civil Engineering ’90
President, Civil Design, Inc.
Civil Engineering Industrial and Professional Advisory Council (IPAC), School of Engineering Advisory Board

Describe your relationship with the SIUE School of Engineering.
I have been involved with the IPAC for several years. I helped fundraise for the new Student Design Center. Our
company has hosted several senior design classes, and we have had many interns from the School.

Why do you serve on these boards?
It is a way to give back to the School that shaped my career and the person I am today. I love going back on campus
and interacting with the students who will be our industry’s future.

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and interacting with the students who will be our industry’s future.

How has the School addressed the challenges the industry is currently facing?
The School of Engineering has listened to the needs of industry and worked together with other schools to offer the
classes needed to respond to these trends.

Daniel Crain
BS Industrial Engineering ’07, MS Industrial Engineering ’14
Director of Operations, Henkel Corporation
Industrial Engineering Advisory Board

Describe your involvement with the SIUE School of Engineering.
Since I earned my bachelor’s, I have recruited and mentored multiple students. As an employer, I have provided
real-world opportunities for senior design projects. These projects give students the opportunity to apply the theories,
knowledge and skills they have learned and developed at SIUE to real industry problems.

Why do you serve on this board?
It is my privilege to serve the School and its students. SIUE is not just about the curriculum. It is the culture, the
students and the faculty that truly make the difference. This is my opportunity to be a part of the culture that makes
SIUE an amazing institution.

What challenges is your industry currently facing?
Companies are under a lot of pressure to find new ways of producing goods with higher quality in a sustainable
manner. Companies are looking for technical leaders to help solve these complex problems. The industrial engineering
program offers students the knowledge to solve these problems by blending traditional engineering skills with Lean Six
Sigma methodologies to create highly technical leaders to successfully apply fundamental changes to manufacturing.

See the complete list of board and council members at siue.edu/engineering-advisory-board.
PASSION FOR LEARNING AND ENGINEERING LEAD TO KORTE’S SUPPORT

“Always give them more than expected.”

It’s a philosophy Ralph Korte, BS business ’68, stands behind, and one that has fostered the success of The Korte Company, which he founded in 1958. Today, The Korte Company is a nationally recognized industry leader with more than 1,800 jobs completed across the nation and an annual construction volume of $250 million.

“I’ve been blessed with good success and health,” Korte said. “I truly believe our company could not be where it is today but for my degree in business from SIUE.”

Korte has contributed over $1 million to the SIUE Schools of Business and Engineering, and to the University as a whole. He led fundraising efforts for Ralph Korte Stadium, an Olympic-quality track and field facility at SIUE; funded the Ralph and Donna Korte Alumni Wing at SIUE’s Birger Hall; and has established and served on boards and committees providing leadership and inspiration as SIUE has grown.

After returning from the Korean War, Korte began studying at SIUE in 1959 to take advantage of the G.I. Bill compensation benefits. He attended tuition-free classes by night while building his construction business by day.

“I charged my customers $2.50 an hour, and I could make $2.35 an hour by sitting in the classroom and learning,” Korte said. “I started taking courses in business. The professors recognized that I had my own business and made it a point to engage with me, which made it all quite interesting.”

“Korte/Korte Scholarship Endowment for Construction Management”

“Ralph has been one of the School of Engineering’s best advocates for many years,” said Cem Karacil, PhD, dean of the School. “With his passion for learning and helping others, he consistently has gone above and beyond to ensure our School is developing leaders in the construction industry.”

The Korte Company

The Korte Company is a nationally recognized industry leader with more than 1,800 jobs completed across the nation and an annual construction volume of $250 million. It is a philosophy that Ralph Korte, BS business ’68, stands behind, and one that has fostered the success of The Korte Company, which he founded in 1958. Today, The Korte Company is a nationally recognized industry leader with more than 1,800 jobs completed across the nation and an annual construction volume of $250 million.

“I’ve been blessed with good success and health,” Korte said. “I truly believe our company could not be where it is today but for my degree in business from SIUE.”

Korte has contributed over $1 million to the SIUE Schools of Business and Engineering, and to the University as a whole. He led fundraising efforts for Ralph Korte Stadium, an Olympic-quality track and field facility at SIUE; funded the Ralph and Donna Korte Alumni Wing at SIUE’s Birger Hall; and has established and served on boards and committees providing leadership and inspiration as SIUE has grown.

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“Taking two evening classes a week, Korte earned his degree in nine years. Had SIUE offered an engineering program at the time, he likely would have pursued an engineering degree instead. His passion for the industry has tied him closely to the University, and to the School of Engineering since its establishment.

“Of all the ways I’ve been involved at SIUE, what I’m proudest of is leading the effort to implement the construction management program,” he said. “It took three years to develop and get approved. Now it’s known nationwide in the construction industry.”

In 2008, to honor Korte’s career and retirement, The Korte Company established the Ralph Korte Scholarship Endowment for Construction Management.

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