Donald Novotny
Emeritus Professor
UW-Madison, College of Engineering

What is your favorite Madison/campus memory?
Being promoted to tenure in the early 1960’s.

What has helped you achieve success in your career?
Doing things that I really like to do, mainly teaching.

Outside of class, what experiences did you find most meaningful?
Interacting and mentoring with graduate students.

What excites you about the future of Engineering?
The changes in what is happening to engineering technology.

Besides engineering, do you have another passion you have pursued or would have liked to pursue given the time?
I always thought I missed the boat by not becoming a geologist. Nowadays, I spend a lot of time driving around Wisconsin, and I am continually fascinated by the geological features and how they were created.

Who was an influential peer/professor from your time at UW-Madison?
James Skiles. He introduced me to the University Industry Research Program and to Department administration which played important roles in the creation of Wisconsin Electric Machines and Power Electronics Consortium (WEMPEC).

What are you most proud of in life? What is your greatest achievement?
I am most proud of my family, which now goes all the way down to great grandchildren. In addition to my family, creating WEMPEC is my most satisfying achievement. I am happy to see WEMPEC is still a vibrant and successful internationally renowned power electronics and electric machines research group.

What would be your advice to current students? What do you wish you had known?
During your studies and after graduation, do something you have a passion for and enjoy.