Kenneth Phillips  
*Retired from Rockwell Automation*

**What is your favorite Madison/campus memory?**  
I remember being much older than the other students, because I came to Madison after spending two years in the Army. Other than that though, I was struck by the beauty of the campus, and I am now looking forward to the new Alumni Park.

**What has helped you achieve success in your career?**  
A positive attitude, giving back, and having passion for what I did.

**Outside of class, what experiences did you find most meaningful?**  
I had a difficult time at UW and I had to study quite a bit. I was quite serious about graduating as quickly as possible and learning as much as I could to be prepared for the workforce.

**What excites you about the future of Engineering?**  
Engineering is moving towards a more multi-disciplined career. More and more, collaboration between electrical, mechanical, chemical, etc. engineering is becoming the norm.

**Besides engineering, do you have another passion you have pursued or would have liked to pursue given the time?**  
I enjoy being outside and gardening with my wife, listening to jazz music, and learning about the different architecture throughout Wisconsin; Frank Lloyd Wright architecture in particular. My wife and I, at our age, we look for ways to use the skills we have in order to make a difference in other people’s lives.

**Who was an influential peer/professor from your time at UW-Madison?**  
Donald Novotny, Bob Lorenz, Tom Jahns, and Tom Lipo. They are realists and conduct practical research. They want to benefit industry, and interact with practicing engineers to learn about the problems they are facing.

**What are you most proud of in life? What is your greatest achievement?**  
I am very proud of our children and the contribution they make in this world. They are financially independent, caring and kind people, passionate about what they do, and are very active in their communities. Regarding my career, I feel I have had a positive impact on many of the people I was thankful to work with and mentor.

**What would be your advice to current students? What do you wish you had known?**  
It’s going to go real fast; faster than you can believe. I enjoyed every minute of it and it was hard for me to finally make the decision to retire.