

THE 33RD ENGINEERS

A VIRTUAL 70TH REUNION



Wil Kupfrian in 1933 (far right) and in 2003 with his wife, Laura

THE CLASS OF 1933 HAS CONTINUOUSLY maintained friendships that began when they arrived at Newark College of Engineering. At first, as alumni, they met annually. After a gala 25th anniversary party, the group decided upon five-year reunions. When the 60th reunion was lightly attended by classmates then in their eighties, Wil Kupfrian initiated an annual “round robin” letter campaign to keep the 33rd Engineers in touch. Wil has helped the 33rd Engineers become one of NJIT’s closest-knit classes, as well as one of the most generous in supporting the university.

To mark the 70th anniversary of the 33rd Engineers, NJIT administrators helped the class put together a “virtual reunion,” visiting class members and recording comments for a special yearbook that can be seen on NJIT’s Website at www.njit.edu/alumni/33rdindex.php. Following are some reflections from this singular class.

Joseph S. Bodjo had a long career in manufacturing and maintaining electronic equipment, primarily for oil exploration.

Frederick M. Coppersmith spent 40 years with the Dutch Boy National Lead Company, becoming expert in the use of lead oxide, a major component of batteries.

Edward Haldeman joined Prudential Insurance Co., rising to vice president during his 43-year career.

Miles Kunz became director of quality control for Weston. Sadly, he passed away shortly after participating in the 70th reunion of the 33rd Engineers.

Wilbur J. Kupfrian attended law school after NCE and practiced patent law before establishing Kupfrian Manufacturing Company.

James W. McEwan was a safety engineer with

companies that included Continental Insurance Company, Parkell Engineering, Elwell-Parker Electric Company and Creative Handling Co. **Samuel L. Shaw**, hired by S.H. Kress & Co. after graduation, also worked for W.H. Lefingwell, consultants in office management. Returning to Kress, he retired as national advertising director. **Carmen D. Strohl** spent 45 years in the chemical industry and retired as plant manager for resin manufacturing at Ashland Oil in Florida.

NJIT: What are your fondest memories of NCE, or how did your education serve you in your career?

Bodjo: I started in Newark Technical School — going to school at night. When the Depression came, I decided to go full time because I couldn’t get a job. Part of the time, I was a boiler engineer — I had to get a license to operate a boiler because I needed the money. One professor, he had a class in architecture, and they hit on everything in that course.

Kupfrian: My fondest memories include attaining a leadership role among my classmates that gave me influence to do things for NCE. As president of the sophomore class, for example, I was helpful in terminating the traditional but disdained hazing of freshmen, a change which pleased President Cullimore.

I could never have attained my professional and financial status without NCE. I had been a high school dropout who had worked a few years, and had been accumulating high school credits, many of which were not officially recognized. Dr. Cullimore offered me admission to NCE upon fulfillment of a year’s further attendance at the night-time affiliate, Newark Technical School.

Shaw: The fondest memory is probably getting through my freshmen year. It was real difficult. From there on it was a wonderful experience. At Newark College of Engineering, there wasn't much partying. We thought they were driving us too hard, but it panned out. NCE without a doubt prepared me well for the business world and I am grateful.

Coppersmith: NCE not only gave me great academics, but the nitty gritty of things — the basics, the practicality that one would need. NCE gave you the ability to handle the people that worked for you.

I was taught that I was never better than the work force, and that to supervise people you've got to be able to do their jobs as well as they did, or better.

McEwan: I went to NCE with some high school friends. Most kids went far away to college, but I liked being close to my home. My father was paying for all the expenses and he was having a rough time. I think it was a great factor in the marketplace that I had an engineering degree.

Strohl: We had a remarkably broad education in engineering. While I was a chemical engineer, we were exposed to civil, mechanical and electrical engineering. Those broad experiences were extremely helpful in my career as a plant manager.

Haldeman: I joined a fraternity, Alpha Kappa Pi, and was on the track team. NCE sure taught me how to write a report. It served me well in later years.

Kunz: I attended NCE at night during the Depression and lived on hot dogs every night between work and school. I still love hot dogs. My NCE education started me on a successful career as an electrical engineer, providing me with secure employment and the opportunity to raise my children and send them to college. ■



"Kup"

WILBUR J. KUPFRIAN
A K II
Trunnion

158 Kipp Ave., Hasbrouck Heights, N. J.

Course: Mechanical Engineering.

Cooperative Concern: Ramsey and Kent.

Activities: President of Class, 1, 2; President of Photo Club, 1, 2; Vice-President of Radio Club, 1; Radio Club, 2; Student Council, 1, 2, 3, 4; Secretary Student Council, 2; President Student Council, 4; Editor Technician, 3; Press Board, 1, 2; A. S. M. E., 2, 3, 4; Vice-President A. S. M. E., 3; President A. S. M. E., 4; Athletic Association, 1, 2; Class Football, 2; Glee Club, 1, 2, 3; Rifle Club, 3; Intramural Basketball League, 1, 2; Discussion Forum, 1.

Wilbur is the big business man of the class. In his four years at the college he has probably held more offices than any other fellow. A glance at the above list of activities will prove that statement. A point to be noted is that his scholastic work has not suffered because of his interest in other work. Oh, yes! He is a radio fan too. Ever hear W2BVA? We understand that Kup is going to study law after graduating. If he goes into these studies with the enthusiasm and ability that he has displayed at N. C. E., he can be assured of success. We wish you the best of luck, old man, and may opportunity come your way!