

Harry W. Lange, MI Z '75

Endowment for the Michigan Zeta Chapter at Kettering University

hARRY LANGE'S INVOLVEMENT with Tau Beta Pi has spanned a good portion of his life, and he notes that his parents were an important part of his support network from the start. "My parents drove 180 miles from Gaylord, MI, to attend the initiation banquet—they had to spend a night in a hotel, and they never did that, so this was a big deal for all of us." Harry became an active member in his chapter attending the 1973 Convention in Gainesville, FL, and then was the Co-Arrangements Chair in 1974 when his chapter hosted the Convention in Flint, MI.

While Harry initially followed the career path of a General Motors engineer, his true passion lay with the world of investments. As an eight-year-old, he accompanied his father to meetings of an investment club where members would pay \$10 each month, meet to discuss investments, and then vote on which stocks to buy. Even when his father dropped out, Harry stayed a member seeing the possibilities for increasing one's wealth with no manual labor by investing in stocks, as he experienced with an early investment in AT&T.

Upon graduation with a degree in mechanical engineering, Harry worked as a senior structural engineer on the 1984 Corvette program noting that driving them was a lot of fun. General Motors paid for Harry to attend Harvard Business School. While completing Harvard's loan application, he noted that they asked not about his income (considerable) but about his parents' employment income which was small as they had retired by this time. Able to receive sizeable loans, he invested much of this in the stock market in 1981-82. Following graduation with his MBA, Harry worked for four years at two investment firms. His first day at Fidelity was on Monday, October 19, 1987, now known as Black Monday, the first day of the stock market crash. Harry enjoyed his time at Fidelity noting that in 1988-92 he lived in Tokyo and was their director of research and that in 1992-96, three of his technology funds were included in a listing of all-time greatest funds. Harry wound up his career at Fidelity as manager of the Magellan Fund, one of the best-known funds in America, from 2005-11.

He is currently owner and chairman of an all-inclusive resort in Negril, Jamaica, spending much of his time on the island and also at his home in Miami Beach, FL. Harry notes that the improvements he is making at his resort are inspired by business leaders and innovators including Steve Jobs/Steve Wozniak from Apple, Inc., and Jack Welch, former Chairman/CEO of General Electric. Harry notes that Steve Jobs came up with products that people

did not know they wanted and that Jack Welch's introduction and application of Six Sigma for quality improvement changed GE's culture and ability to focus on process improvement. Harry applies those lessons to his business, asking himself, "What can you provide that your customers aren't aware they want?" and "How can we provide consistent quality when delivering a service or product making sure nothing slips through the cracks?"

Harry has continued his involvement with Tau Beta Pi attending Conventions since 2009 and in the past several years talking to students about investments and personal financial management as one of our professional development speakers. In 2010, Harry spoke at a TBPi alumni gathering in Naples, FL, on the topic of investing and his work at Fidelity. With several others, Harry participated in the Vision Development Group which met from 2011-12 and has also been a member of the Trust Advisory Council (TAC) since 2007.



Raise Awareness

Harry made his commitment of \$100,000 to endow Michigan Zeta at Kettering University to raise awareness and the importance of Tau Beta Pi at his alma mater. He also wanted the chapter to have one member of each section at Convention to help unite them as Michigan Zeta has two student chapters being a work co-op program (half the students are working when the other half are in

school). He also wanted to support chapter projects and encourage alumni to be more involved.

Harry's advice to the engineering students of today is to dream big. Growing up in a small community of 1,500 gave limited perspective on career options other than those that were obvious, such as being a fireman. Harry wanted to be President of the United States because at the time he was not aware that other positions existed. As he grew older and became more experienced he saw the possibilities and noted that he consistently stayed on the fast-track. "It's important when young to never do anything that will rule out something possible in your future. As you embark on your education and career, keep your options open. Don't drop out of science classes or important liberal arts courses such as English. Keep your options and avenues open because you don't know what the future is going to bring."

Harry and his wife, Hiroko, are avid ballroom dancers and also enjoy trips to Napa Valley for annual winetasting events. He has three children: Sarah, 32, a lawyer, Josh, 29, a software engineer for Microsoft, and Julia, 27, who is attending Washington University Medical School.