

Barbara K. and Ralph A. Rockow,

Endowment for the Ohio Gamma Chapter at The Ohio State University **OH Γ '58**

Ralph and Barbara Rockow have shared a long history with The Ohio State University beginning with their graduation in 1958. Ralph earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in mechanical engineering and Barbara earned a B.S. in education. Ralph and Barbara have enabled opportunities and enriched experiences for numerous students through their association with the university. In 2015, they were awarded the Reese Medal by Ohio State. This is its highest honor in recognition of private philanthropy.

Ralph has served on the Foundation Board and the Alumni Advisory Council and has remained dedicated to the engineering college through service on the advisory board and campaign committees. He received the Ohio State Alumni Association's Citizenship Award in 1991, the John B. Gerlach Sr. Development Volunteer Award in 1999, and the university's Distinguished Service Award in 2003. Ralph is an enthusiastic supporter of the electric racecar student design team and has contributed to curriculum reform in mechanical and aerospace engineering.

Ralph and Barbara have been actively involved with the Ohio State Alumni Club of Phoenix, hosting engagements, raising funds to name "The Arizona Room" in Longaberger Alumni House, and made a leadership gift to name the facility's boardroom. Early in his career, Ralph worked at Atomics International, a division of Rockwell International, where he was responsible for the test and evaluation of the SNAP 2, 4, and 10 nuclear reactors. SNAP 10 was the first nuclear reactor launched into earth orbit by the U.S. Space Program.

Ralph then served as a Manager for Space Technology Laboratories/TRW, Inc., where he performed theoretical heat transfer analyses on the Titan, Atlas, and Minuteman Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Programs, as well as being responsible for a portion of the design of aft heat shields on the ICBMs. He provided overall systems engineering and technical direction to the Minuteman program and served as program engineer for development of a major portion of the LEMDE Descent Engine (this is the rocket engine that provided the retro-braking that safely returned the *Apollo 13* crew to earth at the end of their aborted mission).

Ralph was General Manager and Vice President of Dynamic Science, Inc. (DSI) under Marshall Industries and Ultrasystems, Inc. Under his guidance, DSI was selected by the U.S. Department of Transportation to take a major role in advancing the state-of-the-art of safety in auto-

motive vehicles. DSI has been involved with the design, development, test, and performance of air bag restraint systems since 1971. At DSI, under contract for the U.S. Army, Ralph was responsible for designing a crashworthy fuel system for combat helicopters that significantly mitigated post-crash fire fatalities in the Vietnam War.

From 1976 to 1982, Ralph worked at Talley Industries, Inc. and as Group President was involved in acquisitions, creating new starts, and divestitures. He also re-staffed subsidiaries to change losses into profits.

As Founder and President of Exodyne, Inc., Ralph now oversees three wholly owned subsidiaries (Exodyne Properties, Inc., Dynamic Science, Inc., and Dynamic Educational Systems, Inc.) with diverse products and some 500 employees.



"Basic Tools"

Ralph shares his advice for the students of today noting, "I have found in my career path that the engineering degree provides one with the basic tools for solving problems regardless of the discipline being reviewed. In other words, it gives us the ability to diagnose a given problem by studying the key issues involved. For example, the solution process, whether it be a new engineering design, talking to a banker, an attorney, medical doctor, or

salesman, the solution boils down to solving a significant situation one small element at a time."

Over the years, Ralph has re-engaged with TBPI through serving on the Vision Development Group which met from 2011-12 and through his and Barbara's attendance at alumni gatherings in Phoenix, AZ. He gave the keynote address at the final banquet of the 2013 Convention in Ames, IA.

Ralph and Barbara support the entire Tau Beta Pi organization by providing monetary reserves to help engineering students achieve their educational goals. He remembers the important scholarship he received from Standard Oil of Ohio for \$2,000 to complete the combined bachelor and master's degrees in mechanical engineering at The Ohio State University. With the Chapter Endowment Initiative, they are providing funds for Ohio Gamma students to attend the annual Convention, receive officer leadership training through the District Program, obtain professional development through Engineering Futures, participate and facilitate MindSET activities, and conduct chapter activities on campus and in their local community.