Profile: Dave Roeder

When Dave Roeder graduated from Ranken Technical College in 1964 from Tool and Die Design, he never expected to travel the world as part of his job. However, his education and career led him to Sunnen Products where he worked as a Manufacturing Engineer. His experience and technical training eventually helped him to obtain a position in international sales where he was one of only two people in the company devoted to overseas sales. Dave traveled extensively in Asia, Europe and South America and he really enjoyed this aspect of his job.

“I never anticipated getting into sales let alone traveling overseas as part of my career,” Dave said, “but Sunnen needed someone with a technical background and I was more than happy to help out.” Being born and raised in St. Louis, Dave expected that his job and career would be focused here in St. Louis. “You just never know where your education and training will lead which is one of the reasons why I feel so good about graduating from Ranken. It provided me with a great foundation for my career.”

Over the past couple of years, Dave has become very active in the Ranken Alumni Association. He has attended several Alumni Breakfasts, Open Houses and other events. Last year, he participated in the annual Ranken Car Show when he entered his vehicle: 1988 Porsche 928 S4. Dave has had a few collectible vehicles over the years and he was glad to learn that Ranken has a car show. “It’s fun getting the car out and displaying it for others to see”, he added.

His interests in other forms of transportation extend beyond his Porsche. Dave served on the Board of the Museum of Transportation for eight years. He is also interested in model railroading and has built and entered a number of his models into competition. He took to building model railroads for other people in the first few years of retirement. Most recently, he is helping a friend restore a 1919 Dodge Brothers touring car.

Because of his fondness for Ranken and in appreciation for the education he received, Dave decided that he would give something back to the College. He and his wife, Judy, had already given some thought to making a donation. They agreed they would make an annual contribution to help support the operations of the College. In addition, they wanted to make a planned (or deferred) gift to Ranken from their estate.

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Welcome new Members - Ranken Legacy Society

Throughout its history, Ranken Technical College has benefited from the foresight and generosity of individuals who have remembered the school in their estate plans. David Ranken, Jr., was one such person. The Legacy Society was formed in 2001 to recognize alumni, friends, trustees and others who have made a provision in their estate to support the College and its mission. This past year, the Legacy Society welcomed four new members:

A.W. & Gertrude Tauschel Estate +
Charles Disbrow, Trustee
Des Lee, Trustee
Robert & Elizabeth Staley, Trustee
Earl & Myrtle Walker, Trustee

If you would like information on joining the Legacy Society, please contact Tony Pisciotta, Director of Planned Giving: 314-286-3621. Email: avpisciotta@ranken.edu

Membership Roster

William Baiotto, PMT ’48
Howard & Judi Bolton
Lynn & Ruth Burgess, IEE ’58
*Charles Disbrow, Trustee
Dennis Donnelly, Trustee
Ben Ernst, President
Jim Faughn
William & Sue Fennewald, IEE ’65
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fish, HVACR ’51
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Gregery
*Des Lee, Trustee
John & Kate Malesevich
Ken Meyer, Director of Annual Giving
Pete Murtaugh, Vice President for Finance
Eric & Barbara Nelson, CRP ’57
Carol M. Paule
Anthony Pisciotta, Director of Planned Giving
David Ranken, Jr. +
Dave & Judy Roeder, TLDIE ’64
Vernon D. Schaefer, ’67 Alum +
Charles J. Skaer
Timothy & Sally Snively
Paul Sodemann (PPLNT ’13) Trust +
Elsie J. St. Cyr
*Robert & Elizabeth Staley, Trustee
Ralph V. Streiff, Trustee
Steve & Laurie Swenson, Department Head, Electrical Technology
*A.W. & Gertrude Tauschel Estate +
Joseph E. Vollmar, Jr., Trustee
William & Ruby Wagner, CRP ’36
*Earl & Myrtle Walker, Trustee
Russell Webbink, IEE ’48
Tim & Carmen Willard, Vice President for Development

Special Thanks to the Planned Giving Advisory Board

The Planned Giving Committee meets twice per year to offer input and advice in the area of wills and bequests, gift annuities, life insurance gifts, IRA contributions and other deferred giving opportunities.

Pictured from the left: Tim Willard, Ph.D., CFRE, Vice President for Development, Ranken Technical College; Bill Comfort, Financial Representative, Maher, Rosenheim & Comfort, LLC; Angela Pearson, CTFA, Vice President – Trust Relationship Manager, Private Client Group, US Bank; John Malesevich, Investment Representative, Edward Jones; Charles Disbrow, Ranken Board of Trustees and Doug Mueller, CPA, Senior Manager, BKD.

Not pictured: Jayne Corley, estate planning attorney, Corley Law Firm.

* new members    + deceased
They spoke with their financial advisor and determined that this was something they could do. They do not have any children which is one of the reasons they were comfortable leaving something to Ranken in their Will. They have several organizations that they actively support so they decided the easiest thing to do was to leave a percentage of their estate to the College as a bequest.

“We were both fortunate to have good jobs and to be able to accumulate some assets during our careers. I realize that my education was how I got started. It was the building block for my career, so I wanted to give something back to the school in order to give others the same chance that I had.”

Dave’s advice to other Ranken graduates: “Consider the impact that Ranken has had on your life, and ask yourself if you can help others to achieve the same thing. You don’t have to give away millions to make a planned gift. Whatever you can afford to do is what really matters – there is no minimum.” Dave and Judy feel that Ranken represents the type of institution that can make the best use of their support.

Dave retired from Sunnen in 2002. His wife, Judy, is also retired after working as an Administrative Assistant for many years for Massachusetts Mutual. They spend their free time pursuing their interests, volunteering and working around the house. And come April each year, you are likely to find Dave at the Ranken Car Show and Alumni Reunion.
Ranken Technical College Golden Anniversary Graduates (those who graduated 50 years ago or longer from the College) were honored at the Spring Commencement Ceremony. Over 30 Ranken alumni participated in the event which was held May 12, 2007, at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. The ceremony was preceded by dinner with members of the Board of Trustees and Ranken Administration. Congratulations to this year’s Golden Anniversary Graduates.