



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Ofodike (DK) Ezekoye, Ph.D., P.E.
Honorary Mechanical Engineer, 2004

BSME, University of Pennsylvania, 1987
MSME, University of California, Berkeley, 1989
Ph.D., ME, University of California, Berkeley, 1991

W. R. Woolrich Professor
The University of Texas at Austin

Ofodike Ezekoye was born in Ohio and spent his early childhood years in Nigeria. DK, as he is known to his friends and colleagues, moved back to the U.S. to begin elementary school in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He considers Pittsburgh his hometown, having lived there through his high school graduation. DK learned about engineering from his father, who spent his mechanical engineering career working in Pittsburgh for Rockwell International and later Westinghouse Electric. DK enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1983 and majored in mechanical engineering. He graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1987 and was awarded the Ralph Teetor award in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics (MEAM). The award is given to the graduating senior in MEAM who in the opinion of the faculty “demonstrated the qualities of ingenuity, creativity, scholarship, and service”. He attended the University of California at Berkeley for graduate school and received his MS in 1989 and Ph.D. in 1991. After completing his Ph.D. he was awarded a National Research Council Postdoctoral fellowship to conduct research in the Building and Fire Research Lab at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

DK joined the UT Austin Department of Mechanical Engineering faculty in January of 1993 in the Thermal Fluid Systems (TFS) Area. As an assistant professor, he was awarded the Ralph Teetor Educational Award from SAE (1997), the College of Engineering Faculty Excellence Award (1998), 3M Faculty fellowship

(1997), Haliburton Foundation Award of Excellence, and National Science Foundation Early Career Award (CAREER). He was promoted to associate professor in 1998. In addition to his research and teaching duties, he served as the faculty advisor to the National Society of Black Engineers from 1994-2003. In 2003, DK cofounded the UT Student Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers to provide a professional chapter experience for UT students interested in working on fire problems. He received a Student Engineering Council Faculty Appreciation Award in 2003 in recognition of his commitment to teaching. He was promoted to the rank of professor in 2005.

Since 2005, he has served the department as graduate advisor and TFS Area Coordinator. DK has served ASME as a technical committee chair and journal associate editor; he became an ASME Fellow in 2006. DK has supervised or co-supervised over 20 Ph.D. students and more than 35 MS students. He and his students and collaborators have published over 200 journal and conference papers on fire, heat transfer, aerosol dynamics, and combustion. As a team, he and his students have won several awards, including the NFPA Bigglestone best paper award for fire communication. His research interests include experimental and computational characterizations of fire and fire tactics, modeling probability density function evolution, and heat transfer in high temperature systems. DK and his wife live in Austin with their teenage children.