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## Gower Family Encourages Pursuit of Tech Engineering Graduate Degrees

Bob Gower's 40-plus-year career in the semiconductor industry began before he even graduated from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute. Thanks to a recommendation by Professor Earl Flath of the Electrical Engineering Department, Bob was able to secure a summer internship at Texas Instruments, Inc. in Dallas. This internship not only paid for his education at Tech, but was also the opening needed to secure full-time employment after graduation. He worked in various positions at Texas Instruments for 21 years, including duties in both engineering and business. While at TI, he started 4 new business operations and earned an MSEE from Southern Methodist University in 1968.

In 1982 Bob moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado and joined a start-up semiconductor memory company called INMOS Corporation. At INMOS he again worked in various engineering, manufacturing and management positions, including serving as president of INMOS U.S. from 1986 to 1990. At that time INMOS had 1,500 employees.

When the decision was made to consolidate INMOS with other European semiconductor companies and close the U.S. Colorado Springs operation, Bob helped to start a new company named United Memories, Inc. Today, United Memories, Inc. supplies design and other engineering services to various Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAM) manufacturers in the Far East. Bob retired as President and CEO of United Memories, Inc. in 2012. He and his wife Robbie (TTU Secondary Education, 1964), enjoy travel and the best that life in Colorado has to offer – skiing in the winter months and touring and racing their Ferrari and Porsche in the summer months.

Bob has remained an involved supporter of Tennessee Tech and was recognized as TTU Engineer of Distinction in 2008 and TTU Outstanding Alumnus in 2010. He serves on the Industrial Advisory Board of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, providing career advice to students and financial support to the department. Bob has also assisted with equipment donations to outfit engineering laboratories at TTU.

Recognizing the superb quality of TTU undergraduate students and the increasing economic and societal impact that advanced-degreed engineers can have in the global marketplace, Mr. and Mrs. Gower have generously established the Bob and Robbie Gower Engineering Graduate Student Fellowship. The fellowship serves to encourage TTU undergraduate students to pursue a Master's Degree in Electrical & Computer Engineering while at Tennessee Tech.

Additionally, following the unexpected death of Bob's brother, William C. Gower (TTU Mechanical Engineering Class of 1966), Bob and Robbie wanted to memorialize Bill in a practical and meaningful way by funding the William C. Gower Engineering Graduate Student Fellowship. Bill, having spent 43 years with Livingston & Haven in Charlotte, NC, remained supportive and involved in the promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education programs. "Tennessee Tech and our students are fortunate to have friends like Bob and Robbie Gower, who seek to continue a legacy of Gower family support of engineering education," said TTU Dean of Engineering, Joseph J. Rencis. The first Gower Graduate Fellowships were granted during the Fall 2014 Engineering Scholarship Banquet. Said Bob Gower, "Robbie and I are so pleased to be able to do this for students at Tennessee Tech because we firmly believe that it was our experiences at Tech that helped start us on the magical ride that has been a truly wonderful life full of more adventure and career satisfaction than two young graduates in 1964 ever could have imagined."



