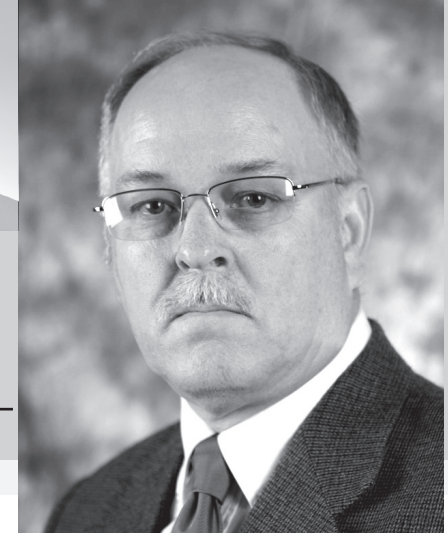


## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Lynn A. Dietrich '73



### To Lynn A. Dietrich for his successful career in heavy equipment manufacturing and his continued support and involvement with Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and College of Engineering.

A farm boy from a small rural community, Lynn Dietrich was raised in western Schuylkill County, Pa., amid the beauty of rolling hills and the chatter of Pennsylvania Dutch. Imagine his surprise, when, decades later and 4,000 miles away on a business trip to Germany, he discovered he could communicate with his German colleagues because of his understanding of that unique language associated with his hometown.

"I found the Schwabisch German dialect to be much the same language as the Pennsylvania Dutch I grew up around," said Dietrich. "So when I met with my business associates from that area in Germany, it was like talking to people back home. We were able to get along quite well together. I realized the Schwabisch area looked very much like the landscape back in Schuylkill County. The immigrants from 200 years earlier probably thought, 'well this is home' and stayed. They named the

villages and little creeks the same as they are in that part of Germany. I found that to be fascinating."

His love for "the farm" and the values he learned there have enhanced his life—from his Penn State education, to a successful engineering career and even his passion for auctions—by planting strong roots in whatever endeavor he chooses.

Dietrich applied only to Penn State, and agricultural engineering was the major for him. "Penn State was a good experience for me," he said. "My degree gave me a broad engineering background and made me well-prepared for the things I've done in my profession."

Dietrich's first job out of college was with Grove Manufacturing Company, a manufacturer of large cranes located in Shady Grove, Pa. Forty-two years later, he's still with the same company, despite numerous acquisitions, mergers, and consequent name changes. Today, it's known as Manitowoc Corporation with worldwide sales and manufacturing sites. Dietrich serves as director of engineering. His occupational experiences have been global; participating in many multimillion dollar projects and being responsible

for engineering groups in such places as France, Germany, India, Brazil, China, and the U.S.

Through the years, Dietrich has shared his engineering acumen and financial success with Penn State. In the College of Agricultural Science's department of agricultural and biological engineering, he has participated in seminars and classes as a guest speaker, and served a six-year term on the curriculum review committee, ABET Review. He supports the quarter-scale tractor pulling team, Penn State Pullers, and offers factory tours and internships at Manitowoc. "I try to stay involved with the department. I've been quite active in recruiting through all the years—we hire quite a few Penn State engineers," Dietrich said.

In memory of his father-in-law, Dietrich and his wife, Joyce, created the LeRoy C. Smeltz Memorial Trustee Scholarship, which benefits students studying agricultural education. In 2010, the college named Dietrich an Outstanding Alumnus and inducted him into the Armsby Honor Society in 2011.

In addition to family, engineering, and Penn State, Dietrich also enjoys conducting public auctions. In 1976, he earned his

auctioneer's license and has been fast-talking ever since—selling everything from farms to coins, livestock, antiques, and machinery. "It really lets me integrate into the community," he said. "I probably know more back roads in Franklin County than the natives of that county do. I got to meet people outside of work—in agriculture and other businesses that I never would have gotten to know. It's entirely different than my professional career—and a lot of fun." Not surprisingly, he likes the farm sales most of all. "I guess it's interesting to me because that's what I grew up with," said Dietrich.

The Dietrichs are members of the Penn State Alumni Association and live in Chambersburg, Pa. They raised three Penn State graduates, Sarah '00, Martha '03, '07g, and David '06, and have six grandchildren, Luke, Elijah, Hannah, Adelaide, Liam, and Megan.