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2017 Meritorious Engineering Award



Mark Zawadzki

Mark Zawadzki (M1997-SM2001) was born on January 21, 1962 in New Britain, CT to polish immigrants. His dad, Kazimierz, was serving in the Polish Air Force when WWII broke out and he went on to serve in the French and Royal Air Forces during and after the war. His mother, Kazimiera, was displaced during the war, first to Russia, then to Uganda for several years. She immigrated to the United States via England in the 1950's where she met her future husband, Kazimierz. They still reside in New Britain, CT.

Mark graduated E.C. Goodwin Regional Vocational Technical High School in New Britain, CT in 1980 with a degree in Industrial Electronics. Following high school, Mark attended the University of Connecticut studying electrical engineering. He ultimately graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Northeastern University in Boston, MA. Mark earned his Master of Business Administration degree from College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY in 1995.

Following his college career, Mark worked as a drives field service engineer for Electro-Power, Inc. in Wolcott, CT. In September of 1988 he joined International Paper in Ticonderoga, NY as a maintenance engineer and later as the Instrument/Electrical Department Supervisor. In March of 1996, Mark joined the International Paper Corporate Technology Group in Loveland, OH as an adjustable speed drives subject matter expert. He continues in the same role today focusing on Electric Motor Reliability, Adjustable Speed Drive Installation and Grounding.

Mark is an IEEE Senior member and has been active in the PPIC committee since his first IEEE PPIC conference in Cincinnati in 1997. He is recent past Chair of the PPIC Drives and Controls Subcommittee, and is the Secretary/Treasurer of the PPIC Executive Committee. Mark has co-authored and presented many papers and participated in panels at the IEEE PPIC Conferences on the topics of adjustable speed drives and motor maintenance and reliability. Mark is an active member of the IEEE 841 and IEEE 1068 Standard Working Groups and the UL Power Conversion Standards Committee. Mark is a well-known industry leader in promoting new and repaired motor reliability which has led to improved manufacturing and repair methods. He is equally well known for his work with manufacturers to understand stray current in AC VF drives and develop mitigation techniques that have greatly reduced associated failures. He was also an active member of the TAPPI engineering organization from 1996 to 2006. Mark is a member of the Society for Maintenance and Reliability Professionals and is a Certified Maintenance & Reliability Professional.

Mark and his wife of 25 years, Christine, reside in Milford, OH. They have two daughters; Zoe, who is attending graduate school at Ohio University and Ali, who will be a freshman at Ohio State University in September. Mark is active in the International Paper Wizards science elementary education program. He is also an avid drag racer and has owned a race car since 1981. He enjoys drag racing and working on all four of his toys (1960's muscle cars) and crafting car parts in his machine shop behind his garage.