In 1950, when Albert H. Halff received his PhD in Sanitary Engineering at the Johns Hopkins University, he gained something else of great value in that field: first-hand exposure to Abel Wolman ’13, ’15. The influence of the legendary sanitary engineer has inspired Dr. Halff throughout his own long and illustrious career, which has now spanned more than five decades.

Born into a Texas cattle ranching family, Al Halff studied civil engineering at Southern Methodist University. He later taught there and at Texas A&M University and worked for engineering firms in Texas and Oklahoma. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Air Forces as a sanitary engineer before arriving at Johns Hopkins. With this broad experience and his new doctorate from Hopkins, he was ready to make his mark.

After his graduation, Dr. Halff founded a one-man civil engineering firm. He proceeded to grow it into Halff Associates, Inc., a highly regarded engineering and design firm employing hundreds of people in projects to improve natural and human-built environments.

The Dallas-headquartered firm diversified its services to include civil, transportation, environmental, structural, mechanical and electrical engineering, architectural design, and geographic information systems. Yet Dr. Halff never let the demands of running the business distract him completely from his passionate interest in the very areas that he and Wolman had explored together so many years before: the provision of safe drinking water.

After selling the company to a group of employees in 1986, Dr. Halff continued as a practicing engineer, including working on projects on desalination and sewer sludge treatment.

A strong supporter of the Whiting School since its inception, Dr. Halff is especially interested in the development of its Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering.

When asked about his days at Homewood, Dr. Halff once said, “Hopkins was a tremendous experience for me. There was a wonderful faculty, including Abel Wolman, John Geyer, and many others. I have such good memories of my time there.” Good memories, and a prominent place among the engineering leaders educated at Johns Hopkins—even before the Whiting School era began.

—Bob Cooke

Shortly after earning his Engineering doctorate, Albert H. Halff ’50 PhD established what was then a one-man firm in Dallas. Today, Halff Associates, Inc. maintains its founder’s commitment to sustainable site development, water savings, and energy efficiency.
Distinguished Alumnus Award

Established in 1978, this award honors alumni who have typified the Johns Hopkins tradition of excellence and brought credit to the University through their personal accomplishments, professional achievement, or humanitarian service. The following three Whiting School of Engineering alumni were honored in 2005.

William “Bill” R. Bowles ’60 retired in 1999 from his distinguished 40-year career at IBM, where he was vice chairman and president of IBM Greater China Group. While in Beijing for four years, he oversaw the company’s strategy, technology, manufacturing, and development, as well as all of its investments in China. Among other accomplishments at IBM, Bowles started and managed its worldwide equipment manufacturing business (which now brings in $12 billion in revenue) and was vice president of operations for the B-1B bomber offensive radar. Other career highlights there include establishing the division that developed mail processing and package handling equipment for the U.S. Postal Service and the Small Package Sort System for FedEx.

L. Gordon Croft ’56 is a principal of Croft-Kent and Russell, in 1989. Previously, Croft had a successful 22-year career with T. Rowe Price. Earlier, pursuing the interests he developed as an Engineering major at Johns Hopkins, he was associate director of R&D at the Naval Propellant Plant in Indian Head, Maryland.

At The George Washington University, Croft earned a master’s degree in engineering. He completed doctoral coursework in finance at Indiana University.

To benefit students from Maryland, Croft endowed 10 tuition scholarships at Hopkins and four other schools. Recently, he established the Frederick S. Billig—L. Gordon Croft Endowed Lectureship at Johns Hopkins, which will attract experts in mechanical engineering, chemical and biomolecular engineering, and entrepreneurship and management.

Croft’s love for higher education also led to his part in creating the January Intersession class on Educating for Technological Leadership—Financial Strategies. This innovative offering became the basis for a very popular minor, Entrepreneurship and Management, which has evolved into the Whiting School’s Center for Leadership Education.

F. Suzanne Jenniches ’79 MSE, as vice president and general manager for Northrop Grumman’s Government Systems Division, oversees the strategic development of a sector-wide defense communications business. Her responsibilities also include Xetron Corporation in Cincinnati; Park Air Ltd., in Peterborough, England; the Annapolis Junction, Maryland, site of California Microwave; and NAVIA Aviation in Oslo, Norway.

After earning a BS degree from Clarion State College in 1970, Jenniches taught high school biology while earning her master’s degree in Environmental Engineering in the evenings at Johns Hopkins. She also completed post-graduate work in international affairs at The Catholic University of America.

Joining Northrop Grumman in 1974, Jenniches became a leader in manufacturing innovation and producibility engineering. In 1981, she led operations for the B-1B bomber offensive radar. Other career highlights there include establishing the division that developed mail processing and package handling equipment for the U.S. Postal Service and the Small Package Sort System for FedEx.

In 1983 the National Society of Women Engineers (SWE) named Jenniches a Distinguished New Engineer. She guided SWE as president in 1988-89. In 2000, SWE honored her with its Achievement Award for the standards she set in producibility engineering.

An active volunteer for the Whiting School, Jenniches is a member of the National Advisory Council, has been a Career Night panelist for the Society of Engineering Alumni, and recently chaired the Engineering Programs for Professionals’ Advisory Board. She serves on the Alumni Council of the Johns Hopkins Alumni Association.

A member of the U.S. Army Science Board and the National Research Council Committee on Commercial/Military Integration, Jenniches is a director of MICROS, Inc.
MARSHAL L. SALANT ’80 was in the first class to graduate from the newly formed Whiting School of Engineering. With a degree in Mathematical Sciences and an interest in economics, he replied to an ad for a position on Wall Street and—to his amazement—got the job. Before long, he knew he had found his life’s work. After earning an MBA from Harvard University, Salant joined Morgan Stanley, where he has worked in investment banking ever since and now serves as a managing director.

Salant thinks of himself as a “financial engineer.” For more than 20 years, he has been on a mission to induce more Johns Hopkins graduates into playing the same kind of role on Wall Street. “There are a lot of talented people at Hopkins,” he says, “and we want to hire them.” He believes that Hopkins graduates excel in the analytical problem-solving skills that financial companies prize, but that many of them overlook this opportunity. Salant works to open their eyes in several ways.

Like many alumni, Salant comes back to the Homewood campus every year to recruit top-drawer talent for his company. His extensive experience on the Street enables him to spot the best prospects in both the Whiting School and the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, and he can be very persuasive.

Salant also was instrumental in the creation of the annual three-day Wall Street trip, which each January Intersession gives dozens of Hopkins students an intensive first-hand exposure to the financial world. Designed to acquaint students with the companies, the roles, and the vibe, the trip has opened doors for many Hopkins graduates over the years. Embedded in the trip is a work session with Salant himself. He reviews and critiques each student’s résumé, coaches participants on effective interview techniques, and conducts a mock interview with one student to give the group a real-world lesson.

He doesn’t stop there. In 2000, he established and funded the Marshal L. Salant Student Investment Program, now part of the Center for Leadership Education. The program’s portfolio management team includes undergraduates from both the Whiting and Krieger schools. With guidance from an advisory committee, they plan and execute investment strategies with real money. This adds to investing what friction adds to the physicist’s calculations. “Inflation, commissions, expenses—these are the ‘friction’ in the financial world,” he says.

The Salant Student Investment Program seems to be working very well. Not only are the students getting hands-on experience as investors, but they also have begun generating returns for the Salant fund. This year, it spun off enough profits to underwrite its first scholarship for an undergraduate.

—Bob Cooke
SEA 2006 Events

Sunday, July 16, 1 p.m.
Atlanta Crab Feast
University Yacht Club
on Lake Lanier, Georgia

Saturday, September 16, 2 p.m.
Southeast Florida Crab Feast
Riggins Crab House, Lantana, Florida

Tuesday, September 19, 6:30 p.m.
Career Night
Homewood campus

Saturday, October 7, 4 p.m.
Houston Alumni Crab Feast
The Ginger Man, Houston, Texas

Sunday, October 8, 4 p.m.
North Texas Crab Feast
The Ginger Man, Dallas, Texas

Saturday, October 14, 10:30 a.m.
Woodrow Wilson Bridge
Tour and Lunch
Washington, D.C./Northern Virginia

Friday, October 27, 4 p.m.
Fall Student and Alumni Mixer
Homewood campus

Saturday, October 28, 10 a.m.
SEA Council Meeting
Homewood campus

Wednesday, November 15, 6:30 p.m.
Mock Interview Night
Homewood campus

To register for any of the above events or for more information, please call the Whiting School Development and Alumni Relations Office at (410) 516-8723 or e-mail HopkinsSEA@jhu.edu.

The SEA is your connection to a network of 30,000 other Johns Hopkins engineers worldwide.

There are many ways you can become involved with the SEA:

• Attend or sponsor a regional event in your area.
• Mentor a current student.
• Volunteer on an SEA committee.
• Chat with alumni and students on the new online forum: engineering.jhu.edu/seaforum.

Visit our Web site at engineering.jhu.edu/~alumni/about us/.