



Dr. James William White, 77, passed away on Saturday, January 8, 2017, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident that occurred on December 28, 2016.

He began his technical career in 1968 as a Senior Project Engineer at Rohm & Haas in Philadelphia, PA. In 1972, he resigned his position as Head of their Research Computing Center and, that same year, joined the University of Arizona's College of Mines as an Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering.

In 1979, while working on a consulting project at Phelps Dodge Tyrone Mine in New Mexico, he and two of his graduate students conceptualized the groundbreaking DISPATCH® Fleet Management System. The trio co-founded Modular Mining Systems, Inc., later that same year.

Dr. White left the University in 1981 to assume the full-time role of Modular's Executive Vice President; a position from which he drove the company forward in its mission to revolutionize the way mines operated in real time. Acquired by Komatsu Ltd. in 1996, Modular has grown to lead the industry of real-time computer-based mine management solutions with nearly 750 employees in eleven countries. Dr. White maintained executive leadership positions throughout his tenure with the company until he retired as Chairman in July of 2016.

Never one to shy away from challenges, he was an industry pioneer with a strong will, tireless determination, and a keen sense of strategic direction and perseverance.

He received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering at the University of Delaware and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at the University of Wisconsin. He served as a Director of the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum and was a member of the Engineering Advisory Committee of the Arizona State Board of Technical Registration. In 2003 he was awarded a Medal of Merit from the Mining Foundation of the Southwest, for which he served as the organization's president from 2011 to 2013. In 2012, Dr. White received the Komatsu Presidential Award, recognizing his vision, leadership, and intrinsic understanding of the needs of the mining industry. He was inducted into the International Mining Technology Hall of Fame in 2015.

Dr. White leaves behind a legacy of innovation for future generations to build upon. He is survived by his companion, Sharon Laird, and will be missed by the past and present employees of his Modular Mining and Komatsu family.

Following Dr. White's wishes, no public memorial services are planned.

