

KEVIN J. HANDERHAN | *High Achiever*



Dr. Kevin J. Handerhan (*B.S. 1980, M.S. 1986, Ph.D. 1988*) will bring positive recognition to MSE when he receives Carnegie Mellon's *Alumni Achievement Award* at the university's commencement ceremony next May. This prestigious award was created to recognize

both accomplishment

and leadership in the field which brings honor to Carnegie Mellon University.

Dr. Handerhan manages his own consulting company, 525 Flynn Consulting, which helps manufacturers improve their financial performance, with an emphasis on companies involved in specialty metals processing. Prior to becoming an entrepreneur, Dr. Handerhan spent 33 years with Ellwood Group, a specialty metals producer headquartered in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania. He was hired as a superintendent of quality assurance and retired as chief operating officer.

A native of Carnegie, near Pittsburgh, Dr. Handerhan was always a hard worker and high achiever. Though he was the

youngest of 11 children in a working-class family, he was able to earn three degrees at MSE—two while working full-time at Ellwood Group.

Dr. Handerhan looks back fondly on his many years in the department. "I enjoyed the academic challenges of materials science and metallurgy, as well as the friendships I formed

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with both fellow students and faculty,” he recalls. “We were a tight-knit group, and everyone was willing to help one another. I still use the problem-solving skills and technical knowledge I learned from my teachers and advisors, including **Professor Warren Garrison**, who nominated me for the Alumni Achievement Award.”

Dr. Handerhan's personal life was also impacted by his years at Carnegie Mellon. He met his wife Katheen Knestrick (*B.S. 1979, Civil Engineering*) in an undergraduate computer science class. Today, the couple lives in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, and they are the proud parents of three sons: Ryan (*M.S. 2008, Information Systems Management*), Jason, and Tyler.