

Fall 2016 Commencement Speaker:

Biographical Sketch

Stephan J. Nix, Ph.D.



Dr. Steve Nix stepped down as Dean of the Frank H. Dotterweich College of Engineering this past August after serving in this role for six and a half years. The College has grown tremendously during that time attracting many students from around Texas, the US, and the world. Dr. Nix implemented an outreach program that reached out to thousands of young students in Texas about the benefits of an engineering education. He also started the Rio Grande Valley Engineering Initiative, a program designed to expand engineering education opportunities for talented students in the Valley. Under his leadership, the Institute of Architectural Engineering Heritage (IAEH) and the Eagle Ford Center for Research and Outreach (EFCREO) were established serving students and advancing research capabilities.

Dr. Nix loved to engage with students, both graduate and undergraduate, as well as faculty and staff. By doing so, he always addressed their concerns and articulated plans that helped develop the College in every aspect. He established a sense of community through events like the Fall Picnic and the Annual Engineering Senior Design Conference. One of the many traditions he established was the Javelina Engineering Hall of Fame to recognize the alumni who excelled in engineering and demonstrated their support of the College.

Dr. Nix was the featured speaker at the Texas A&M University–Kingsville Fall 2016 Commencement for the College of Engineering on December 9, 2016. He summarized the many accomplishments of the faculty, staff, and students over the last 6-plus years, but the highlight of the was his challenge for graduates to “live a life of romance,” which he defined as “a feeling of mystery, excitement, and remoteness from everyday life.” He encouraged graduates to look for the new, be daring, ponder the universe, travel, dance, be a little impulsive, write poetry, be heroic, and love. But most importantly he challenged students to “question what is, fight for what needs to change, and dream of what could be.” He also implored graduates to not waste their time on hate – “the romantic life has no time for hate” – and to not always look straight ahead – you miss too much that way! All who attended enjoyed his speech. The College of Engineering is very proud to have called Dr. Steve Nix our dean.