

Kanbar College of Design, Engineering and Commerce Outstanding Alumni Award
- Mark Sunderland '84 and M'06

Biography:

Mark is an accomplished textile engineer and strategist, entrepreneur and industry expert. He is currently the Director-M.S. Global Fashion Enterprise, Director-B.S. Textile Materials Technology, Textile Engineer and Strategist, Robert J. Reichlin High Performance Apparel Term Chair for the Kanbar College of Design Engineering and Commerce at Philadelphia University.

In addition to his accomplished academic career, Mark is an entrepreneur and has had ownership stake in a variety of businesses over the years. He currently owns Textile Innovation Technologies, an innovative product development business, working with global companies from concept to commercialization. He recently designed and engineered the high-performance seamless rowing apparel for the USA Olympic Rowing Team and the first Nigerian rower ever to compete in the Olympics-Rio 2016.

Mark has over 30 years of experience in the field of engineered advance textile materials, apparel products, commerce and operations. He has produced fabrics and apparel for the advance fabric performance and fashion apparel retail market, working with nationally recognized brands and labels.

As an alumnus, Mark is actively involved and was a longtime member of the Philadelphia University Alumni Association Board and now presently serves on the Kanbar College Advancement Council.

Mark received his B.S. Degree in Textile Marketing and Management/Textile and Apparel Technology from Philadelphia University (PCT&S) in 1984 and his M.S. Degree in Textile Engineering from Philadelphia University in 2006.

Acceptance Letter:

Receiving the Kanbar DEC Outstanding Alumni Award is truly an experience that delivers an overwhelming moment of quiet ‘wow’, warming self-fulfillment and then fear, maybe you haven’t done enough to deserve it. You start contemplating, I should have done this or why didn’t I do that. You begin to think about whether your individual effort was significant enough. Philadelphia University is a unique and very special place for so many reasons. From an alumni perspective, your collective effort of ‘giving back’ is never forgotten. The university recognizes and appreciates contributions can come in many shapes and forms.

I came to Philadelphia University (PCT&S) in the 80’s and never left. Working and having industry success, I came back to the university as an adjunct professor, and then was hired full-time as assistant dean and teaching courses in textiles, product development and performance textiles/apparel. Today, I am Director for the M.S. Global Fashion Enterprise and B.S. Textile Material Technology. Additionally, I work on numerous industry projects and research and hold the Robert J. Reichlin High Performance Apparel Chair. I am fully vested into the university’s approach to active and

engaged learning, partnered with a real world approach. As someone who came from industry to academia, this fit was perfect.

I am inspired by the students and their approach to creative opportunity. I'm an active alum on many levels. Thankful for a family (Andrea '84, Nick, Dan '18) that supports my drive. Receiving this award, is a reminder; being an outstanding alum is a lifelong process.

With gratitude to Philadelphia University for thinking of me for this recognition.