

Kim DeBosier

Bayside Engineering

President, co-founder, principal, Tampa

Retreat: A second home on the Suwannee.

Partners: Robert Dvorak and Darlene Shuman.

Family: Husband, Jeff; sons Adam, 14, and Collin, 11.

MBA: Louisiana State University, 1986.

Member: Daughters of the American Revolution.



A Series of Firsts

Last year, Kim DeBosier made a bit of engineering history as the first woman named Engineer of the Year by the Florida Engineering Society.

DeBosier, 50, a civil consulting engineer, has a career's worth of experience at being the first. She has been the first woman engineer in every office in which she has worked, the first woman principal at one firm, the first woman vice president from the technical side at another. That was all before she founded, with Robert Dvorak and Darlene Shuman, the consulting practice Bayside Engineering in 1995.

A Michigan native, DeBosier originally was drawn to chemistry but changed her mind as a Michigan State freshman. The men in her residential college suggested engineering, and she literally flipped a coin the night before registration to choose between civil and chemical engineering. "I guess I've always believed there's more than luck

there," she says. She graduated first in her civil engineering class in 1977.

Bayside's practice is diverse, especially for a \$4.8-million revenue, 53-employee firm — midsized in consulting engineering. It includes land development, transportation, traffic, stormwater management, surveying and mapping and geographic information systems. Highly visible projects include recent expansions at the Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa and the site work at Stetson's downtown Tampa law school.

Her work in the community, however, is what clinched the Engineer of the Year honor. She chaired the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority, is a board member of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and is on the board of the MacDonald Training Center for the developmentally disabled. In July, she became the first woman president of the Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers.

Notables

➤ It took awhile for the Florida Engineering Society to name its first woman Engineer of the Year. Now it's awarded the honor to women for two consecutive years. **Shannon R. LaRocque**, Palm Beach County assistant county administrator, was given the honor in June. LaRocque, a professional engineer who has spent the last couple of years in the political quagmire over where Scripps should be put, was the first woman president of the society.



LaRocque



Active Voice

David Jaramillo

IBM Software Group, Voice Solutions Development

Senior software engineer, Boca Raton

Age: 39.

What he does: "I work on speech recognition technology. The latest stuff we're working on is integrating the speech technology into your cell phone. You can look up stores — 'Find me the nearest pizza restaurant in Boca Raton. Show me a map or directions to that place.' The idea is getting information anyway you want. I've been working on speech recognition for seven years. It's really, really come a long way. We're going to see it more and more integrated into our lives."

Early adopter: "I'm one of those on the bleeding edge of things."

As a kid: "I kept imagining how the cars would be able to look at reflectors in the road and be able to drive themselves."

Best part of the job: "Being on the edge of the technology, showing it to people, working with early adopters. We're working with Miami Children's Hospital. We incorporated some of the technology in heart surgery. I saw a heart come back to life."

Worst part: Paperwork.

Earlier work: OS/2.

First PC: The Apple II.

High School: Coral Springs High.

College: Bachelor's, mathematics; master's, computer science, Florida Atlantic University.

Spare time: Tennis league at work, coaching youth soccer and shaolin kempo karate. 