

Distinguished Alumnus 2013  
Dr. Ted Zavodny  
Class of 1960

Attending Northern Oklahoma Junior College after graduating from Perry (Okla.) High School, Ted Zavodny lettered in track, served as a freshman senator and as Student Body President his sophomore year and graduated with a perfect 4.00 grade-point average. He majored in Electrical Engineering at Oklahoma State University where he was named one of the Top Ten students in a class of 2500. He then began an eight-year stint with the Research and Development Division at Continental Oil Company, Ponca City where his inventions led to three personal US patents involving lasers. He earned his Master of Science and Ph.D. degrees in Electromagnetic Field Theory from OSU and taught mathematics at NOC for two years before entering the Aerospace industry, eventually joining a team to build the first fully autonomous, sensor laden unmanned airplane. During 40 years of developing Aerospace technology, Dr. Zavodny has been responsible for all radar, hi-res cameras and other sensors on a plane designed specifically to carry these devices worldwide at high altitudes. Named Chief Scientist for the aircraft, he remains actively involved as Chief Sensor Technologist for Unmanned Systems.