Ms. Karen Morrison received her bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Maine in 1988. Immediately after graduation, she began her professional career as a mechanical engineer by working at Bath Iron Works in the area of System Safety & Ergonomics. This work involved ensuring compliance with military standards and specifications during all phases of ship design, construction, and testing while implementing design changes to enhance system safety and ergonomics.

Her interest in environmental matters led her to securing a new job as an environmental engineer in the Bureau of Air Quality at the Department of Environmental Protection in Augusta, Maine.

Ms. Morrison’s growing interest and expertise in environmental engineering brought her back to Bath Iron Works where she developed and managed the Air Quality Program at their four manufacturing facilities, and implemented air quality controls and process improvements to decrease emissions and improve efficiency, among other activities. She also participated on the Governor’s Advisory Group for Air Quality Issues.

During a recent visit to UMaine, Karen reflected on her personal journey and shared her thoughts on the importance of our students to not constrain themselves by their degree programs but to rely on the fundamental aspects of their engineering education. Learning to think as an engineer and to communicate effectively is more important than an engineering discipline one may pursue at the undergraduate level.

In 1999, she established her own company, Morrison Environmental Engineering, Inc. in North Yarmouth, Maine. This is a multi-disciplinary environmental consulting firm that allows its clients to meet their operational needs while maintaining compliance with environmental and other related regulatory requirements. As president of the company, she provides environmental expertise and assistance to a wide range of clients that are spread throughout the northeast region of the United States.

Ms. Morrison is a registered professional engineer, Vice president of the North Yarmouth Business Association, and a member of the Mechanical Engineering Advisory Board at UMaine. Her community involvement includes coaching of the recreational running program and a Nordic skiing team. Her love of the outdoors takes her to sailing in Casco Bay or hiking and skiing in the mountains.