Dr. John E. Thomas Bio 27 January 2025

Dr. John E. Thomas joined the faculty in the fall of 2020 as Scholar in Residence in the Lockheed Martin Engineering Management Program at UC Boulder, College of Engineering & Applied Science. He brings over 25 years of professional experience, including wireless communications, software, semiconductors, defense radar, and consumer electronics industries. John has extensive experience building and leading high-caliber cross-functional product development teams, strategic international partnerships, and diverse technical research programs. He has domestic and international leadership experience in business development, operations, general management (P&L responsibility), and global program/product management in both startup and growth organizations.

Dr. Thomas is passionate about the promise of sustainable and resilient life experience for future generations. His research interests explore the boundaries of engineering and social science to understand the dynamic relationships between human resilience, psychological development, and the resilience of complex socio-technical systems. Such systems include critical infrastructure supporting community health, safety, and well-being including energy, water, transportation, communications, and cyber-security. Areas of focus include the cognitive, emotional, and behavioral dimensions and adaptive processes affecting how humans interact with and depend on complex technological systems amid natural / manmade disasters and catastrophic system failures. He is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Resilience Engineering Institute—an organization dedicated to the dissemination of resilience knowledge, tools, and resources.

Dr. Thomas served on the Engineering Management Program (EMP) graduate committee supporting critical decisions and strategic planning from fall semester 2020 to spring semester 2024. He currently serves on the EMP's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee supporting the development and implementation of DEI policies, procedures, and trainings for the department. During his first year on campus, Dr. Thomas designed curricula and introduced two new special-topics classes focused on resilience engineering for operational managers (undergraduate) and organizational leaders (graduate). In 2024, the graduate class, Resilience Engineering and Leadership in Crisis, was assigned a permanent course number—EMEN 5230—as an elective in the Engineering Management Program and launched on the Coursera platform.

Dr. Thomas holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of California at Santa Barbara, a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology, and a Master of Business Administration, with Honors, from Santa Clara University. In 2017, he earned a Ph.D. in Civil, Environmental, and Sustainable Engineering in the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.