William Russell Brownlee came to Alabama in 1951 to join Southern Services as that company's chief system studies engineer. Mr. Brownlee holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Arizona and is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Tau Beta Pi. He was named "Eminent Engineer" by Eta Kappa Nu in 1984 and holds five patents in his area of expertise.

Mr. Brownlee's twenty-year career with Southern Services, later Southern Company Services, will be long remembered in Southeastern utilities. He played a major part in planning and operating the bulk power supply system. Perhaps the high point of his career was the development of an innovative voltage phase angle method for providing economic dispatch: the world's first economic dispatch controller. Mr. Brownlee's work made his company a leader in economy and in emergency power interchange with neighboring utilities. The advent of the economic dispatch controller also enabled Southern Services to assess cost-effectiveness of additional transmission and interconnections. Other utilities have come to use the voltage phase angle method to predict economic dispatch of future power systems. In 1970, the Southern Company Board of Directors named its new power coordination center the William R. Brownlee Center.

Mr. Brownlee retired from Southern Services in 1971, after rising to the position of chairman and chief executive officer. His retirement was to be an extremely productive one. For the following fifteen years, Mr. Brownlee served as administrative manager for the Southeastern Electric Reliability Council (SERC), a voluntary organization of twenty-eight electric utilities in our region. During his work with SERC and the national group, he helped form guidelines to improve the reliability of bulk power supply in the United States and Canada. Upon his retirement in February 1986, he was elected director emeritus of SERC. Since 1987, Mr. Brownlee has served as editor-in-chief of the magazine IEEE Computer Applications in Power, published quarterly by the IEEE Power Engineering Society with a circulation of nearly twenty-four thousand.

A former director of IEEE, he is also a permanent member of the International Conference on Large Electric Systems. He has chaired eight national committees and served on twenty-six. Mr. Brownlee was named Engineer of the Year in 1968 by the Birmingham Engineering Council and the 1970 Outstanding Engineer for Region III of the IEEE. He also served with the Federal Power Commission and is listed in Who's Who in Engineering and Who's Who in the South and Southwest. He remains an active professional engineer with registration in three states. He is married to the former Elizabeth Marquet, and they have one daughter and two grandchildren.