MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ROY ALFRED LINDBERG

Roy Alfred Lindberg, emeritus professor of mechanical engineering, died Tuesday, April 15, 2003 at his retirement home in Peoria, Arizona.

Roy was born on July 22, 1916 in Brainerd, Minnesota, the son of Axel Lindberg and Hilda Holgerson. His early education was also in Brainerd. Graduating at age 16 he attended a normal training school for one year and, at the age of 18, taught for three years in a country school in northern Minnesota. He then attended St. Cloud State Teachers College in St. Cloud, Minnesota graduating with a BS in Industrial Education in 1942, a few months before enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Corps of World War II. He was commissioned an officer as a flight engineer at Yale University and assigned to teach heat treating, welding and machining at the Army Airforce Technical Training School at Chanute Field, Illinois.

After his discharge he received his master’s degree in industrial education from the University of Minnesota in 1948. He began teaching mechanical engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1947 and taught here until his retirement in 1982. For more than ten years he served as a member or chair of the University Lectures Committee. He also accepted a two-year assignment (1967-69) as a professor at the Singapore Polytechnic Institute assisting that institution attain university status. Other international experience included an assignment in Coimbatore, India as a visiting professor for the Agency for Internal Development in the summer of 1965. In 1972, he was named an outstanding teacher in the UW College of Engineering.

Besides being recognized as an outstanding teacher, Roy Lindberg authored and co-authored four widely used textbooks on manufacturing technology subjects. His first book published (1964) was selected as one of the 100 best technical books of the year by the Library Journal. He was also the academic advisor to 12 MS thesis students and numerous non-thesis MS graduates. Accompanied by his family, he enjoyed summer faculty programs with Boeing Aircraft in Seattle, Washington and E.I. duPont in Delaware, Maryland.

He will be remembered by both students and colleagues as a patient and considerate person who always made students feel that he was accessible and interested in their work. Always kind and gentle, never intimidating nor aloof, he dedicated his life to the learning process, both working with students one-on-one and leveraging his knowledge and his desire to impart it to others through his highly-read textbooks.

Roy was also active in the Midvale Community Lutheran Church in Madison as the high school Bible teacher, superintendent of Sunday School and president of the Church Council.

On numerous family camping trips he could often be found at a picnic table, with his briefcase close at hand, working on one of his four engineering textbooks. He also was fond of working with wood and created many vases and bowls and some furniture for the home. He loved reading, memorizing poetry and gardening.

In 1987 he moved to Sun City, Arizona where he became active in and president of the Scandinavian Club of Sun City along with various engineering organizations.

Survivors include his wife, Priscilla, one son, Stephen and wife, Joyce in New York City, New York; and three daughters, Ann and husband, Eric in Greensboro, North Carolina; Joan and husband, Richard, in Livermore, California; and Julie and husband, Marc, in Maitland, Florida; and seven grandchildren.
Roy Lindberg served both his students and our university with exceptional dedication, assisting numerous students and faculty in both their professional and personal lives. He did so with complete integrity and a high level of compassion. Many credit him for being an outstanding mentor and true friend. We have all been enriched by the outstanding service of Roy Lindberg.

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