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

ON THE DEATH OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EMERITUS DEAN E. JENSEN

Dean E. Jensen, assistant professor emeritus of mechanical engineering, passed away in Madison on February 19, 2012 at the age of 82.

Dean was born in Moline, Illinois, on November 6, 1929. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean war, he earned a BS degree in technical drawing from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1955. That same year, he started his 38-year career at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as an engineering graphics instructor in the former Department of General Engineering, teaching courses in architectural graphics, civil engineering graphics, and descriptive geometry.

In 1963, Dean took a leave of absence from the College of Engineering to become an assistant to the secretary of the faculty, working under the university’s vice-president for academic affairs. He also served as secretary to the campus planning committee and was appointed associate director of space management at a time when the campus was rapidly expanding. He helped coordinate the occupancy of Van Hise Hall following the completion of construction in the summer of 1967. As part of the university’s administration housed in Bascom Hall, he experienced the protests of the Vietnam War firsthand, being present for periodic tear gassing at that site in the late 1960s. This experience, along with the administrative turmoil caused by lack of a long-term chancellor, prompted his return to the classroom.

From 1967 to 1969, he taught courses in heat-loss calculation and HVAC design for the UW-Extension and authored problem workbooks in descriptive geometry and civil engineering graphics.

In 1969, Dean returned to the College of Engineering as assistant professor with tenure and continued teaching engineering graphics courses. In 1989, the general engineering department was absorbed into the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Dean joined the ME faculty.

For nearly 20 years, Dean was a member of the City of Madison’s Board of Heating and Electrical Examiners. He chaired the committee for the City of Madison’s solar energy ordinance, and he wrote the licensing exams for heating professionals and drafted the city’s wood-burning ordinance, requiring a separate flue for wood-burning stoves. This ordinance is now a statewide regulation.

Professor Jensen retired in May 1993. However, he continued his work with the city while making time for travel, gardening, woodworking, sailing, remanufacturing cars and tractors, and managing his tree farm in Gays Mills. Dean was also a member of the American Tree Farms System and the Walnut Growers Association.

Dean is fondly remembered by his family, friends, colleagues, and certainly by his many former students. He was preceded in death in 1989 by his wife of 27 years, Phyllis (Gappa) of Madison. He is survived by his two sons, Peter and Andrew.

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