Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Chu-Kia Wang

Chu-Kia (C.K.) Wang, Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering, passed away on April 13, 2013, The Villages, Florida where he had been living after his retirement.

C.K. was born in Wuxi, China, on June 17th, 1917. He attended St. John’s University in Shanghai where he graduated as the top student in Civil Engineering in 1938. He remained at St. John’s as an instructor for three years before coming to the United States and receiving a master’s degree from the University of Colorado in 1942 and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1945. Following graduation, he briefly worked for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to learn about the construction of large dams with the intention of working on the Three Gorges Dam. Instead, he became a Professor of Civil Engineering at St. John’s University for two years before retracing his graduate school steps by becoming a professor at the University of Colorado (1948-1954) and the University of Illinois (1954-1960). He became a member of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1960 until his retirement in 1992. During this period he primarily taught structural analysis from entry level through graduate level.

C.K. was a devoted teacher and scholar throughout his career. He was meticulous, very demanding, yet a beloved professor. He was the author or co-author of more than nine book titles in civil engineering as the outgrowth of lectures he prepared for his classes, and was highly respected and widely known within the structural engineering community, nationally, and internationally. Perhaps, he was best known as the author of the textbooks on Reinforced Concrete Design (co-authored with Charles G. Salmon, a former UW-Madison faculty member) and on Statically Indeterminate Structures. Professor Wang was one of the first to realize that his field would be revolutionized by the advent of computers and single-handedly developed computerized analysis procedures long before the use of structural analysis software became common practice. In 1974, he received the College of Engineering’s prestigious Benjamin Smith Reynolds Award for excellence in teaching future engineers. C.K. was always grateful for being the beneficiary of the generosity of scholarships and fellowships and mentoring from professors. He established scholarships at the University of Colorado in honor of Dean Clarence Eckel and a Civil Engineering Professorship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

C.K. is survived by his son, Herbert (Rosemary) of Madison; daughter, Helen; grandchildren, Michelle (Omar) Baldonado of Palo Alto, Calif., Melissa (Michael) Allan of Madison, Michael Wang of New York City, and Matthew Wang of Los Angeles; great-grandchildren, Evan, Mia, and Noah Baldonado, and Melia and Chloe Allan. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Vera Sun Wang, and his second wife, Norma Li Wang.

Professor Wang was highly respected among civil engineers. To this day, his textbooks are highly regarded and well-known in the area of structural engineering, and continue to bring worldwide recognition to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. C.K. was a kind, generous person, and is greatly missed by all who had the privilege to know him.