Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Glen Everett Myers

Glen Everett Myers, Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering, passed away peacefully on December 2, 2019 at age 85.

Glen was born March 6, 1934 in Hollywood, California to the late Henry and Kathryn Myers. He was a 1956 graduate of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he lettered in basketball while maintaining a 4.0 average. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University in 1957 and 1962 and began his career at the University of Wisconsin in 1962.

On August 4, 1963, Glen and Susan M. Ralph were married in Seattle, Washington. They raised their three children in Madison and participated in their many activities. He was involved with the Badger Dolphins swim team for a number of years. Genealogy research on his family became of particular interest to him during his retirement, and he and his wife took a number of international trips to learn more of their ancestral history.

The focus of his early work at Wisconsin was bioengineering. He developed a very popular course that brought in a variety of speakers to present and discuss topics as varied as basic physiology, modeling the cardiovascular system, and engineering solutions to problems facing those in wheelchairs. With his graduate students, he conducted a number of studies on using heating or cooling to treat human ailments, including cancer. The cooling boot that he helped develop was used by anesthesiologists in operations on diabetics and in the treatment of UW football player injuries.

Numerical analysis of thermal problems was his special area of interest, and it formed the basis for most of his publications. His graduate text, *Analytical Methods in Conduction Heat Transfer*, published in 1971, was the first heat-transfer text to present the finite-element analysis of conduction problems. This text is still in use today. The Finite Element Heat Transfer program (FEHT) that resulted from this work continues to be available and is featured in a widely distributed heat transfer text.

Over the years, teaching the next generation of engineers became his passion. He was an excellent classroom instructor but was also readily approachable outside the classroom. He always had time for students to discuss the problems that they faced in their engineering studies. Glen’s approach to teaching combined excellent lectures with high expectations. He required that students exercise their knowledge through numerous, difficult homework assignments. As a result, he instilled in students both a love for the thermal side of mechanical engineering as well as a confidence in their own abilities. This approach clearly impacted the lives of many students in ways that are hard to measure. The eventual success of these students after they graduated was in part related to the excellent preparation that they received in Glen’s class. These students are his most lasting professional legacy and they have contributed to the national and international reputation of the department.

The students in his classes recognized his excellence as a teacher. Although the courses he taught are known to be among the most challenging in the curriculum, he received many student-administered teaching awards from Pi Tau Sigma and Polygon. The College of Engineering recognized him with the Teaching Excellence Award and the University of Wisconsin with the
AMOCO Distinguished Teaching Award. The large number of teaching awards he received are a testament to his commitment to helping students learn mechanical engineering subjects, and the recognition of its value.

His dedication to undergraduate teaching led to his textbook entitled *Engineering Thermodynamics*. This book differed from other texts by focusing on a sound and systematic method for analyzing and solving the challenging problems of thermodynamics. Although the process was presented in the context of thermodynamics problems, the underlying method provided a basic approach to solving a variety of problems encountered by engineers in school or practice.

Another measure of his dedication to undergraduate student development was his many years of service as Scholarship Chair of the department. The Scholarship Program provides financial support to undergraduate Mechanical Engineering students through a large number of gifts and grants from individuals, organizations, and industrial sponsors. Glen oversaw the matching of awards and recipients and organized the annual program in which the awards were presented.

His greatest honor was the universal respect and appreciation of colleagues and students for his dedication to undergraduate education.

Glen is survived by his wife Susan, his son Timothy A. Myers, his daughter Christine D. Myers, and a grandson, Ethan C. Myers. He was preceded in death by his young son, Gregory.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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