Richard Arthur Dodd, Professor Emeritus of Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, passed away at home in Madison November 18, 2011. Arthur was eighty nine years of age having been born February 11, 1922, in Derby, England to Richard and Harriet Dodd. Arthur is survived by his wife of 64 years Marie.

During World War II Arthur worked as a Metallurgist in the Rolls-Royce foundries, manufacturer of aircraft engines for the British Royal Air Force. During that period he was also a member of the anti-aircraft group in the Home Guard.

Upon completion of his doctorate in 1950 the family moved to Johannesburg, South Africa where Arthur had been offered a Senior Lectureship position at the University of the Witwatersrand. In 1954 the family moved to Ottawa, Canada where Arthur accepted a position as Research Officer for the Canadian Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. In 1956 Arthur moved the family to the United States as he joined the faculty of the Metallurgical Engineering Department at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1959 Arthur received an offer to join the Department of Mining and Metallurgy at the University of Wisconsin in Madison as Associate Professor. He was promoted to Professor in 1962 and retired in 1992, at which time he was granted emeritus status.

Arthur was active in initiating an interdisciplinary graduate program in Materials Science at the University of Wisconsin and was the first chairperson of the Materials Science program committee. In 1974, he became chairperson of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering. Arthur was also Director of the Materials Science Research Center for five years. Further service to the University was on both the Executive Committee and the Research Committee of the Physical Sciences Division and the University Rights and Responsibilities Committee. Arthur’s recognized fairness, sound judgment and strong work ethic was often sought for service on numerous College of Engineering committees.

Mentoring of graduate students from MS degrees as well as sixteen research grants and published over 150 of many professional and honorary included being a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Metallurgists (England), as a technical expertise Chancellor Shalala letter supporting his appointment to take special pride in noting your profession and to small companies in the solving their corrosion problems.” internationally as an expert in irradiation intermetallic compounds.” Arthur was professor; continuing to pursue an active research program and to live the Wisconsin Idea. He was on campus frequently well after his retirement.

Arthur’s dedication to teaching is evidenced in high rankings as an instructor of courses ranging from undergraduate, to graduate to intensive specialty courses offered through University of Wisconsin – Extension. Chancellor Shalala, also acknowledged that facet of Arthur’s career at the University, e.g., “Your dedication to teaching on both the undergraduate and graduate level is especially noted.” Arthur regularly advised undergraduates on Senior Design projects as emeritus professor and at age 85 still taught his undergraduate corrosion course.

Arthur was accomplished in pursuits beyond the classroom and laboratory. His family’s record of their travels across the world is perhaps an obvious example of his many facets as a person. He was fortunate to make many worldwide travels with his wife Marie and has lectured in China, Russia, India, Malaysia, Japan, New Zealand, and many European and South African countries.

A number of aspects of Arthur’s life, however, are not well known to casual acquaintances. For example, he had the uncommon talent of being a ‘dual whistler’. Arthur was a devoted amateur athlete spending many lunch hours playing racquetball and early mornings at the Natatorium in pick-up basketball games. He was an avid golfer. From 1963 he was a member of Cherokee Country Club and in 2011 was the oldest active member. Arthur also enjoyed watching televised Wisconsin sports teams, golf, and English football. Equal to his devotion to physical exercise was a fondness for the bridge table where he won many rounds as well extremely active as an emeritus research program and to live the Wisconsin Idea. He was on campus frequently well after his retirement.

Arthur will be remembered by his family, students, colleagues and friends for his dry wit, creativity, amazing memory, curiosity, kindness, and generosity. We will continue to be reminded of Arthur’s dedication to the missions of the university through the scholarship endowed in his memory by Marie Dodd, which will both support and inspire young Wisconsin engineering students.

The Richard (Arthur) Dodd Scholarship

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