Emeritus Professor and University of Wisconsin alumnus Theodore (Ted) D. Tiemann served as professor in the Department of Mining and Metallurgy/Metallurgical and Mining Engineering from 1959 to 1979 and as Emeritus Professor after his retirement. He was a dedicated academic and engineer who shared his admiration for teaching and the vitality of the engineering discipline with two decades of UW engineering students.

Ted Tiemann was born in New Haven, Connecticut on December 13, 1907. At age 5 he moved to Madison, Wisconsin with his parents. His father, Dr. Harry Tiemann, a timber physicist, was one of the founders of the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Ted Tiemann attended the UW-Madison, earning BS, MS, and PhD (1933) degrees from the Department of Mining and Metallurgy, a predecessor of the present day Department of Materials Science and Engineering. In 1934, he and Ann Scharff of Butternut, Wisconsin were married.

After professional employment with several mineral products companies, Professor Tiemann entered the military service in 1942 as a U.S. Army signal corps officer. He served in the European theater in World War II and was discharged as a Major in 1946. He then entered the employment of the Reynolds Metal Company, where he became Manager of the Research Department of its Alumina Division. He joined the Department of Mining and Metallurgy at the UW-Madison as an assistant professor in 1959. He was promoted to full professor in 1964 and served as associate chair of the then-called Department of Metallurgical and Mineral Engineering from 1969 to 1979. During his UW career he directed research projects on taconite iron ores, leaching of siliceous taconites, underwater mineral beneficiation by hydrocyclone classifiers, a variety of flotation projects, and a study of manganese nodules in Green Bay. He was a member of ACS, AIME, HAAS and Sigma Xi. Professor Tiemann was also a member of many college and University committees.

Research and the training of graduate students is a vital part of engineering education, but nothing was more important to Ted Tiemann than arousing and maintaining students’ interest through good teaching. His broad background enabled him to bring to his students appreciation not only textbook engineering, but also of its applications in engineering practice. Throughout his academic lifetime, he stressed that engineering is a dynamic discipline, always moving forward through the development of new ideas, techniques and processes. He kept abreast of his main fields of interest, mineral processing and process metallurgy, by actively participating in research, publishing papers, supervising graduate students, attending national meetings, and studying the literature.

Ted Tiemann brought to the Department, probably as a consequence of his years of industrial experience, a dedication to the use of clear and concise English, particularly in the written form. He taught a course in technical English in the Department for many years. He appreciated that young engineers often make their first, and sometimes only, contact with management through written reports.

Professor Ted Tiemann’s last few years in the M&ME Department were marred by impaired health. His loving wife, Ann, devoted her time to making him comfortable through these trials. He passed away on September 1, 1981 at age 73 in Madison, Wisconsin. We all miss Ted, not only for his valuable contributions to the Department and the UW, but for his friendliness and unfailing good humor. No matter how low down one felt, Ted always had a story of and experience to relate that helped to revive spirits and make one realize that things weren’t as bad as had been thought.