

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

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS VINCENT C. RIDEOUT**

Professor Emeritus Vincent C. Rideout died peacefully in his sleep at age 89 on Monday, July 28, 2003, after a courageous 15-year battle with cancer.

He was born May 22, 1914 in Alberta, Canada. After graduating from high school he attended Calgary Normal School for teacher training. He subsequently taught in a one-room country school in Alberta that had 2-3 students in each grade. He earned his B.Sc. in Engineering Physics from the University of Alberta in 1938 (with Distinction), and spent his junior year at McGill University in Montreal in 1936-37, on an exchange fellowship. He did not have enough money to buy a bus or train ticket, so he rode in railroad boxcars to get from Alberta to Quebec and back. He received an M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology in 1940, where he received a Drake Fellowship.

During World War II he did research on microwave radar and relay systems at Bell Telephone Laboratories in New Jersey. He worked as a visiting research engineer at Boeing Airplane Co. in the summer of 1951. Later industrial experience included consulting work at Allis Chalmers, Cutler-Hammer and IBM.

He joined the Department of Electrical Engineering in 1946 as an assistant professor and became professor in 1954. He was chairman of the department from 1972 to 1976. He retired in 1983.

During his chairmanship, he was instrumental in changing the name of the Department of Electrical Engineering to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, in recognition of the importance that computers had become in the teaching and research activities of the department.

He served on the Faculty Senate, the University Committee, the Graduate School Research Committee, and the Physical Sciences Divisional Executive Committee.

Professor Rideout was member of the staff of the Mathematics Research Center in 1959-60 and 1975-77. He also was a participant in the interdisciplinary program "Natural Resource Policies in Relation to Economic Development and International Cooperation".

He was the major professor for 30 Ph.D. students and supervised the research of many MS students in addition. He was the author or coauthor of more than 70 technical papers. His 1954 textbook, *Active Networks*, was widely used in electrical engineering classrooms in universities throughout the United States and the world.

After his retirement, he served as the senior faculty editor coordinating the preparation and publication of the 334 page hard cover book "Electrical Engineering at the University of Wisconsin in Madison 1891-1991", a history of the department in its first 100 years.

Professor Rideout acquired the first generation Philbrick electronic analog computer components in 1951, starting his involvement in the growth of computer engineering in the department. He later constructed an improved analog computer and, with NSF support, acquired a state-of-the-art hybrid computer with a large electronic analog computer interfaced to a large digital computer. He and his graduate students made significant contributions in analog, digital and hybrid computer simulations of random processes, control systems and other physical systems.

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In 1954-55 he and his family lived in Bangalore, India, where he helped to build India's first analog computer at the Indian Institute of Technology. He frequently traveled in connection with his research and was a visiting professor at the Universities of Colorado 1963-64 and the University of Hawaii 1983-84. He was a visiting scientist at the Institute of Medical Physics in Holland 1970-71.

At the age of 50 he began studying medicine, physiology and anesthesiology. He subsequently began work in the area of biomedical engineering, including cardiovascular simulation and modeling. He developed an international reputation in this new field, and his 1991 book, *Mathematical and Computer Modeling of Physiological Systems*, was a pioneering publication in the field. He served on the Board of Directors of the Biomedical Engineering Society and in other ways fostered the growth of biomedical engineering as an academic discipline. Biomedical Engineering is now a separate department in the College of Engineering.

During his tenure at the University of Wisconsin-Madison he received numerous honors, awards and grants, including the Benjamin Smith Reynolds Award for Excellence in Teaching Future Engineers. He was a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Perhaps his greatest honor was the universal esteem with which he was regarded by his colleagues and former students.

As he approached retirement he took up watercolor painting. He was an active painter for most of the rest of his life, and had a prodigious output. His paintings have been exhibited in the UW Hospital and other locations. He also enjoyed photography, tennis, golf and hiking and was member of Madison Horizons Rotary Club and the Elks Club. He will be remembered for his integrity, intelligence and good humor.

He is survived by his sons Chester B. Rideout, of Berthoud, Colorado; Raymond L. Rideout, of Madison; and Darryl C. Rideout, of San Diego. He was preceded in death by his wife of over 60 years, Gertrude Rideout, and his oldest son, Vincent Leo Rideout.

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