

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS PAUL J. GROGAN

Paul J. Grogan had a great belief in education and worked to implement the “Wisconsin Idea” of the University of Wisconsin. He was born November 20, 1918 in Adrian, Minnesota and died December 26, 2008 in Madison. Paul served in the US Navy during World War II in the Pacific Theater. He earned his BS in mechanical engineering from Purdue University and an MS from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was appointed an assistant professor of mechanical engineering in the College of Engineering in 1947. In August 1951, he became chair of the Department of Engineering, University of Wisconsin, Extension Division.

Extension engineering, as it was then known, was housed in vacant facilities in the stadium. * Seven full-time instructors composed the department’s staff; they were primarily an independent study group administering about 160 correspondence courses, many of which were part of the United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) program. USAFI, working with the University of Wisconsin and other academic institutions, sought to provide educational opportunities to literally thousands of members of the armed services, a mission of special significance during World War II and the post-war period. Paul Grogan directed this program for extension engineering.

He was particularly interested in emerging technologies and believed the mission of extension engineering was to prepare and enable engineers to meet rapid technological advancements and their applications in fields for which there had been little or no formal preparation. He helped devise and promote the use of the Continuing Education Unit (CEU), an internationally recognized unit that tracks adult education courses taken outside university degree programs.

At this time, Professor Grogan realized that an expansion of engineering institutes and short courses was needed, and with his staff established realistic annual planning goals. Paul led the development of and conducted twelve short courses while fulfilling his responsibilities in administration. He provided the necessary vision and expertise to develop and expand other course offerings. Enrollment rose in the individual courses, and the total number of offerings increased by 15 to 20 percent each year for more than ten years thereafter. Paul recruited and inspired numerous design professionals into the realm of continuing education for their peers. Courses were offered wherever engineers and their co-workers gathered – College of Engineering classrooms, Center System campuses, vocational school classrooms, and private facilities.

Fundraising for an extension classroom center had begun as early as 1947. The Wisconsin Center (now the Pyle Center) at Lake and Langdon streets, built for general meeting purposes by alumni and friends of the university, opened its doors in 1958. As chair of a major programming unit using the facility, Paul was an active contributor in planning the new building. Similarly, he was closely involved in selecting the 432 North Lake Street site for the Extension Building and contributed his own prolific ideas in design of the building and played a role in making it one of the first Madison campus buildings to have central air conditioning when the University of Wisconsin, Extension Division moved in August 1962. Paul Grogan had served on the building committee and selected the seventh floor as the most desirable office space; therefore, engineering extension was assigned to the seventh floor. QED.

* Much of the historical context presented here for the extension engineering division is taken from “A Departmental History,” by Janice A. Czyncon (1989).

During the early 1960s, under Professor Grogan's leadership, extension engineering became increasingly involved in contract work. The department conducted summer institutes for teachers as funded by the National Science Foundation, published a two-volume "Technology in Western Civilization," and published the definitive work on radiation shielding and fall-out shelter design. Also funded under the Civil Defense University Extension Program (CDUEP) were various educational offerings for engineers, architects, and other design professionals. These efforts together with seminars for elected and appointed officials taught design and operation of shelters to protect the public from the effects of nuclear weapons.

During Professor Grogan's chairmanship, extension engineering opened a branch in Milwaukee (1964) and thereby helped to meet Milwaukee's principle goal – an evening program to serve local engineers and industry. Instructors from Madison helped with specifically designed state-of-the art classes to update engineers who had graduated from a formal program some years previously. Extension engineering also worked closely with the Center System and provided engineering and related courses in the rapidly developing computer field on the university's state-wide campuses.

During this period, extension engineering also maintained close associations with Marquette University, the Milwaukee School of Engineering, and professional societies. The department undertook other professional development activities on behalf of technical and engineering professionals. For example, the early Surveyor's Institutes provided a foundation for the Wisconsin Land Surveyors Association, and the Welding Institutes of the mid-1950s led to development of a local chapter of the American Welding Society. The local chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers was a direct outgrowth of similar initiatives. Paul was a licensed professional engineer and was a member of the WSPE and NSPE. He was an honorary life member of the National Association of Power Engineers and an author of their basic training programs.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, technological advancement in the fields of space technology, transportation, electronics, computers, and other areas made extension engineering's programming a necessary service providing information to a national audience. In 1966, Professor Grogan took academic leave to serve as national director of the Office of State Technical Services in Washington, DC. In that position, he administered programs that provided technical information to American business and industry through state agencies. He remained with the federal agency for twenty-one months before returning to the University of Wisconsin.

Committed to education for everyone, his lecture circuits crisscrossed Wisconsin and nearby states. He authored numerous articles ranging from the Heat and Power Section of the American Family Encyclopedia to other technical articles in the popular press. A master estimator, Paul was particularly expert in the graphical solution of engineering problems. He always had an assortment of mathematical amazements or logic conundrums at hand to challenge and stretch the "gears between the ears" of every age group.

He knew how to motivate and foster excellence. As a department leader, he would assign projects that seemed beyond one's capabilities, but always with a good word and help if needed. He strongly supported staff professional development and encouraged all program directors to earn academic degrees and where practicable to establish affiliations within the College of Engineering. Paul also actively mentored his former students and avidly followed their careers as attested by the voluminous correspondence he accumulated over many years.

Paul J. Grogan was an optimistic and outgoing person who found his professional niche in university extension where he designed and implemented inroads that remain and continue to impact engineering and continuing education to the present. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Dottie, and is survived by six children, ten grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

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