

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS GEORGE R. SELL

George R. Sell, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering, passed away in Madison on May 17, 2010 at the age of 93.

George was born in Glidden, Wisconsin and earned a BS degree in industrial arts from The Stout Institute (now UW-Stout) in 1940. He was an industrial arts teacher in Fairmont, West Virginia for a year before serving in the U.S. Army for four years during World War II as a platoon leader in the U.S., North Africa and Italy. He then joined the army reserves and retired in 1966 as a lieutenant colonel. After leaving active army service, George worked for the Consolidated Paper Company (1946), the Veterans Administration (1946-49) and the Armed Forces Institute (1949-52). In 1952, George received an MS degree from the UW-Madison in guidance and personnel and was appointed instructor in extension engineering at UW-Madison. In 1954, he transferred to mechanical engineering as an instructor until appointed assistant professor in 1955. George was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1959 and retired as a full professor in 1982.

Professor Sell's primary field of interest was technical communication. He taught technical writing to undergraduate engineering students and also to practicing engineers. George was active in the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers (WSPE). He edited and published the *Wisconsin Professional Engineer* magazine for nine years. He was the faculty advisor of the student chapter of WSPE; George also served as advisor for 28 years to the student-published *Wisconsin Engineer* magazine, which has been in continuous publication since 1896.

George initiated the Cooperative Education Program for the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He ran the program informally for the entire College of Engineering through his office in mechanical engineering for several years until the college began supporting the program in 1982 when he retired. George also developed the AIM Graduate Program for off-campus students in mechanical engineering, a precursor to the Professional Development Degree (PDD).

Generating the student advising program in mechanical engineering was another major contribution of Professor Sell. He organized and developed the student record system and served the department for 18 years overseeing class scheduling, enrollment, registration and student records. He also reorganized the student counseling and record system for PDD candidates and served as PDD counselor for nine years.

George has made many contributions that have improved the way the mechanical engineering department operates. Additionally, he contributed to the feeling of camaraderie in the department. His enjoyment of playing bridge with other faculty consumed his lunch hours for many years and delighted those who played with him. He was fond of telling stories and often lightened up tedious faculty discussions with a relevant anecdote.

George is survived by his wife, DeLee; two children, G. Richard and his wife Mia, and Jane Sell and her husband Phillip Berke; five grandchildren, Lyle, Murray, Rick, Timothy and LeeAnn; and three great-grandchildren, Dylan, David and Olivia.

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