
**Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Allan K. Scidmore**

Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering Allan K Scidmore died December 17, 2014 at age 87. He was born on March 11, 1927 in Grafton, North Dakota and served for two years in the US Army. He is survived by Barbara, his wife of 61 years, and their four children Keith, David, Robert and Virginia.

Professor Scidmore earned a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of North Dakota and a MS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. His major interest changed and he earned his PhD in Electrical Engineering in 1958 from the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

In 1950, two PhD students in the UW Physics Department, Gene Amdahl and Charles Davidson, approached the Chairman of the UW Electrical Engineering Department, Harold Peterson, with a proposal for constructing a digital computer. Peterson approved the proposal and secured financial support from the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. At the time, Allan Scidmore was still a graduate student in Chemical Engineering and expressed an interest in getting a PhD degree in Electrical Engineering (EE). He joined the team of EE faculty and EE graduate students working as Research Assistants on the Wisconsin Integrally Synchronized Computer (WISC) project. Collectively, they designed and constructed the WISC. Al served as the Supervisor of the WISC Laboratory 1957-1959. After several years of use the WISC was retired and later was acquired by Amdahl and donated it to the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California, where the WISC is today.

After completing the requirements for his PhD Al joined the faculty of the Electrical Engineering Department as an Assistant Professor in 1957. As a faculty member, Scidmore made significant contributions to teaching and curricular development in electronics and computers. For decades, he was a leading faculty member in the area of digital electronics. Professor Scidmore's contributions in digital electronics became increasingly important as computers gradually grew to become ubiquitous and to affect our daily lives. In 1972, in recognition of these changes, the Electrical Engineering Department changed its name to the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. In 2000, the Department began offering a Computer Engineering undergraduate degree.

In 1968, Allan and Professor Donald Dietmeyer secured funding for and constructed unique prototyping equipment for the first capstone computer-design laboratory course in Wisconsin. In this team-based project course, student teams competed by designing, constructing and testing simple digital computers. The course is still offered after a succession of equipment and design tool upgrades to keep up with state-of-the-art approaches and increased computer complexity/

In 1976, Professors Scidmore and Dietmeyer, working with Professor Willis Long of the UW Extension Engineering Department, developed the course "Digital Technology for Radio Broadcast Engineers" on videotape. More than 1000 students from around the country enrolled in the course. In 1978, this course received a "Meritorious Achievement Award" from the National University of Continuing Education.

In 1977-1980 he was an Associate Director of the University-Industry Research Program.

Professor Scidmore served as an Associate Chairman of his Department 1982-1986 and 1990-1994, responsible for all aspects of the undergraduate program.

Professor Scidmore was first and foremost a teacher and had an enviable reputation of being regarded as outstanding by his students and colleagues. This is evident from Professor Scidmore's teaching awards. Among his many awards for outstanding instruction were:

- Recognized by Polygon, the College of Engineering student organization, as an ECE Outstanding Teacher in 1977, 1982, 1983, 1985, and 1988.
- Recognized by the College of Engineering in 1986 with the Benjamin Smith Reynolds Award for "Excellence in Teaching of Future Engineers."
- University of Wisconsin Distinguished Teaching Award 1986.

Among his student activities, he served as Counselor to the UW-Madison Student Chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers 1981-1985.

He was an active member of the Madison Area Radio Control Society and was a long-time designer, builder and pilot of radio controlled model airplanes). He flew his models competitively at various meets throughout Wisconsin. Beginning in the 1980s, he primarily built and flew sailplanes, which he flew in a large number of sailplane meets, including the national contest. Al was instrumental in holding several sailplane technical symposiums in Madison and he was the editor of the symposium proceedings that were published.

Al was a bowler, an avid gardener and a charter member of the EE Department Band, playing the clarinet. The members of the Band often played for their own enjoyment during the noon hour in a storeroom in the basement of the Engineering building and also played for the enjoyment of guests at various department events.

The faculty and graduates of the UW community have lost a valued colleague, friend and mentor.

The ECE Department Memorial Committee
Donald L. Dietmeyer, ECE Professor Emeritus
A. Burr Fontaine, ECE Professor Emeritus
Charles R. Kime, ECE Professor Emeritus
James J. Skiles, ECE Professor Emeritus