MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR EARL T. RATLEDGE

Earl T. Ratledge, Associate Professor in the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department died on May 6, 1987 after a prolonged bout with cancer. A dedicated and innovative teacher, he will be sorely missed by his colleagues and his students.

After working as a draftsman and spending two years as a First Lieutenant in the Air Force, Earl returned to Illinois State University and obtained a B.S. in Industrial Education in 1951. He taught mechanical drawing in the Benton Harbor School District for two years before joining the Engineering Drawing Department of the University of Wisconsin Engineering Extension, a Division of the Madison College of Engineering, in 1955. It was at this time that he became a charter member of the Downtown Luncheon Club, a loosely knit group of faculty from all disciplines who enjoyed freewheeling, creative discussions on far ranging topics during their lunch hours.

This creative environment carried over into Earl's teaching efforts where he challenged students to generate innovative solutions to problems. He became involved in programmed instruction and in educational research and as a result, contributed greatly to the development of new courses in the area of graphics and design. Especially noteworthy were his contributions to the Introduction to Design course where his students won recognition in national design contests.

Professor Ratledge was chairperson of the Educational Research Methods Division of ASEE (American Society for Engineering Education), a group devoted to the improvement of learning. His endeavors in creative teaching resulted in invitations to present his methodologies to several international meetings devoted to the teaching of design. He was also an active member of Phi Delta Kappa, the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters, as well as the Wisconsin Technology Education Assn.

Above all, Earl was known for his unselfish devotion to young people of all ages. He was always available to his students and he enjoyed their visits dearly, but he also devoted a lot of his energies to his church and to the Boy Scouts. In the latter, he served as a Scoutmaster and later as a district representative for many years. The scouting program really served as an outlet for his greatest love — camping. An expert canoeist, hiker, cross country skier, Earl loved the out-of-doors. His expertise in these areas resulted in invitations to present demonstrations and lectures to various nature groups in the area.

For all of the dedication, commitment and contributions to a wide range of activities, and his friendship, he will be missed — and remembered.

Professor Robert T. Balmer, Department of Mechanical Engineering
Professor Michael Besel, Department of Mechanical Engineering
Steven Salamon, Asst. to Dean, College of Engineering & Applied Science