A Legacy

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and something more. But that success did not arrive full-blown. The college stands on the shoulders of many who dedicated themselves to building an engineering school excellent in its accomplishments and unique in its vision.

To recognize exceptional contributions by faculty, staff, alumni, and friends, the college has established the Legacy of Iowa Engineering. Unlike the Distinguished Engineering Alumni Academy, which recognizes Iowa alumni who have made outstanding contributions to the profession or to society, the new Legacy honors those who have played key roles in shaping the college.

Seven charter members of the Legacy were inducted at the spring 2004 Alumni Reunion. Inductees’ family members and friends accepted the awards and regaled reunion dinner attendees with touching and humorous stories of the honorees’ years at the college.

The children of several honorees brought items their parents had used. John Dawson brought a turtle-shaped inkwell that occupied the desk of his father during Frances Murray Dawson’s 23-year tenure as dean of the College of Engineering. The elder Dawson held the family heirloom up as a symbol of persistence, to encourage engineering students. John Kammermeyer showed the small suitcase his father, Karl Kammermeyer, used to bring all his worldly belongings to the United States in 1925, when he fled the threat of German fascism. Kammermeyer spoke of his father’s sense of humor, faith in humanity, and delight in life’s serendipity.

Robert Nagler’s father, Floyd, died when Robert was only 10 years old. Nevertheless, the younger Nagler said his father instilled in him the conviction that “an engineering education was a well-rounded opportunity to do a lot of good in the world.”

Although Mary Sheedy never had children of her own, her niece, Jean Spurgeon, spoke of the generations of engineering students who benefited from Sheedy’s maternal kindness and advice.

Another Legacy charter member, Philip Hubbard, was likewise renowned for his integrity, kindness, and support of students. Hubbard’s son Peter emphasized his father’s affection for the University and the College.

John F. Kennedy’s son, Brian, said his father’s childhood in the desert of New Mexico shaped him into a pragmatist. “The thing about water,” Kennedy quoted his father as saying, “is that we’ll always have it, but too much or too little. Either way, you’ll need an engineer.”

Hunter Rouse, Kennedy’s predecessor as the director of the Iowa Institute of Hydraulic Research, catapulted the Institute into the forefront of fluid science—a legacy whose significance at the world-renowned research facility has magnified through time.

Up to three members will be inducted to the Legacy of Iowa Engineering each year, based on selections from nominated individuals. Anyone may nominate a former faculty or staff member or an alumnus or friend of the College of Engineering who has made exceptional contributions toward advancing the college in teaching, research, or service. Visit www.engineering.uiowa.edu/honor-wall/legacy/nominate.html to learn how to nominate an individual. The next Legacy inductions will occur June 11, 2005, in Iowa City. Nominations for 2005 inductions are due March 1, 2005.

For more information, contact Office of the Dean, College of Engineering, The University of Iowa, 3100 Seamans Center for Engineering Arts and Sciences, Iowa City, IA 52242-1527; phone 319.334.0550; fax 319.335.6086; e-mail engineering-adm@uiowa.edu.
FRANCES MURRAY DAWSON served the college as an educator and administrator for more than three decades. Dawson expanded engineering education in the humanities, and when he engaged faculty members in administrative decision making, the faculty’s esprit de corps soared. Dawson was a leader in many national engineering organizations, and his expertise in water supply engineering enabled him to play a crucial role in establishing a national plumbing code. His balanced mix of administrative, engineering, and interpersonal skills fixed him as one of Iowa’s best-loved and most-respected deans.

PHILIP G. HUBBARD helped advance The University of Iowa for half a century. After earning a BS in electrical engineering and MS and PhD degrees in mechanics and hydraulics from Iowa, Hubbard joined the engineering faculty, becoming a full professor in 1959. At the IIHR, he developed innovative instrumentation and data-acquisition techniques. Stepping into University administration, Hubbard effectively advocated for diversity and racial equality. He became the first African-American in several administrative positions, including the first vice president in a Big Ten university. But Hubbard also is remembered for his strong yet kindly manner and the patience, persistence, and leadership that helped guide six University of Iowa presidents.

KARL KAMMERMEYER was a gifted teacher, dedicated professor, and pioneer in membrane research, recognizing its potential for meeting the engineering challenges of space flight, heart-lung machines, artificial kidneys, artificial skin for burn victims, and dental implants. His 1983 book on genetic engineering articulated the important role of chemical engineers in the emerging field of molecular biology. Kammermeyer’s legacy as a mentor and an engineer continues to inspire the devotion of his former students and fellow faculty members.

JOHN F. (JACK) KENNEDY guided IIHR through 25 years of expansion, until his death in 1991. Building on his predecessors’ emphasis on fundamental research and course work, Kennedy expanded the institute’s focus to include applied work and led IIHR to the forefront of environmental hydraulics and other initiatives. Under his guidance, IIHR won international acclaim and maintained its financial solvency and its status as a leader in hydraulics research during the late 20th century.

FLOYD NAGLER guided and promoted the University’s Hydraulics Laboratory through its first 13 years within a few years of his arrival on campus in 1920. Nagler launched research projects and graduate programs in hydraulics, helping to transform the college into a research-oriented center for advanced study. Nagler also established the Iowa Institute of Hydraulics Research and laid a firm base for the institute’s excellence, productivity, and international acclaim. He built a sizeable IIHR staff, guided more than 50 graduate students, and was responsible for construction of the research facility now named the C. Maxwell Stanley Hydraulics Laboratory.

HUNTER ROUSE reshaped hydraulics into a rigorous, predictive science, authored seminal fluid mechanics texts, and initiated hydraulics classes at Iowa. As director of IIHR, Rouse generated a steady stream of federal grants that stimulated fundamental research programs at the University. At the same time, he designed teaching laboratories and engaged in historic research. Rouse traveled around the globe, widening IIHR’s international reputation. He capped his career at Iowa by serving as the College’s dean 1966–72.

MARY SHEEDY’S tenure as secretary to the dean of engineering stretched over more than 40 years and seven deans. From 1928 to 1969 Sheedy was not only the college’s chief clerical officer, but also a friend and adviser to countless engineering students. More than a few have maintained that without her cheerful counsel, they would not have graduated. A 1943 Iowa Transit described Sheedy this way: “A grander person you’ll never know; a better helper you’ll never find; a finer lady you’ll never meet, a closer friend you’ll never have.”