Resolution in Memoriam

William D. Ploughe

The Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University expresses its sorrow upon the death on September 9, 2011, of William D. Ploughe, Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Physics.

Professor Ploughe held a Bachelor of Science in Education degree and a Master of Science degree in physics from Indiana University. He earned his Ph.D. degree in physics at Purdue University in 1961. Professor Ploughe was hired as an assistant professor in 1962, and was a professor of physics for 30 years, all at Ohio State, retiring in 1992 as Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Physics.

Professor Ploughe's research interest for many years was nuclear physics. In the 1980s, he developed video analysis techniques for capturing motion, giving invited talks and workshops on the subject until long after he retired. He spent two years on leave at the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (1966-68). For many years, Dr. Ploughe was coordinator of a conceptual physics course for nonscientists.

From 1991 until the mid-2000s, he co-taught an intensive summer course for teachers with Professor Alan Van Heuvelen. Ploughe was a dedicated teacher and researcher who expected and received excellent work from his students. Numerous students earned Ph.D. degrees under his supervision. Professor Ploughe was gifted with the ability to bring difficult topics to a level that his students could understand.

He was a member of the American Physical Society, the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT), the Southern Ohio Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers, and the Ohio Academy of Science. He served in numerous capacities for the AAPT including as president of the Southern Ohio Section and co-chair of the local host committee for the national summer meeting with Professor Gordon Aubrecht. Dr. Ploughe was awarded the Distinguished Service Citation of the American Association of Physics Teachers in 2002.

A lifelong Boy Scout, he served in many capacities for that organization throughout his life. He was Cub Master of Pack 333, and served as the institutional representative of Troops 65 and 365 for Worthington United Methodist Church. In 1983, Ploughe was presented the Silver Beaver award by the former Boy Scout Central Ohio Council. For a number of years he was the Canoe Clinic coordinator for the Council, which included teaching summer workshops on canoeing for the Simon Kenton Council of the Boy Scouts. Dr. Ploughe was an active member of Worthington United Methodist Church and a long-term member of the Worthington Optimist Club, where he served as secretary-treasurer for some years.

On behalf of the University community, the Board of Trustees expresses to the family of Associate Professor Emeritus William D. Ploughe its deepest sympathy and sense of understanding of their loss. It is directed that this resolution be inscribed upon the minutes of the Board of Trustees and that a copy be tendered to his family as an expression of the Board’s heartfelt sympathy.