

: Dr. Cedomir M. “Cheddy” Sliepcevich

Dr. Cedomir (Cheddy) M. Sliepcevich passed away on October 22, 2009. Cheddy, as he was fondly called, was born in Anaconda Montana on October 4, 1920 to Maksim & Jovanka Sliepcevich. His parents, immigrants from Hercegovian (now part of Yugoslavia) taught their children to love and value education. As a result, Cheddy has devoted his life to teaching engineering and improving the world through technology. He attended Montana State College in Bozeman from 1937 to 1939, then transferred to the University of Michigan where he completed his B.S. (1941), M.S.(1942) and Ph.D. degree (1948) in chemical engineering at the University of Michigan. Dr. Sliepcevich began teaching as a graduate assistant at the University of Michigan and was appointed assistant professor of chemical and metallurgical engineering there in 1948. While there, he pioneered with G.G. Brown the development of a generalized system approach to thermodynamics that is widely used today in the teaching of thermodynamics to engineering students around the world. With his graduate students, he developed laboratory facilities and programs that permitted them to conduct classical experiments in light and energy scattering, which in turn led to fundamental extensions in the theory of energy scattering. While at The University of Michigan he directed fifteen Ph.D. dissertations.

In the late ‘40s Dr. Sliepcevich’s was involved with one of the first programs in bioengineering in this country. The program resulted in development of the earliest clinical artificial kidney’s and the techniques for using streaming potential to measure blood flow in the remote portions of the body. This was part of the body of work that led to the development of modern hemo-dialysis technology.

Cheddy came to the University of Oklahoma in February, 1955 as Professor and chairman of Chemical Engineering. From 1956 through 1962, he served as associate dean of the College of Engineering with full responsibilities from all research activities, graduate study, accreditation, faculty recruitment and development. His leadership was the basis for a complete renewal and revitalization of the College of Engineering. In July 1958, he became chairman of the School of General Engineering in addition to his duties as associate dean. In 1963, Cheddy relinquished all administrative responsibilities to devote full time to teaching and research as a George Lynn Cross Research Professor of Engineering the youngest person to receive this distinction at the University of Oklahoma. In 1989 he was named the Robert W. Hughes Centennial Professor of Engineering. He accepted emeritus status from the university in 1991. At OU alone, he had directed 52 Ph.D’s, one doctor of engineering and 27 master of science degrees.

In addition to his academic and public service activities, he maintained an active consulting practice. Through his consulting work with Continental Oil Company in Ponca City, he became affiliated with Constock International Methane Ltd. (now Conch International Methane, Ltd., London) and became Director of Research and Engineering. He managed and pioneered the research, development and implementation of the first commercial process for liquefaction and ocean transport of liquefied natural gas. These original efforts became the basis for the current development of a multibillion dollar industry for the processing, transport and utilization of LNG. His technical leadership in conjunction with this major effort has made Sliepcevich an internationally recognized name. He is regarded as the father of LNG technology, and in 1962 his contributions were recognized by

designation as a National Sigma Xi Lecturer on the subject of “liquefied Natural Gas-A New Source of Energy.

Dr. Sliepcevich was instrumental in the rapid growth of the Research Institute – now the Office of Research Administration – and led OU to the forefront among universities in the use of digital computers. While fostering conditions for broader and deeper research university wide through the institute, Dr. Sliepcevich served as principal investigator for contracts and grants in excess of \$3.5 million.

He published extensively (over 165 technical papers) in a variety of fields including energy and fuels, light scattering, high pressure reaction kinetics, hydrocarbon oxidation, flame dynamics, natural gas technology, cryogenics, thermodynamics, heat and mass transfer, extractive metallurgy and desalination. In addition he was active as a consultant for private industry. He also served on numerous national panels and study committees primarily for Federal Agencies.

He was the recipient of a number of awards including the Curtis McGraw Research Award (ASEE), the International Ipatieff Prize (ACS), the George Westinghouse Award (ASEE), Engineer of the Year (NPSE), William H. Walker Award (AIChE), Sigma Xi Lecturer, Peter C. Reilly Lecturer (Notre Dame), Donald L. Katz Lecturer (University of Michigan), Oklahoma Academy of Science Award of Merit, University of Michigan's Sesquicentennial Award for Distinguished alumni, the University of Oklahoma Distinguished Service Citation, In 1974 he was inducted into The Oklahoma Hall of Fame and the 1986 Sprague-Schlumberger Gas Industry research Award (AGA).

He held memberships in the American Chemical Society, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Society of Engineering Education, American Association for the Advancement of Science, National Society of Professional Engineers, and the National Academy of Engineering. He was a registered professional engineer Michigan and Oklahoma.

The C. M. Sliepcevich Professorship in Chemical Engineering at the University of Oklahoma was created in his honor and endowed by alumni, friends and corporations for his many contributions to industry and education.

He is survived by his wife Cleo, and sister Natalie Sliepcevich of Norman. He is preceded in death by his parents, sister Dr. Elena M. Sliepcevich and a baby brother, Milorad.

In lieu of flowers appropriate memorial contributions may be made to the OU Foundation Inc. – in memory of C.M. Sliepcevich Scholarship Fund. 100 Timberdell Road, Norman, OK 73019-0685 or charity of the donors choice.

Visitation will be Saturday and Sunday 9 AM- 9 PM at Havenbrook Funeral Home, Norman OK. Services are scheduled for 10:00 AM Monday, October 26, 2009 at Havenbrook Chapel. Final interment will be Most Holy Mother of God Cemetery in Third Lake, IL with Serbian Orthodox Services scheduled for 11:00 a.m on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, at the church located at the Holy Mary Mother of God Cemetery in Third Lake, IL

Send condolences online at <http://www.havenbrookfuneralhome.com/Obituaries.htm>