

Tribute to Dr. K.P. George

A Teacher and Scholar

On His retirement

After 41 Dedicated Years of Service

(1963-2004)

To Ole Miss

Wade Stinson

Dr. George primarily taught soil mechanics and foundation engineering courses when I was at Ole Miss. I recall him as an excellent instructor, one that really pushed his students to bring out their best. Dr. George's classes were always demanding and challenging, but these are the types of professors you remember years later as truly preparing you for engineering practice. I fondly remember all of the Ole Miss Engineering professors from my college days. Each of them truly cared about us students and consistently delivered quality instruction, always willing to provide that extra help when we needed it. Dr. George was certainly among the best of these professors from my day and is one of the few remaining, with only Dr. Prasad left. I will miss Dr. George as will all of his students and those who have known him over the years. I wish him the best in his retirement and hope he remains part of the Ole Miss Engineering family.



Wade Stinson, BSCE 1978, Vice President, Construction and Maintenance, Memphis Light, Gas and Water

Bill Rigby

Tribute to Dr. George

I first met Dr. George in 1967. He was my instructor in Solid Mechanics. Even though he was able to explain tensors in a way that even I could understand, I thought I'd never see any practical use for them. I was wrong!

In 1977 I was assigned as construction manager at the Elk Hills. At first my jobs involved routine construction, but I did have one job involving injecting oil field gasses back into the field to maintain pressure. The design calculations included tensors and I was the only officer that had ever heard of them. I became the instant "expert" and was assigned more oil field-related work, such as gas processing plants and separation facilities. This work gave me greater visibility in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps and I was promoted to Lieutenant Commander while there.

My next assignment was in Adak, Alaska, out in the Aleutians. We had both tundra and year-round cold weather, both situations causing problems with paved roads and the airfield. I had recently read of Dr. George's pavement research in an alumni publication and I sought advice from him. He responded with some suggestions and names of firms that could help. Based on his recommendations, we hired the right firm to design pavements that worked on Adak.

I had several other occasions in my Navy career to ask Dr. George for assistance and he always came through. He pointed me in the right direction on a landslide investigation in Okinawa and he suggested an additive for pavements using Guam coral to improve traction. In soils and pavements, he was my private A-E firm.

It is difficult to envision the Ole Miss Civil Engineering Department without Dr. George. He was there when I arrived in 1966 and he has been there during the last 38 years. I wish him the best as he enters a much deserved retirement.

**Bill Rigby, P. E., BSCE 1971
Director of Operations
Kellogg Brown and Root
Arlington, VA
bill.rigby@halliburton.com**

Mohammad Sadreddini

Dear Dr. George,

I received the post card pertain to your retirement, I thank you for your service and congratulate you on your retirement, thanks to you for all I have learned from you, most probably you don't remember me but I am always grateful to the engineering dept. of Ole Miss, Ole Miss is one of the best University that I have attended, in my time Dr. Deleeuw was the Chair of civil.

I have been living and working in Lafayette, Louisiana as Licensed Civil Engineer, my wife is from here that's why I end up here. I have two beautiful Daughters, my oldest will be going to College next year, I wished Ole Miss wouldn't be so far away from us because definitely I wanted my daughter to go to Ole Miss. I am encouraging my Daughter to go to Law School, not engineering because from my experience it doesn't pay to get all that education for the kind of money we make. Once again thanks for everything you have done for me and I wish you the best of retirement because you all deserve it, professor like you make me proud to be a part of that school. If ever you are in this part of country please contact me, I'll be glad to show you around and thank you for your service to us.

Thanks again,

Mohammad Sadreddini, BSCE 1978

James C. Watkins

I've been fortunate enough to know Dr. George both from my student days at Ole Miss and in a professional capacity. As a professor, he was a mentor and role model to future civil engineers. As a colleague, he is dedicated and knowledgeable, and without his expertise, MDOT's pavement management and research programs would not be where they are today. Dr. George, I wish you the best in your retirement years.

James C. Watkins, P.E., BSCE 1989

Assistant State Research Engineer

Mississippi Department of Transportation

Jagannath Mallela

I spent over two years at Ole Miss while working towards my Masters degree. During this time, I had the honor and pleasure of studying under Dr. K.P. George whom I would describe as an exceptional researcher, a great teacher, and a kind and caring individual. To me Dr. George was a true embodiment of the words "academic advisor." His classes and teaching methods were thought provoking and informative and helped students, such as myself, take on higher academic pursuits and the "real world" with confidence. His style of mentorship which, at the same time, challenged, guided, and goaded students to continuously push at the envelope of the existing state of knowledge, is an accurate reflection of what he himself has strived to accomplish throughout his career. Despite over 40 years of illustrious service at Ole Miss during which he made several noteworthy contributions to the highway engineering field, Dr. George has managed to preserve an insatiable and almost childlike enthusiasm towards research. These qualities stand as a testament to the dedication of this great researcher and teacher whose name is instantaneously recognized in the field and whose work is highly regarded for its thoroughness, ingenuity, and ethical rectitude. I wish him a very happy and fruitful retirement and hope to see him continue his contributions to pavement engineering for several decades to come.

Jagannath Mallela, MSCE 1994

Group Leader, Research and Technology Transfer Programs

Applied Research Associates, ERES Consultants Division

Champaign, IL 61821

Bernice Herod

Dr. George, I consider it a privilege to have known and worked with such a professional person. I do not have the words to say how you will be missed in the Engineering School. Although; I know you have looked forward to this day many, many years ago. So go ahead and enjoy your retirement. I want you to know that you are very special. I will miss you speaking to me each day and holding a small conversation as we pass in the hallways; but what I will miss most of all is that great big smile you always wear. You will never be forgotten. Keep on smiling.

**Bernice Herod, Senior Administrative Secretary
School of Engineering
Office of the Dean**

Mary Chrestman

Dr. Cheng:

First, thank you, and I am sure others, for planning a special function to recognize the many years of service that Dr. K.P. George, a campus icon, has given to the University of Mississippi.

Not seeing "K.P." around Campus will hardly seem the same without him. Our acquaintance goes back many, many years through other mutual Indian friends, the Bhatnagars who are now in Wisconsin. I have appreciated and applauded K.P.'s enthusiasm, positive attitude, and persevering spirit throughout the years. Further, without fail, every time our paths crossed on campus, he was "carrying" a big smile and a warm greeting.

So, I send to K.P. heartfelt "congratulations upon his retirement" and I wish he & his family the very best for their future!

Thanks,

**Mary Chrestman
Government Information Services
J.D. Williams Library
University of Mississippi**

Waheed Uddin

Dear KP and Mary:

Our best wishes for happy and peaceful retirement years.

Waheed Uddin and Family

Niranjan S. Shah

I was on campus from fall of 1970 through 1971. Of course, Dr. George was my advisor and also Professor of the Foundation Engineering. I had just come from India and it was a unique experience to study in United States (and also to study under the guidance of Dr. George). His teaching was unique in that he taught twice a week for an hour and a half by asking the questions. He stimulated our thought process on a regular basis. Studying under him not only helped me to learn engineering (sometimes in a painful way because I realized that I cannot think on my feet and on the spot) but also taught me how to think and solve the problem. While I have forgotten most of the academic work, I am still learning and am using my skills to focus, think, and solve the engineering problems. These skills help me to run my business and help me to manage the professionals who are somewhat unmanageable.

Niranjan S. Shah

Chairman

Globetrotters Engineering Corporation

Chicago, Illinois

Citation
The University of Mississippi
Extends to

K.P. GEORGE

This citation in recognition and appreciation of forty-one years of devoted and distinguished service to the University of Mississippi. Professor George earned his Bachelor of Engineering degree from the National Institute of Engineering in India in 1956. Enrolling at Iowa State University in 1959, he earned the Master of Science and Doctoral of Philosophy degrees in 1961 and 1963, respectively, both in Civil Engineering. He joined the faculty of the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Mississippi in 1963 as an Assistant Professor. He was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in 1965 and the rank of Professor in 1968. He served as Acting Chair of the Department from 1999 to 2001.

During his long career of service to the University of Mississippi, Professor George has been a dedicated teacher and has endeared himself to his students who have benefitted greatly from his rigor and high standards of achievement which he has set for them. He is also an accomplished researcher and has continuously worked with the Mississippi Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration on various projects related to transportation and pavement engineering.

Professor George's scholarship, his teaching, and his genuine concern for his students are herein recognized and commended. This citation is awarded at Commencement of the University, May 8, 2004.

Chancellor Robert C. Khayat
University of Mississippi