



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Memorial Tribute to

James A. Gow

Faculty Secretary and Assistant Dean
Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering, 1952-1982

February 14, 2013

James A. Gow, B.A.Sc., P.Eng., graduated with Honours in Civil Engineering from the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering at the University of Toronto in 1946. His early career included working with the Grand River Conservation Authority on the Shand Dam project near Fergus, Ontario, as well as working with the H.G. Acres engineering firm, the Proctor and Redfern consulting group, and the Polymer Corporation.

In 1947, Jim became a junior instructor at Ajax, and in 1952 joined the Faculty Office's permanent staff as Assistant to the Faculty Secretary and Assistant Dean, W. Stewart Wilson. Jim succeeded Wilson in the role of Faculty Secretary in 1962, and in 1964 took on the role of Assistant Dean. He made many significant administrative contributions to the Faculty and the University during his 30 years in the Office of the Faculty Secretary.

In addition to providing administrative support to Faculty Council and other committees, Jim was instrumental to student services in the Faculty, supervising registration and examinations, administering student bursaries and loans, and providing counselling to students. In later years of his career, he was responsible for placing the hood at convocation ceremonies as the Chancellor granted degrees. Jim was well liked and highly respected by staff and alumni, keeping in contact with the Faculty even after his retirement.

Alumnus Don L. King (ChemE 5T0) recounts how he met Jim while he was a junior instructor in his second-year Problems and Drawing course at Ajax. Don was struggling in the course and, when selected to represent U of T in a discuss competition at the University of Western Ontario, told Jim that he couldn't participate because the event conflicted with his course lab. Jim told Don that his studies should not interfere with his education, and provided Don with the option of attending a Saturday lab so that he could participate in the competition.

Two years later, their paths crossed again when Don came to the Faculty Office to meet with someone to ask for financial aid. Before hearing Don's story, Jim, now the Faculty Secretary, invited Don out for lunch, where Don explained his financial woes. Jim was able to find funding to pay for Don's last term tuition, in addition to \$200 for living expenses to see him to the end of his fourth year.

Don will never forget Jim's compassion.

Jim was also involved with Iron Ring proceedings, as a Camp Warden of long standing and for many years was the Secretary of Camp One. In addition, the James A. Gow Admission Scholarship has been awarded annually since 1983, extending Jim's legacy at the Faculty.

Upon his retirement, Jim returned to his childhood home of Fergus, Ontario, and pursued hobbies such as fishing, exploring local history, farming, collecting old books, and restoring engines and furniture. Jim also served his community as the President of the Wellington County Local Historical Society, and later as the Secretary of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee. He also served as Chairman of the Board for the Victoria Park Seniors Centre.

Jim passed away on January 3, 2013 at the age of 93 years. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Zillah, his children Robin and Athol, and grandchildren Jenna, Owen and Connor.

Prepared by Barbara McCann, Faculty Registrar with contributions from Professor Emeritus Barry J. Adams, Alumnus Don L. King (ChemE 5T0), and the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering's Annual Report 1982-83.