



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

**Memorial Tribute
to
Irving H Spinner
Professor Emeritus in the Department of
Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry
April 28, 2011**

Moved by: Professor Doug Reeve

Seconded by: Barbara McCann

Be it resolved that the Council of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering record with deep regret the death on January 5th, 2011 of Irving H Spinner.

Emeritus Professor Irving Spinner died on January 5th, 2011 at the age of 88 after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife, Irene, 3 sons, Barry, Dan, and Ken, their wives, and 4 grandchildren. Irv's father died when he was a teenager and to help support his family, he entered the work-force before he was able to complete high school. During World War II, he joined the Canadian Artillery as a spotter, and was able, with the support of the education programme of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, to complete high school in England, and his BAsC, MASc, and PhD in 1951, 1952 and 1954 respectively in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry of the University of Toronto. On completing his PhD in the technology of ion exchange with Professor William F Graydon, he returned to employment in industry as an engineer, joining the University as Professor in 1958.

Irv was a dedicated, innovative and hard working teacher, and was highly respected by his colleagues and students. He was a pioneer in the use of analogue computation in teaching process control, and developed novel and practical experiments illustrating steady- and unsteady state processes and process control. He was also a pioneer in teaching Advanced Environmental Engineering at the Graduate Level.

Professor Spinner was the supervisor of a successful group of graduate students. With one, Dr. P J (Rocky) Simmons, he became co-inventor, in association with Professor Bob Hunter, of a novel ion-exchange technology, Recoflo. This technology was and continues to be the primary basis of a successful spin-off company, Eco-Tec Inc. in which Irv was a company founder shareholder. He also co-founded Chemical Engineering Research Consultants Limited with W F Graydon and 11 other colleagues. This company continues to support government and industry through the professional services of academic staff in Chemical Engineering.

On retiring, Irv continued his academic activities at his home in Etobicoke and Florida, especially with colleague Professor Emeritus David Barham.

In his memory, family and friends are endowing a named scholarship, to be held in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry.

[Prepared by Professor Emeritus James W Smith]