



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Memorial Tribute
to
Gordon R. Slemon
Professor Emeritus in the Edward S. Rogers Sr.
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

December 2, 2011

GORDON R. SLEMON received bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Toronto, the DIC from Imperial College and PhD and DSc degrees from the University of London. He served as Head of the Electrical Engineering Department from 1966 to 1976 and as Dean of Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering from 1979 to 1986.

The Electrical Engineering Department developed an excellent international reputation under his leadership. Throughout his career, he also maintained strong ties to industry and was a catalyst to many interactions between industry and the Faculty. He was a co-founder and director of Vehicle Research Ltd., a company developing electric cars in the 1980s. In the same decade, he established the Innovations Foundation at the University of Toronto to commercialize the results of university research. He was a co-founder and director of the company Inverpower Controls Ltd., a director of the IDEA Corporation in Ontario, and the inaugural chairman of the Microelectronics Development Centre. He has been a consultant to some 70 industrial corporations and organizations.

Professor Slemon's research specialty was magnetics as applied to electric machines and drives. In particular, he made contributions to the development of permanent magnet motors and high-speed magnetically-levitated and propelled interurban vehicles. He was a founding member of the International Conference on Electric Machines and of the Magnetics Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He served for several years on the Administrative Committee of the Magnetics Society, was its Distinguished Lecturer for two years, and was granted its Achievement Award in 1997.

Also, in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, he was elected Fellow in 1975 and was a Distinguished Lecturer for the Industrial Applications Society in 1991-96. He received the IEEE Centennial Medal in 1984, the Third Millennium Medal in 2000, the Nikola Tesla Award, and the Gold Medal in 1990.

Professor Slemon is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical Engineers (UK) and was the fourth Canadian to be elected as an Honorary Fellow in 1995.

He was made a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada in 1989 and twice received its Ross Medal. In 2011, he received the EIC's highest award, the Sir John Kennedy Medal. He played a major role in the establishment and early operation of the Canadian Academy of Engineering and was its President in 1998. He was among the founders of the Canadian Conference on Engineering Education and received its first Canadian Engineering Educator of the Year Award in 1992. He received the Canadian Centennial Medal in 1967, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002, and the Professional Engineers of Ontario's Engineering Excellence Medal in 2005. In 1995, he was made an Officer in the Order of Canada.

At the University of Toronto, Professor Slemon received the Gold Key of the Engineering Society in 1946, the Sesquicentennial Service Award in 1977, the Engineering Alumni Medal in 1987, the George Sinclair Award in 1989, and the Arbor Award in 1997. In 1992 he was admitted to the Engineering Hall of Distinction.

He was the author or co-author of five textbooks and 160 technical papers. In 1963-64 he was Technical Advisor under the Canadian Colombo Plan in setting up Karnataka Regional Engineering College (now a National Technical University) on location at Mangalore, India. He has been involved in setting up graduate programs in engineering at the University of Havana, Cuba, at Xi'an Jiaotong University and Huazong Institute of Technology in China, and at King Ibn Saud and King Abdul Aziz Universities in Saudi Arabia.

Professor Slemon had a passion for Engineering Design and was one of the co-founders of a highly successful and popular Departmental consulting Group called "Consociates" which had the informal reputation of "being a consultant group for the consultants."

Gord was a much-loved and highly respected colleague and was mentor to numerous young faculty members. He will be fondly remembered.

Moved by: Professor Farid Najm

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 September 26, 2011 of Professor Emeritus Gordon R. Slemon.

Be it further resolved that a record of his service be inscribed in the minutes of this Council, and that a copy be sent to his family as an expression of the respect and gratitude of the members of Council.