



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

**Memorial Tribute
To
Professor Boris Peter Stoicheff OC, FRS, FRSC
May 26, 2010**

Moved by: Professor Charles Mims

Seconded by: Professor Paul Chow

Be it resolved that the Council of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering record with deep regret the death on April 15, 2010 of University Professor Emeritus Boris Stoicheff. Professor Stoicheff served as Chair of the Division of Engineering Science from 1972-1977.

Professor Stoicheff was born in Bitola, Macedonia in the former Yugoslavia, June 1, 1924 and emigrated to Toronto in 1931. In 1947, he earned his B.A.Sc. in Engineering Physics in the X-ray and Spectroscopy Option, and a Ph.D. in Experimental Physics in 1950, both from the University of Toronto.

From then until 1963 he undertook groundbreaking optical research at the National Research Council in Ottawa, carrying out high resolution Raman spectroscopy of simple molecules, discovering the generation of sound by light and the inverse Raman effect, and, together with colleagues, making the first laser in Canada. After a sabbatical year at M.I.T., Professor Stoicheff returned to the University of Toronto in 1964 as a Professor of Physics, where he developed one of the world's leading laser laboratories and supervised many PhD students who went on to become top researchers, and with whom he remained close to the end of his life.

Professor Stoicheff's work earned him fellowships in the Royal Societies of London, of Canada and many other academies. He held honorary degrees from many universities and was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1982 for his achievements in physics. He served as President of the Optical Society of America in 1976 and of the Canadian Association of Physicists in 1983. In 2002 he published a biography of his lifelong scientific mentor, Nobel Laureate Gerhard Herzberg, with whom he had worked at the NRC.

For the last 30 years he was a much-loved Senior Fellow at University of Toronto's Massey College. Extraordinarily generous with his time and energy, humorous, kind and gentlemanly, Professor Stoicheff was a leader in the Canadian and international scientific communities. Widely-read, insatiably inquisitive and always a privilege to be with, he will be missed by all who worked with and knew him.

He leaves his wife Joan, son Peter (Kathryn Warden), grandchildren Alixandra and Christopher, and sisters Anne Leigh, Dorothy Arnold, Margaret Stoicheff, and Jessie Channer.

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.