



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Memorial Tribute to

IAIN GEORGE CURRIE

Professor Emeritus
Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering

February 18, 2022

Be it resolved –

THAT the Council of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering record with deep regret the death on December 25, 2021 of Professor Emeritus Iain George Currie.

Iain George Currie, born March 11, 1936, died peacefully with family by his side on Christmas Day, 2021, at his home in Oakville, at the age of 85.

Iain grew up in Scotland and attended the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, where he earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering (1960). He then ventured across the ocean for graduate work: a master's degree at the University of British Columbia (1962), and a PhD from the California Institute of Technology (1966). That same year he then joined the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Toronto. Iain retired in 2001, but for many years afterwards remained actively engaged with the Department of MIE as Professor Emeritus. Iain is still well known and fondly remembered by many of us.

Iain's research focused on experimental studies of fluid structure interaction, in particular the use of Laser Doppler Anemometry (LDA) and Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV) to characterize the flow-induced vibration of tube bundles, work that was supported by agencies including Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Ontario Hydro. Iain also taught fluid mechanics to both undergraduate and graduate students, and was well known as the author of the popular graduate textbook *Fundamental Mechanics of Fluids*, first published in 1993. A fourth edition was released in 2012, and still serves as the textbook for our course in Advanced Fluid Mechanics.

From 1993 to 1998 Iain served as Chair, first of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and beginning in 1996, of the new Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, the result of a merger that wasn't popular with faculty from either department at the time, but that Iain somehow made work, relying on strong leadership and people skills, plus a dash of good humour. A colleague recalls that Iain at the time had t-shirts printed for everyone that read, "I

survived the MIE merger”, or words to that effect. And Iain liked to say that after a bad day, he’d go home and complain to his dog, who would always agree with him. The collegiality of the Department of MIE today is in no small part due to Iain’s early leadership.

Iain officially retired in 2001, but remained active within the Department, and was eventually instrumental in establishing and leading an MIE Honours & Awards Committee, organizing many award nominations on behalf of colleagues. That dedication was ultimately recognized in 2017 when Iain was named an Honorary Alumnus of U of T Engineering, one of just a few ever to be so recognized.

Iain Currie was a distinguished teacher and professor, an elegant, generous, gracious, gentle and warm colleague, and a good friend to many of us. He was also a very proud husband, father and grandfather, and will be greatly missed by his beloved wife Catherine, his children Brian, Karen, and the late David, and six beautiful grandchildren: Zander, Izabella, Bisola, Evan, Quinn and Gwynne.

Be it further resolved –

THAT this tribute to Iain George Currie be inscribed in the minutes of this Council meeting, and that copies be sent to his family as an expression of the respect and gratitude of the members of this Council.

Prepared and presented at Faculty Council by Professor Markus Bussmann, Chair of the Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering.