



Professor William R. Wilcox

William R. Wilcox Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering at Clarkson College and pioneer member of the crystal growth community and the AACG, died on Dec 17, 2020 at the age of 85.

Wilcox was born in Kansas in 1935. His childhood was spent in St. Louis, Washington DC, Ness City (Kansas), and Torrance (California). He received a B.E. degree from the University of Southern California in 1956 and a PhD from the University of California at Berkeley in 1960, both in Chemical Engineering. Wilcox returned to USC as a professor of chemical engineering and materials science after working for TRW Semiconductors and the Aerospace Corporation for 8 years. In about 1977, Bill Wilcox joined Clarkson as chair of its chemical engineering department

Bill was very active in the AACG during its formative years. He was on the executive committee from 1969 to 1987 and was vice President from 1984-1987. He was a session chairman at the first ACCG-1 conference in 1969. Together with Bob Feigelson he co-founded AACG/West in 1973 at the suggestion of Michael Schieber and he served as its first president. It

has been an on-going conference for the past 49 years.

Bill was interested in a variety of crystal growth topics including many different types of materials (from organics to semiconductors) and growth methods. One of his early interests was the study of convection and segregation in vertical Bridgman and float zone growth. During the 1980's, he began a 30-year association with NASA's microgravity materials research program. This included both ground-based research and experiments in Skylab, the Space Shuttle, and sounding rockets, as well as two sets of experiments performed by Wilcox himself on the notorious "vomit comet" low-gravity aircraft. Later, Bill together with Dr. Liya Regel, a Distinguished Research Professor at Clarkson University, became very interested in studying the effects of materials processing in a high gravity environment via centrifugation.

In 1987 Wilcox helped organize a materials research center at Clarkson. In the same year this center became a New York State Center for Advanced Technology, known as the Center for Advanced Materials Processing (CAMP) directed by Bill and he was also appointed dean of engineering, a post he held for ten years. In 2017 he was named a distinguished professor emeritus and honored for 42 years of service to the University. A major activity in 1986 was organizing and then heading the Consortium for Commercial Crystal Growth in Space, with participation by several universities, companies, and national laboratories. During the course of his academic career, he supervised 31 PhD students and 30 MS students. In addition, generations of undergraduate and graduate students benefited from his courses on subjects ranging from statistics to materials science.

He received numerous national and international awards for his contributions to chemical and materials engineering. He published more than 260 research articles, held editorial positions in several journals and organized many international conferences and workshops. He was elected Academician of the International Academy of Astronautics, a fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.