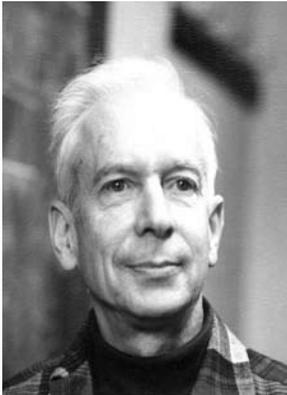


# IN MEMORIAM

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## Ray G. Langebartel



Ray Langebartel of Champaign, Professor Emeritus of the Department of Mathematics, passed away February 25, 2011. Ray was born in Quincy, IL, on April 27, 1921, and graduated from Quincy High School in 1939. He then attended the University of Illinois where he received his Bachelor's degree in 1942, Master's degree in 1943, and, after serving in the Navy from 1944 to 1946, returned to the U of I and received his Ph.D. in 1948. While Ray was a

graduate student, he served as a Teaching Assistant from 1946 to 1948 and was then hired as an instructor by the Department of Mathematics.

Ray served as an Assistant Professor from 1953–1960, an Associate Professor from 1960–1964, and a Full Professor from 1964 until his retirement in May 1991. He supervised sixteen Ph.D. students during his career and received the William F. Prokasy Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in June 1989.

Ray was a very popular instructor and his courses were in great demand even though they were challenging and his grading standards were rigorous. He was particularly interested in developing and teaching advanced graduate courses for engineering and physical science students. His teaching style was straightforward, but he enjoyed inserting anecdotes and asides to keep the material interesting. He felt that it helped keep the students engaged by outlining the history behind the development of the material, by explaining the motivation behind the logic, and by detailing the lives of the more interesting individuals connected with the development.

Ray also taught at the U of I Graduate Engineering Program in Rockford, IL, and took sabbaticals to Sweden, England and Greece. During the summers in the 1960s, Ray worked for NASA on the Apollo Space Program in Greenbelt, MD, contributing to America's effort to successfully put a man on the moon.

Ray was preceded in death by his wife, Theodora (Engstrom), whom he married in April 1945 in San Francisco, CA. He and Theo enjoyed music, traveling and attending concerts at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. They were also actively involved in the local music scene, being founding members of the Vaudeville musical group The Recalls. Ray sang and played various musical instruments and Theo played the piano. The Recalls toured local retirement and nursing homes, entertaining the residents, and also played at other venues.

Ray is survived by brothers Bill Langebartel and David Langebartel, daughters Jill Faunce and Linnea Langebartel, sons Edwin Langebartel and Eric Langebartel, and three grandchildren.