

Raymond W. Fahien (1923-1995)

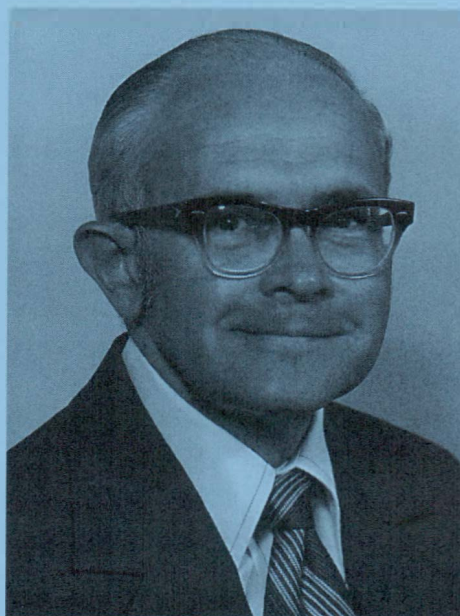
Raymond W. Fahien, born on December 26th, 1923, in St. Louis, Missouri, died on August 26, 1995, after a long illness. He was Professor Emeritus in the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Florida where he had taught and been an integral force in departmental development and policies since 1964. Family members that survive him are his sister, Lorraine Fischer (St. Louis, Missouri), his brother Dr. Leonard Fahien (Madison, Wisconsin), and several nieces and nephews.

Ray received his BS degree from Washington University in 1947, his MS from Missouri School of Mines in 1950, and his PhD from Purdue University in 1954, all in chemical engineering.

Ray's notable technical and scholarly contributions to chemical engineering began with his PhD thesis on turbulent mass transfer in packed beds, which he completed under the direction of professor J.M. Smith at Purdue in 1954. After receiving his degree and serving as a process design engineer with Ethyl Corporation in Baton Rouge, Ray joined the faculty at Iowa State University in 1954. He spent the next ten years there, teaching graduate and undergraduate courses and directing research in turbulent transport phenomena.

A signal event during those years was the academic year 1959-60 when Ray was a visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin. He not only spent his time there working and forging what would become a life-long friendship with Professor Bob Bird, but he was also "present at the creation" of the landmark transport phenomena text by Bird, Stewart, and Lightfoot. He continued to develop the ideas generated from that association after his return to Iowa State; his resulting graduate course in transport phenomena, one of the first in the U.S. when it was offered in 1960 to twenty PhD students, eventually produced twelve chemical engineering faculty members.

Following a term as a Fulbright Lecturer at the University of Brazil in 1964, Ray assumed the position of Professor and Chairman of the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Florida, where he spent the remainder of his career except for two brief exceptions: in 1957 he was a UNESCO Consultant at the University de Oriente in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, and in 1978-79 he was a Visiting Professor at the University of Minnesota.



While serving as Chairman of Florida's Chemical Engineering Department, Ray was responsible for assembling a world-class group of faculty members and for fostering the department's growth and development into a leading educational contender, taking it from the dusty confines of an old converted airplane hanger into a four-story, state-of-the-art edifice on the University of Florida campus.

While continuing his interests in turbulent transport phenomena, applied mathematics, kinetics, and thermodynamics, Ray also investigated turbulent diffusion in the atmosphere and stochastic models of turbulence. His students remember him as a supportive, stimulating, and

intellectually challenging mentor, while his colleagues recall his quiet and determined pursuit of excellence.

In addition to his professorial duties, in 1967 Ray also became Editor of *Chemical Engineering Education*, an international pedagogical journal, and as a result of that affiliation, he began turning his energies and enthusiasm more to pedagogical issues in chemical engineering education. The culmination of the two overriding professional interests, transport phenomena and teaching, was the eventual publication of his own widely accepted textbook, *Fundamentals of Transport Phenomena*, in 1983.

Ray has been recognized by his peers throughout his professional years by a number of awards and citations, a few of which are: U of F's College of Engineering "Teacher of the Year" for 1974; selection as a Fellow of the American Association of Engineering Education, 1985; recipient of ASEE's Distinguished Service Citation, 1990; selection as a Fellow, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, 1991; and recipient of the AIChE's coveted Warren K. Lewis Award, 1992.

Ray's concern for his fellow man, his generosity and his understanding, were the hallmarks of his life and they will live on in the memories of those who knew him. In that vein, a scholarship fund, the "Ray W. Fahien Teaching Scholarship," has been established in his memory at the University of Florida's Chemical Engineering Department. It is designed to aid graduate students in their pursuit of a career in teaching chemical engineering.