

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS OTTO A. UYEHARA

Arthur Tatsumi Uyehara was born in Hanford, California on September 9, 1916, and passed away September 6, 2005 in Anaheim, California. Professor Uyehara was one of the world's foremost engine combustion researchers, and a collegial and valued member of the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Professor Uyehara's life was forever altered by two of his teachers. The first, an early elementary school teacher of German descent who was frustrated by the preponderance of students named Arthur in her class, started to refer to him as Otto. The name stuck, and eventually his name was legally changed to Otto Arthur Uyehara. The second, one of his high school teachers recognized his brilliance and arranged for him to stay with her sister in Milwaukee, which allowed him to attend the University of Wisconsin- Extension program. Eventually, he transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he graduated in 1942 with a B.S., in 1943 with an M.S., and in 1945 with a Ph.D., all in chemical engineering. Uyehara became an instructor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering after graduation and joined the faculty in 1947. He was promoted to full professor in 1957, and was granted emeritus status in 1982.

During graduate school Otto forged a life-long partnership with a fellow graduate student in Mechanical Engineering named Phillip Myers. Together, with seed money from the Graduate School and a grant from General Motors, "Phil-and-Otto," as they were most commonly referred to, established the Engine Research Laboratory in 1946. Sixty years later, this remains a vital entity owing largely to the pioneering efforts of its founders. The product of the original grant was the development of a combustion temperature measurement technique that is still commonly used in engine research to this date.

Professor Uyehara was a scholar of the highest repute. Together with Prof. Myers he mentored more than 120 graduate students in his career, and published more than 80 papers. The academic community recognized him with several prestigious awards, including the Internal Combustion Engine award from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; the Horning Award, which is presented each year by the Society of Automotive Engineers to the most influential paper published in that year; and the Dugald Clerk Award from the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. Otto was elected as a fellow of the Society of Automotive Engineers in 1977. In 1987, in Tokyo, Japan, he was elected to become an honorary member of the Society of Mechanical Engineers of Japan, only the second foreigner to be so honored.

Otto's main contribution, however, was the lasting influence that he had on the graduate students that worked with him, many of whom spent holidays at his dinner table. The lengths to which he would go to help a student knew no bounds. On one occasion, a young mother who was the wife of one of Uyehara's graduate students called Otto because she could not get through to her husband. Her child was sick. Otto told her to wait 15 minutes – she assumed that he was going to find her husband to relay the message. Fifteen minutes later, the doorbell rang. Otto drove her and the sick infant to the doctor himself. This selfless commitment also existed in the classroom, and Otto's teaching accomplishments earned him the Benjamin Smith Reynolds Award for Teaching Excellence in 1967.

Otto was preceded in death by his wife, Chisako, who passed away in 2004, and is survived by son Ken, daughters Susan Schultheiss and Emi Uyehara; and five grandchildren. Upon his retirement, Otto established the Otto and Chisako Uyehara ME Department Fund, and with Phil Myers the Uyehara-Myers Scholarship Fund through the UW Foundation.

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