



ASHRAE Member Dr. Jerald D. Parker passed away on December 6, 2015 at the age of 85. Dr. Parker was a beloved and respected professor, mentor, author, husband, father, grandfather, Army veteran, and friend to many ASHRAE members. Jerald was an Oklahoma native; born in Ardmore in 1930 and graduating from Ponca City High School in 1948. After graduation, he served his country in the Army until his honorable discharge in 1952 and then enrolled at Oklahoma State University upon his return. He earned both a Bachelor and Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering at OSU. Due to his high level of success in his engineering studies, he was awarded a Graduate Research Fellowship which he used to earn a PhD from Purdue University. Dr. Parker returned to OSU and taught mechanical engineering courses from 1960 to 1988. He became a registered Professional Engineer (PE) in Oklahoma in 1961 and a Member of ASHRAE in 1975. He served as President of Sigma Tau (later absorbed by Tau Beta Pi), the Engineering Honorary Fraternity at OSU. In 1988, after a very successful career at OSU, he moved to Oklahoma Christian University and was instrumental in starting a new engineering program. The engineering program became ABET Accredited in 1991. In recognition of teaching excellence, OC recognized Dr. Parker with the Gaylord Chair of Distinguished Teaching honor in 1995. Dr. Parker became Professor Emeritus at OC in 1996. The “Jerald Parker Scholarship for Engineering” endowment was established in 1995 to assist outstanding engineering students following their freshman year.

Dr. Parker was active at both the local and national level in ASME and ASHRAE and earned the grade of ASME Fellow in 1983. In ASHRAE, he served at the Society level as chairman of the Technical Committee on Fluid Mechanics and Heat Transfer, chairman of a standards project committee, and a member of the Continuing Education Committee. He joined the ASHRAE Life Members Club in 2005.

Dr. Parker co-authored two textbooks related to Mechanical Engineering: “Introduction to Fluid Mechanics and Heat Transfer” – 1969 (J.D. Parker, J.H. Boggs, E.F. Blick), and “Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning Analysis and Design” – 1977 (F.C. McQuiston, J.D. Parker). Also, through ASHRAE, he co-authored the “Design/Data Manual for Closed-Loop Ground-Coupled Heat Pump Systems” – 1985 (J.E. Bose, J.D. Parker, F.C. McQuiston). Over his long career, many thousand students sat directly under his tutelage, but it was that HVAC Analysis and Design textbook that introduced the name “Jerald D. Parker” to thousands more across the globe. I personally never had Dr. Parker as a professor, but in 1994, I studied the 4th edition of that text at OSU in my senior-level class: MAE 4703 “Design of Indoor Environmental Systems” taught by Dr. J. D. Spitler, who by-the-way, went on to contribute to the 5th edition published in the year 2000.

Dr. McQuiston began working with Dr. Parker at OSU in the 1960’s. Dr. McQuiston reflects on this time: “I recognized [Dr. Parker] as very competent in heat transfer and fluid mechanics although he was not into HVAC subjects. He was also a good writer. Therefore, I asked him to become a secondary author for the book. He initially helped with the more basic subjects and later developed a greater interest in the HVAC field. Well, the book became an instant success with the first edition copywrited in 1977. Over the years the book has been in almost constant revision to keep up with the rapidly changing field. The latest 6th edition came out in 2005 [McQuiston, Parker, Spitler]. The book is in widespread use throughout the US and many foreign countries. It has been translated into Korean, Chinese, Spanish and Greek languages.” To date, the book has sold over 100,000 copies. In the 1980’s, Dr. McQuiston and Dr.

Parker traveled throughout the South and Southwest presenting workshops and seminars to engineers in the HVAC industry.

One humorous comment shared at the memorial service concerned the founding of the engineering school at Oklahoma Christian. Dr. Parker was a member of the Church of Christ, the church group affiliated with Oklahoma Christian. When he was asked if the liberal arts university should establish a department of engineering, he responded “No!” He must have known both the expense and difficulty of such an endeavor. But after the decision to establish the engineering department was made, he was one of the first to volunteer to make it successful.

Dr. Parker poured his knowledge into the lives of his students and made a substantial contribution to the ASHRAE community at large. You can view a copy of Dr. Parker’s obituary and a cover image of all three books on the History page of our website at <http://ashraecok.org/content.php?page=History>

Dusty Stoabs, PE, CPMP, LEED AP BD+C

ASHRAE Central Oklahoma Chapter Historian