

Citation for David George Wood

David George Wood joined the Department of Chemical Engineering midway through 1964 having arrived in Australia from London where he had just completed his PhD. He joined a very small Department which in 1965 consisted of just four academics and which graduated just 15 graduates each year. With so few staff all academics had to be able to teach widely. David's first responsibility was to teach the second and third year undergraduate laboratories. Over the coming years David went on to teach across the entire chemical engineering program. He also started his research career and his first PhD student was Professor Robin Batterham who became Australia's Chief Scientist. He also provided direct assistance to Dr John Schubert who became a senior Vice President of Exxon and to Professor Kerry Pratt who became Pro Vice Chancellor of Swinburne University. David also supervised Professor Geoff Stevens, a former President of the Academic Board at the University of Melbourne and Professor Sandra Kentish (Master degree) who is now the Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering at this University. Professor David Shallcross who is the Director of the Engineering Learning Unit at the University of Melbourne was also supervised by David. David has mentored numerous students and staff members in the Department, graduating over 25 PhD students, and developing new patented technologies for mineral and coal processing.

During the 1970's and 1980's David was active in the chemical engineering profession serving as the Chairman of the Australian National Committee of the Institution of Chemical Engineers, later becoming its International Vice President. He was also Editor of *Chemical Engineering in Australia*, a quarterly magazine serving the profession in Australia.

David served as Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Melbourne from 1982 to 1996. When he took over the role, the Department was known as a great place to study chemical engineering but not for its research. Together with Professor David Boger, David led the development of the Department's research profile. When he left the Department in 1996 the Department was the home of a number of successful centres including the GK Williams Centre for Extractive Metallurgy and the Advanced Mineral Products Centre. The Department was graduating over 80 students a year and had a dynamic and diverse research spirit. During this time David became an officer of the Academic Board responsible for public programs and he played a central role in the development of Discovery Day, now known as Open Day.

In the 1980s together with the late Professor David Caro and Dr Peter Byers, David was responsible for the development and introduction of the Universities superannuation scheme now known as Unisuper.

David became Dean and Professor of Engineering in 1996. Leading the Faculty of Engineering for six years, David's vision embraced the internationalisation of the Faculty as it turned to consider its Asian neighbours. Closer collaborative links were established with some of the leading institutions in the region and during this time the Faculty saw rapid growth in the number of international students enrolling in its programs. David was also active in encouraging women to study and succeed in engineering, establishing the position of Assistant Dean of Engineering (Equity and Diversity).

During his time as Head and then Dean, David continued to serve the profession in a number of significant leadership roles. He was Congress Chair for the 6th World Congress of Chemical Engineering held in Melbourne in 2001. This incredibly successful conference was attended by more than 1400 delegates from around the world and saw the signing of the Melbourne Declaration on sustainable development and the establishment of the World Council of Chemical Engineering. David was instrumental in the formation of the World Council working with chemical engineering professionals and societies from around the world. His contributions and esteem in the profession have been recognised by numerous appointments and awards. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE), Engineers Australia, The Royal Society of Chemistry and the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. He was awarded the CHEMECA and Arnold Greene medals of the Institution of Chemical Engineers in recognition of outstanding service to the chemical engineering profession in Australia.

Following his retirement in 2002 David continued to work in an advisory capacity to a number of universities, advising on the establishment of engineering programs in different countries. His work in China led to the first professional chemical engineering accreditation of a Chinese University by a western professional institution when the chemical engineering programs at Tianjin University were accredited by the Institution of Chemical Engineers. His work with the top Departments of Chemical Engineering in China

was recognised by his award of the IChemE Council medal in 2009. David currently holds an Honorary Chair at Tianjin University in recognition of his work in China. Towards the end of the last decade David was appointed to be President of the World Council of Chemical Engineering, a post he only stepped down from in early 2012. He also recently finished a 2-year term as President of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute.

David is a committed and passionate chemical engineering professional, a leader and educator who has made significant contributions to both this university and the profession of chemical engineering as a whole.