

*Dr. John Walsh (Posthumous)*

The quality of John Walsh's contributions to the university and to the community were as rich in his career as a Professor Emeritus as they were during his twenty four years as a full professor in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences, a position from which he retired in 1996. In fact, "superlative" is the word commonly ascribed to his productivity in both phases of his working life, until his untimely passing in February of this year.

His nominators for the Tribute Award, Drs. Eric Gill, Ross Peters, Shashikant Chittal, and John Quaicoe, describe him as a superlative model of the titles of both Honorary Research Professor and Professor Emeritus. In retirement, he continued to offer his consistent high quality supervision of doctoral students who achieved excellent standards of performance, including the Governor General's gold medal. He continued to offer his expertise on huge collaborative projects that attracted millions of dollars of funding to Memorial. After retirement, he continued to author or co-author academic articles; present or co-present papers at refereed conferences, and published two significant and foundational technical research reports.

John's influence did not just contribute to the knowledge field of his discipline, however. It also benefited the personal and professional development of his colleagues and students. His nominators reported that because of his ongoing research and collaborative authorship, he had a "profound effect on the research careers of younger faculty members who currently form part of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science" and "upon whose careers John's patience and guidance has had a tremendous and lasting impact." His students benefitted enormously from his technical knowledge and expertise as well as from the excellence of his supervision.

John's contributions to the community were of significance. He held the position of VP Technical with the local firm Northern Radar Incorporated (NRI) which was formed from his university research. After his retirement, his continuing research and development pursuits in conjunction with company initiatives had significant impacts at the university, provincial and national levels. He ensured that Engineering graduate students and work term students from both Engineering and Business were placed with NRI which in turn, provided fertile ground in which to further their research or grow their expertise.

His basic research initiatives found application in the local ocean engineering community and the work contributed to the province earning a reputation for excellence in the area of ocean technology and was recognized publicly by the Government of Newfoundland. His 2006 technical report, prepared for the Department of National Defence on the theory of radio wave propagation associated with both the ocean and ionosphere, has resulted in a posthumous open-literature publication. The article forms the background of ongoing work at Memorial and has the potential to significantly advance the understanding of this important practical problem as it relates to radar remote sensing of the marine environment and to national security.

On the international level, John's work with NRI and Raytheon Canada has resulted in the successful marketing of large surveillance radars overseas. These systems have also been installed in Canada. (Note: In laypersons' terms, John's major contribution in this area was to discover how to make radar waves 'bend' around the circumference of the earth.)

John was honored posthumously at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Radar Conference held in Ottawa in April/May 2013. The organizing committee printed a tribute to John in its Conference schedule and brought an oral tribute to him at its gala dinner, and this in spite of the fact that he had never been officially a member of the IEEE. This was a significant and well-deserved gesture that indicated the esteem in which he was held by those who knew his work best.

John Walsh was a man who in post-retirement contributed enormously to his knowledge field, to the ongoing academic and professional development of his colleagues and students, to the economic advancement of his province, and indeed, to the safety and security of the international world.