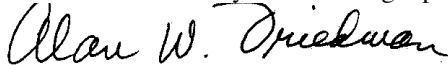


## DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR  
THOMAS W. KENNEDY**

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Professor Emeritus Thomas W. Kennedy, Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering, has filed with the secretary of the General Faculty the following report.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary  
General Faculty and Faculty Council  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**IN MEMORIAM  
THOMAS W. KENNEDY**

Dr. Thomas W. Kennedy, Professor Emeritus, passed away on September 3, 2017, at the age of seventy-nine after a twenty-year long health struggle following a massive stroke. Tom persevered through all of his health challenges with grace and a smile on his face. He was a loving father, grandfather, and great grandfather, and friend to all he met. He was an exemplary teacher, researcher, and administrator.

Kennedy was born in Danville, Illinois, on January 7, 1938. He graduated from Paris High School in 1956, where he excelled in both academics and basketball. He received his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois in 1965 and accepted a position on the Civil Engineering faculty of The University of Texas at Austin. He enjoyed a long and distinguished teaching career that spanned thirty-seven years.

Kennedy joined the Department of Civil Engineering at UT Austin as an Assistant Professor with a specialty in concrete materials based on his doctoral work. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1969 and then to Professor in 1974. The courses he taught included basic highway engineering, concrete materials, asphalt materials, and other related subjects.

During his time at UT Austin, he taught, performed research, and served in administrative roles such as Associate Vice President for Research (1978-79) and Associate Dean of Research and Planning for the College of Engineering (1979-86). He also served as Director of Research for the UT Council of Advanced Transportation Systems, which was later combined with the Center for Highway Research to form the Center for Transportation Research.

Kennedy developed a strong research program in asphalt materials. As a result, he was selected to head the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP), a major national program in asphalt materials. He directed a team of fifteen to twenty people over five years in research known as the SHRP Asphalt Program with a budget of about fifteen million dollars. This team produced new methods of asphalt grading and a new asphalt design method known as SuperPave, currently (2017) used by most U.S. states' Departments of Transportation and many other nations. During these years, Kennedy continued to supervise masters and doctoral students, several of whom went on to teach at major universities. Along with his students, he authored over three hundred published engineering technical papers.

Throughout his career, Kennedy received numerous honors for teaching and research. He was especially proud of being an honorary member of the Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists and being an Asphalt Institute Roll of Honor recipient, the highest level of recognition conferred by the institute.

One of his early major research efforts was in collaboration with Dr. W. R. Hudson in which they adapted the Splitting Tensile test for evaluating the strength of stabilized paving materials. This research was so cutting-

edge that the first two technical papers offered for national publication were rejected because the reviewers were not familiar with the test and how it could be applied to materials other than PC concrete. Four years later, a paper was published by a Chevron research engineer named Schmidt who was well known in the industry. As a result, the procedure became known as the Schmidt test, even though it was perfected at The University of Texas at Austin four years earlier. This is just one example of Tom's good work.

### **Recollections on Dr. Tom Kennedy, Colleague, and Friend**

By Ralph Haas, The Norman W McLeod Engineering Professor and Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of Waterloo, Canada:

Tom's passing on September 3, 2017, at the age of seventy-nine, brought back a lot of memories about an old friend who contributed so much to his profession, to advancing the state-of-knowledge and state-of-practice in pavement engineering, and who was a warm and friendly human being.

When I spent eight months at UT Austin in 1970 as a Visiting Professor, Tom and I strengthened our friendship and worked together on several research projects. The first resulting publication titled "The Use of Statistically Designed Experiments in Asphalt Research" by Ray Moore, Tom Kennedy, and Ralph Haas was published in the *Canadian Technical Asphalt Association Proceedings*, 1970.

In 1978, I returned as a Visiting Professor to Austin and worked with Tom and continued a close friendship and collaboration with Ronald Hudson, which started in the late 1960s and continues today. In fact, that collaboration resulted in the first book of its kind, Pavement Management Systems, by Haas and Hudson, McGraw Hill, 1978.

Tom and I co-authored ten papers in the 1970s on topics ranging from statistically designed experiments in asphalt research, characterization of pavement materials for structural analysis, dynamic tensile testing, recycled asphalt materials, sulfur-asphalt mixtures evaluation, and structural design of pavements.

For many Transportation Research Board Annual Conferences in Washington in the 1970s and 1980s, we were active in committees, sessions, etc., but there was also time for socializing, which prompted an anecdote about a totally non-technical experience. Early one day in early January 1977, just before the Jimmy Carter inauguration, there was a knock on the door of our hotel room and in came a massive cart of beer, wine, spirits, snacks, etc. We did not order this and certainly did not want to be charged for it. The waiter said to Tom, "Your name is Kennedy isn't it?" and Tom said, "Yes." The waiter then said that was all we needed to know. The best we could figure out was that the name Kennedy was so prominent that someone thought Tom was part of the clan, including Senator Edward Kennedy, and thus the food was complementary.

### **Memories from a Former Student**

By Kang-Won Wayne Lee, Professor III of Civil and Environmental Engineering, The University of Rhode Island:

It is with great sadness that we, his students, mark the loss of Professor Kennedy, a giant in higher education and asphalt technology. I was fortunate to serve on Professor Kennedy's pavement research team. It was one of the best decisions in my life to study under Professor Kennedy's supervision from 1978 to 1982; doing so greatly enhanced my career as a Pavement and Transportation Engineer.

I'd like to share stories about my time in Austin with Professor Kennedy. Without knowing much about flexible pavement, I asked what asphalt is and where we could get it. Professor Kennedy smiled a little and patiently explained what asphalt cement was. The sort of professionalism and kindness shown by Professor Kennedy is important to students. One day, I asked him where he served during World War II because of his silver hair. He politely responded that he was only nine years older than me. It was my privilege to be his friend during and after my doctoral program. I truly miss him and realize that I must return all that I learned from him to my own students.

## **Reflections on The Academic Life of Dr. Thomas W. Kennedy**

By Raymond K. Moore, Emeritus Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

I first met Tom Kennedy during the summer of 1967 while still a MSCE graduate student at Oklahoma State University. I applied to UT Austin's graduate program and was admitted in January 1968. I received a letter of welcome from him and an invitation to visit the Geotechnical, Transportation Material and Pavement Engineering Research facilities. Tom was a gracious host, and I was impressed with the laboratory facilities and the graduate research support offered through the Center for Highway Research.

Tom was extremely proud of his academic heritage at the University of Illinois. Along with Dr. W. Ronald Hudson, Dr. Clyde E. Lee, and Dr. Frank McCullough, he was one of several young faculty members who built a world-class transportation pavements engineering research program at UT Austin. Tom was a gifted classroom instructor, especially at the graduate level. His lectures, which were always well organized, offered many examples of how theory and professional practice were intermeshed.

During my own academic career, Tom was always helpful and encouraging. He supported me in securing technical committee appointments with the Transportation Research Board that are essential for successful tenure and promotion decisions at universities. I was his second Ph.D. student, in 1971, but, I am certain he was just as invested in the futures of his later doctoral graduates. I was fortunate to have known Tom Kennedy and to have been his first student, then a close friend and colleague for three decades. He is greatly missed by all.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Dr. Ronald Hudson (Chair), Dr. Kang-Won Lee, Mr. Robert McGennis, and Ms. Kathy Moore.

Distributed to the Dean of the Cockrell School of Engineering on June 14, 2018, and posted under "Memorial Resolutions" at <https://wikis.utexas.edu/display/facultycouncil/Wiki+Home>.