

In Memoriam: George P. McCabe

George McCabe, Emeritus Professor of Statistics and former Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, passed away on August 17, 2023, surrounded by family.

George Paul McCabe was born in Brooklyn, New York on April 2, 1945, to George and Dorothy McCabe. George was a kind and humble soul, and a voracious reader with an inquisitive mind. He graduated from Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York and was a proud alumnus his whole life. He earned a bachelor's in mathematics from Providence College in 1966 on a full NIH scholarship and a Ph.D. in Mathematical Statistics from Columbia University in 1970.

That same year George started his distinguished 50-year career at Purdue University, where both his contributions and influence are immeasurable. Beloved by students and colleagues alike, he left an indelible mark on countless lives throughout his career. Whether he was teaching a class, leading a consulting meeting, collaborating on a research project, or check raising on poker night (aka, applied probability seminar), he approached everything with a remarkable generosity and humility. His generosity was evident in the time he invested in students and colleagues and his willingness to listen and share his perspectives. His humility allowed him to connect with everyone on a personal level and foster a sense of teamwork.

In the early 1970's, Purdue, along with many other R1 institutions was asked by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to demonstrate that they did not discriminate against minorities. George was the lead statistician in a group formed to respond to this request. He developed the methodology to evaluate whether the data suggested discrimination and later implemented an annual monitoring procedure that is still used today. This experience led to numerous external consulting activities over the years for companies concerning civil rights issues relating to compensation, hiring, promotion, and property rights.

Internally, George was the founder of Purdue's Statistical Consulting Service (SCS) that is now in its 54th year. His vision and ability to garner internal support from the University allowed the service to serve both the education and research roles of the university, as well as become a nationally recognized model for other R1 institutions. In his 35 years as Director, George likely was involved in over 3500 research projects throughout the university.

In Nutrition, he collaborated with researchers on the effectiveness of vitamin A supplementation on young child morbidity and mortality in developing countries. This work resulted in many developing countries adding vitamin A supplementation to their yearly "vaccination days" for young children and reduced the mortality rates about 23%. He developed the use of lactate curves to track the fitness of Celtic football players during the season, a process still used today. He also developed the analytical methods for a rapid screening tool for assessing efficacies of



interventions for mitigating bone loss due to menopause or other reasons as well as a mixed nonlinear model to determine national calcium guidelines for boys and girls.

Another significant contribution is the groundbreaking 1989 textbook, "Introduction to the Practice of Statistics" co-authored with Emeritus Professor David Moore. This textbook revolutionized the teaching of introductory statistics, emphasizing the analysis of real data and integrating statistical consulting practices into its pedagogy. It also has remained quite popular with the 10th edition published 2021.

George's accolades are too many to list but include being named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA), a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the 2012 Don Owen Awardee for Outstanding Contributions to Statistical Research, Applications, and Teaching, and the ASA 2022 W. J. Dixon Awardee for Excellence in Statistical Consulting.

George's legacy is not limited to his professional accomplishments. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather and would steadfastly say that his family is his greatest accomplishment. Outside of Purdue, he'd spend countless hours with friends and family, telling stories, and playing music. He instilled in those fortunate to have known him a legacy of generosity, principle of character, and love of learning. George will be deeply missed, but his influence will live on in the hearts and minds of those he touched.

In Memorium: John R. Rice

John Richard Rice, a leading scientist and educator, died at home on January 7th, 2024. John was the W. Brooks Fortune Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Computer Science and a professor of mathematics at Purdue University.

Rice was born on June 6, 1934, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Margaret L. and John K. Rice. He spent his childhood in several small towns in Oklahoma and three years in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, when his father accepted an offer to be administrator of the government Technical School. After beginning undergraduate studies in chemical engineering, Rice obtained his B.S. and M.S. degrees in mathematics from Oklahoma State University in 1954 and 1956. While a student, he spent summers working on mathematical computing for the aerospace industry on the West Coast.

After receiving his master's degree, Rice enrolled in the California Institute of Technology, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1959 under the supervision of Arthur Erdélyi. He next took a postdoctoral position at the National Bureau of Standards (now the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST) and thereafter joined the staff of General Motors in Warren, Michigan.

In 1964, John left GM and joined the faculty of Purdue University as a full professor with a joint appointment between mathematics and the new computer science department, the nation's first. In 1983 he became the department's head, and his appointment changed to full professor of computer science with a courtesy appointment in mathematics. In 1989, he was appointed as the W. Brooks Fortune professor, which was shortly elevated to distinguished professor. He stepped down from department head in 1996, and transitioned to emeritus status in 2004.

Over his long career, Professor Rice authored over 300 articles and was the author or co-author of 25 book chapters and 21 books, including the widely-used textbook *Introduction to Computer Science* (1969). His first article referencing computation was published while he was a college sophomore. He advised 19 students to obtain their Ph.D. degrees at Purdue,

Professor Rice was noted for his work in mathematical computation, especially approximation theory, the solution of elliptic partial differential equations, analysis of algorithms, and scientific computing. Starting in the late 1970s, he led the creation of ELLPACK, software for solving elliptic problems, which was widely used in science and engineering. In 1970, he organized the first two Symposia on Mathematical Software and was the founding editor of the *ACM Transactions on Mathematical Software* (TOMS) in 1975; he remained editor-in-chief until 1993. In 1974, Rice co-founded IFIP (International Federation for Information Processing) working group 2.5 on mathematical software.

In 2001, Rice was a co-founder, with Purdue colleagues, of the company Arxan (now Digital.ai), specializing in producing digital anti-tamper technology. He served as a scientific consultant and advisor to the company for several years. He was a co-inventor of six patents related to this technology.

Among many professional activities and honors, John Rice was an elected member of the National Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the ACM, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He received the IFIP Silver Core Award in 1989 and a Sigma Xi Research Achievement Award in 1994. He served on the Computing Research Association (CRA) board of directors from 1987 to 1994 and was elected chair from 1991-1993. A special ACM Transactions on Mathematical Software issue was issued in Rice's honor in 2000 as volume 26, issue #2. Purdue named one of its research computing clusters "Rice" in honor of Professor Rice; it was decommissioned in January 2021, after five years of service.

John Rice married Nancy A. Bradfield in 1954. She predeceased him in 2008. Their two daughters, Amy L. Rice and Jenna Rice Thomas (spouse William R. Thomas), survive him. Rice remarried in 2010 to Janice Lauer, a Purdue emerita distinguished professor who predeceased him in 2021.

The family will have a private memorial service at a later date. Contributions to honor the memory of John Rice may be made to the "John R. Rice Fellowship in Scientific Computing Endowment" at Purdue University at this online address <https://connect.purdue.edu/portal/s/givenow>

Prepared by Eugene H. Spafford with assistance by Simson Garfinkel

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CS Department webpage biography, <https://www.cs.purdue.edu/people/faculty/jrr.html>

Wikipedia page, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_R._Rice_\(computer_scientist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_R._Rice_(computer_scientist))

J R Rice abbreviated vita, <https://www.cs.purdue.edu/homes/jrr/vita/>

Conversation with Jenna Thomas, Jan 12, 2024

Purdue page on research computing, <https://www.rcac.purdue.edu/compute/rice>



Patrocinio Pagaduan Schweickart (1942-2023)¹

Born in 1942, Patrocinio Pagaduan Schweickart, known to all as Patsy, first came to the U.S. in 1958 as the representative of the Philippines at the New York Herald Tribune World Youth Forum. A 25-minute clip from this occasion is currently on YouTube, and in it one sees an early glimpse of the Patsy we came to know so well: a 15-year old who was ready to speak truth to power, and who did so with a smile to remember. A few years later, Patsy returned to the U.S. as a graduate student and earned two Masters degrees, the first in Chemical Engineering from the University of Virginia and the second in Mathematics from Ohio State University. Then came a brief stint when she worked night shifts as a chemical engineer for General Motors. Fortunately for us and for our discipline, Patsy moved on from this, returning to graduate school to earn a doctorate in English from Ohio State University. From 1979-1998, Patsy was a faculty member in English at the University of New Hampshire. She joined Purdue as a Professor of English and Women's Studies in 1998 and held the joint appointment until her retirement in 2013.

At Purdue, Patsy's courses for English and Women's Studies focused on Feminist Theory, Theory and Cultural Studies, Asian American Literature, and Multicultural Literary Studies. Her main research interests were Reception Studies, Gender and Reading, and, as noted on her official Emerita biography, "theories of communicative action from the perspective of an ethic of care." She served as the Interim Director of Women's Studies and the Co-Director of the Philosophy and Literature Program. She was the founder and long-time director of the Asian American Interdisciplinary program, and a vital voice advocating for the founding of Purdue's Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center which will celebrate its 10th anniversary in Fall (Patsy was interviewed just last year for a forthcoming volume on the history of the AARCCC).

Renowned in both feminist studies and reception studies, Patsy served as the editor of the *National Women's Studies Association Journal* (later renamed *Feminist Formations*) from 1990-

¹ We thank Dr. David Schweickart, Patsy's husband, her daughters, Anita MacDonald and Karen Schweickart, and Dr. Pam Sari, Director of AAARCC, for sharing their memories of Patsy's personal and professional life with us.

1997; she served also as the President of the Women’s Caucus of the Modern Languages and the President of the Reception Study Society. From being named one of “Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines” in 1963 to winning the Mellon Fellowship and an NCTE Distinguished Lecturership in Theory and Practice, she collected honors and awards throughout her career. Her much-anthologized and frequently-cited landmark essay, “Reading Ourselves: Toward a Feminist Theory of Reading,” won the 1984 Florence Howe Award for Outstanding Feminist Scholarship.

In the academy, Patsy built and maintained much-needed things, including programs in diversity and inclusion, academic societies and communities, collaborative spaces, and safe spaces for the vulnerable. All of these thrived in her hands and under her ethics of care. She wrote extensively about the need to build and maintain. In that sense, she was a different kind of engineer, a *bricoleuse*: that figure in feminist theory who builds with materials that lie to hand, including scraps and remnants. To quote Dr. T.J. Boisseau, our colleague in WGSS, Patsy was “a force.” She found a way around roadblocks, and she brought others along.

Patsy was a celebrated member of the English Department bowling team (with a trademark “spare strike”), and a formidable opponent at ping pong and racquet ball. Between 2009-16, she and David led their grand-children on walking trips to the Grand Canyon, to Scotland, and on the Camino de Santiago in Spain. A life-long learner, Patsy took up piano and swing dancing just before she retired. She knew how to greet life with anticipation, a sense of possibility, and the spirit of adventure.

A beautiful tribute to Patsy is to be found [here](#) or on YouTube by typing her name in the searchbox. Titled *Patsy Pagaduan Schweickart Memorial 1942 2023*, it was put together by her son-in-law, Angus, and it is a compilation of photographs and short clips spanning Patsy’s life, capturing much that was unforgettable about her, and reminding us how gifted she was at living.

Diagnosed in 2021 with a cancer that was initially treated successfully but later metastasized, Patsy refused a new round of chemo in September, and instead chose in-home hospice care. She died on October 28, 2023, at peace, without pain, and with her family around her. She is survived by her husband, Dr. David Schweickart, their daughters, Anita MacDonald and Karen Schweickart, their four grandchildren, several siblings, and other extended family in the Philippines and the U.S.

We are thankful for Patsy, and we are grateful that she was our mentor, our colleague, and our dear friend. She is deeply missed.

Thank you.

Geraldine Friedman
Aparajita Sagar

Paul C. Simms



Memorial Resolution

Paul C. Simms (1932-2023)

Department of Physics and Astronomy

Purdue University

Professor Paul C. Simms served on the Purdue faculty from 1964-2001. He was Professor of Physics and a member of the leadership team for the Purdue Rare Isotope Measurement Laboratory (PRIME Lab).

Paul passed away on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at Franciscan Health in Lafayette. Paul was born November 10, 1932, in Jackson, Tennessee to the late John C. and Nellie (Corn) Simms. He is also preceded in death by his older brother, John.

Paul spent his youth exploring the waterfalls and gold mines around the North Georgia town of Dahlonega, a place he loved and about which he told many fond stories. Paul proudly served in the US Army as part of the Signal Corp.

Paul received his BS in physics from North Georgia College in 1953 and completed his PhD at Purdue in 1958. During his doctoral studies at Purdue, Paul met Shirley W. Wright, and they were married on June 27, 1959, in Rochester, New York. Shirley preceded Paul in death on April 9, 2020.

After graduating from Purdue, Paul was a Post Doctorate staff member at Columbia University before returning to Purdue to join the faculty in 1964, where he served until his retirement in 2001.

For many years Simms worked with his colleague, Frank Rickey, directing the Prime Lab in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Purdue.

Paul loved students and loved to teach. He was quoted by The Exponent in 2001 as saying, "I loved being a Purdue professor, students are great fun to work with. I loved going to class to teach. I love giving people something useful and they loved getting it."

Simms said his most fond memory of Purdue is meeting his wife, Shirley, while in graduate school. He considered his greatest professional accomplishment receiving the Spira Award for Excellence in Teaching. Simms won the award in 1990 for his excellence in teaching undergraduate physics.

In addition to his courses, Simms mentored and supervised many students in the PRIME Lab. Simms noted, "I wanted the students to have the experience of working with real science, not just in the classroom."

Paul was a member of and served in many roles at Covenant Church. His passions were the harmony between faith and science and leaving a legacy for his children and grandchildren. He loved Jesus, people, flowers, mountains, electronics, music and every display of Glory large and small.

Paul is survived by his children, Karen Tharpe of Lafayette and Randy Simms of Elmhurst, Illinois, and their families.