

MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS

Irvin C. Anderson

David Leonard Lendt

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G. Prem Premkumar

**Iowa State University Faculty Senate
April 29, 2008**



Irvin C. Anderson
April 4, 1928 – December 18, 2007

Irvin (Irv) Charles Anderson, 79, Professor Emeritus of Agronomy at Iowa State, died 18 December 2007.

Irvin Anderson was born April 4, 1928, in rural Page County, Iowa, across the road from one of the earliest Soil Conservation Research Farms located in southwestern Iowa, so was familiar with agronomic science and practice from his youth as an hourly employee there during high school and college years. He graduated from Shenandoah High School in 1947, enrolled in agronomy at Iowa State and earned a B.S. degree in 1951. He earned the M.S. degree in agronomy in 1954 and the Ph.D. degree in plant physiology in 1956 at North Carolina State University. A Research Associate in Biology at Brookhaven National Laboratory from 1956 he performed photosynthesis studies until he joined the Iowa State faculty in 1958 as assistant professor. He retired in 2002 as professor emeritus.

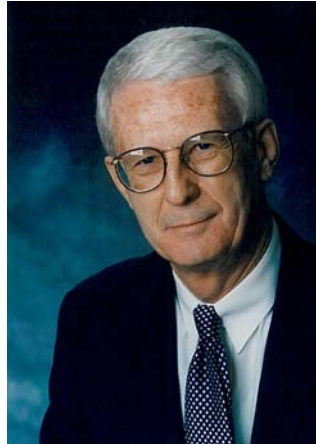
Anderson was a member of ASA and CSSA for 42 years, and named fellow of each society in 1985 and 1989, respectively. He won the 1972 Crops and Soil Magazine Award, and served as associate Editor, Crops while a member of the Agronomy Journal Editorial Board, 1985.

Professor Anderson conducted research and graduate courses in the broad field of crop production and physiology, a field that suited him well because of his background, experience and interest in promoting and supporting enlightened production practices through his work in the field and laboratory. He was a holistic thinker, emphasizing the interconnection of crops with their genetics, the edaphic and atmospheric environment and especially the interception of sunlight by the canopy. One of his major contributions was to demonstrate the importance of rapid deployment of the canopy with superior leaf morphology and deployment, and leaf area index as they affect growth and yield. Two colleagues described him as “a true crop physiologist” and “an idea man”, and described his work as applicable to biomass production for fuel as to grain and forage production for food, feed and fiber. Another noted his work on bacterial digestion of corn stover and added he “was ahead of his time” in making uses of the entire corn plant for current needs. Irv worked hand-in-glove with colleagues in climatology, plant sciences, soils and agricultural engineering, demonstrating the importance he placed on cooperation in field-oriented study and observations.

Professor Anderson’s compassion and caring for the individual, and his knowledge and quiet enthusiasm for the topics of plants and plant growth, made him admirably suited to direct graduate

students in research and to teach advanced principles of crop physiology and production. “Never a discouraging word” from him and they reciprocated with a strong loyalty to him and Iowa State. His instruction received high marks from traditional campus-centered graduate students, but his off campus teaching of Advanced Crop Management to the employed non-traditional students in the Master of Agriculture degree program was so good and in such a high demand it could not be satisfied—he spoke practicing agronomists’ language and understood the problems they faced. In some respects the realization of this hunger of employed alumni for off-campus study toward advanced degrees, led to the development and deployment of the highly successful Master of Science in Agronomy degree program in the latter 1990s.

Irv served with the Iowa National Guard for six years and enjoyed fishing, boating and camping with his son and daughter. He is survived by a son, Michael and wife, Janet, of St. Louis Park, Minn.; a daughter, Kristina Kappes and husband, Richard, of Bowie, Md.; three brothers, Howard Anderson, of Choctaw, Okla., Clark Anderson, of Clarinda, Ia. and Richard Anderson, of Sibley, Ia.; two sisters, Donna Rulon and Beth Anderson, both of Shenandoah, Ia.; and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Marvin.



David Leonard Lendt

David Leonard Lendt, JIMC 1960, died April 15, 2008, of acute myelogenous leukemia in Columbia, Missouri. He spent 22 years at Iowa State, first as assistant to Vice President for Information and Development Carl Hamilton, and then Director of Information from 1984 to 1989. Lendt became an adjunct assistant professor in what was then the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication in 1974, and for a number of years after that regularly taught the department's service course, JIMC 225 (now JIMC 305). He later was promoted to adjunct associate professor, and as a member of the graduate faculty, he served on a number of M.S. thesis committees.

Lendt came to Iowa State to work in 1967, when Carl Hamilton became vice president for information and development (Carl had been head of the journalism department prior to this). Lendt previously was the managing editor of *Northwestern Banker* in West Des Moines. In 1972, he began editing *News of Iowa State*, and in 1974 he revised its format. He became Director of Information in 1984 when Carl Hamilton retired, a position that included supervisory responsibilities for the university-owned television station, WOI-TV.

In 1968, one year after beginning his work at Iowa State, Lendt started coursework for a Master's degree in History. On his committee was Rod Fox, a legendary journalism faculty member, who had previously served as Lendt's undergraduate adviser. Of Rod, Lendt said: "He put up with me as an advisee until I finally graduated and now he's on my graduate committee trying to get me to write a thesis." Lendt's M.A. thesis, completed in 1972, was published in 1973 by the Iowa State University Press (*Demise of Democracy: The Copperhead Press in Iowa*).

In addition to teaching in the department, Lendt served as the adviser to the student Sigma Delta Xi chapter (now Society of Professional Journalists) beginning in 1973. He also served as editor of the second edition of *The Publicity Process*, a textbook written by ISU journalism professors and used in the service journalism 225 class (and nationally in many other journalism programs). Revenues from the textbook, which was published by the Iowa State University Press in 1975, supported the department's reading room.

In 1978, Lendt received a Ph.D. degree in Higher Education from Iowa State. He wrote a biography of Jay N. "Ding" Darling, which was published by the Iowa State University Press in 1979.

To celebrate completion, he accompanied a Big 8 Alumni tour to London, sailing across to England on the Queen Elizabeth 2, and flying back on the Concorde.

Lendt was always a strong supporter of the department, and of its relationship with WOI-TV. In 1980, he noted “The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication—pound for pound, [is] the best by every test.” In the early 1980s, he praised the university’s use of computers and networks to deliver information to both extension and mass media. In 1981, ISU Extension launched a statewide Apple III-based network. By 1985, the ISU Information Office relied on electronic transmission of information to most newspapers and radio stations in Iowa. That same year, WOI-TV gained the capacity to upload satellite images – a capability, Lendt noted, that cost the taxpayers of Iowa nothing. Looking ahead in 1985, Lendt said: “We’re eager to see the journalism department become computerized. We know that such an improvement in the department will do at least as much for journalism education as it has done for quality and productivity in the university’s information operation. [The department’s first computer lab was operational a year later.]

Lendt’s 1988 newsletter message saw storm clouds on the horizon. “The Board of Regents has commissioned an external audit of academic programs...our department is strong and has a rich heritage.” [That external audit first resulted in a recommendation to eliminate the department, but this was later reversed. However, it did lead to selling WOI-TV]. In 1989, Lendt left Iowa State to become director of University Relations at the University of Missouri, Columbia. He remained in this position until his retirement in 2000.

Written by Eric Abbott
April 22, 2008



Samuel H. Liu

Samuel Hsi-Peh Liu was born April 17, 1934 in Taiyuan, Shanxi, China. His family moved to Taiwan after World War II. He received his B. S. from National Taiwan University in 1954. He began graduate work in Electrical Engineering at Iowa State, then transferred to Physics, where he received his Ph.D. in 1960 in theoretical condensed-matter physics. He joined the IBM Research Center until 1964, then returned to the ISU physics department as an associate professor, and was promoted to professor in 1967. He had already attained international recognition when in 1981 he became a corporate research fellow at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He retired in 1994 and moved to San Diego, where he was associated with the Physics Department of the University of California – San Diego. He died on September 23, 2005, survived by his wife, Annabel, daughter Andrea, and son Clifton.

Sam's style in theoretical work was widely admired. He went to the heart of a problem to find with the simplest mathematical model that would describe what was important, and then beautifully explained the solution. Because of his insight, clarity, and approachability, his advice and collaboration were sought after by many experimental groups. An example of this style is the following. In the early 1980s the mathematical concept of fractals became popular and began to enter physics. Sam made use of them in three papers published in 1984-5. During this time he gave a series of tutorial lectures at Oak Ridge in order to enhance and share his thinking about fractals. This resulted in an invitation to write a review of fractals and their applications in condensed-matter physics. That review (*Solid State Physics* 39, 207 (1986)) is outstanding for its pedagogy and its clarity in presenting new concepts with physics implications. Over his career Sam worked on a number of important problems, and was well known in the field of magnetism, particularly for his work involving the physics of rare earth materials.

All those who knew Sam remember him not only as an outstanding physicist, but also as an outstanding human being. He approached social and political issues in the same fashion as he approached physical research problems: strip away the extraneous and less important aspects, then think about only the most important aspects. He was a highly valued colleague and an outstanding mentor.



G. Prem Premkumar
November 23, 1954 – November 29, 2007

G. Prem Premkumar, the Union Pacific Professor of Information Systems in the College of Business, passed away on Thursday, November 29, 2007 in Ames following complications due to pneumonia. He was 53.

Premkumar was regarded as a brilliant scholar, respected colleague, very caring individual, and excellent teacher. He was born November 23, 1954 in Madras, India, the son of Gopalaswamy and Devaki Premkumar. He earned a bachelor of engineering from Regional Engineering College in India in 1975. He moved on to graduate from the Indian Institute of Management in Information Systems and Operations with a P.G.D.M. (MBA) in Management in 1982.

After obtaining a PhD in information systems from the University of Pittsburgh in 1989, Prem joined the College of Business at Iowa State as an Assistant Professor. He was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in 1995 and Professor in 2003. He was an especially active member of the faculty, particularly in the area of curriculum development.

He served on the college's curriculum committee, computer advisory committee, and student outcomes assessment committee. He received several grants for course development and research, most notably to develop libraries of computer-based tutorials and integrate them into the MIS curriculum. He also played a leadership role in developing two graduate programs in information systems; master of science degrees in information systems and information assurance.

Premkumar also was actively involved in connecting the College of Business to the business community. He participated in the information technology task force with the Greater Des Moines Partnership, and he developed an information systems certificate program in partnership with the John Deere Company. These efforts earned him the college's Business Impact Award in 1998, given to a faculty member who demonstrates a significant impact on industry practice.

The Union Pacific Professorship in Information Systems was created in 1998 to reward and retain outstanding MIS professors who have worked to link Iowa State's management information systems education with real-world practices. In 2000, Premkumar became the first recipient of the professorship, which he held until his death.

Prem was nationally and internationally recognized as an accomplished researcher in the areas of inter-organizational systems, electronic commerce, knowledge management, telecommunications network design, and strategic information systems planning. His papers have been published or are forthcoming in *MIS Quarterly*, *Information Systems Research*, *Decision Sciences*, *Journal of Management Information Systems*, *IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation*, *Communications of the ACM*, *European Journal of Operations Research*, *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, *European Journal of Information Systems*, *Information and Management*, *Omega*, and other leading journals and conference proceedings. He also served as an associate editor for *MIS Quarterly*, and on the editorial boards of *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, *International Journal of Electronic Commerce*, and *Journal of Information Technology Management*.

Premkumar also greatly enjoyed the interaction with students that teaching allowed him. He once was quoted as saying, "I enjoy teaching and it gives me a great sense of personal satisfaction to disseminate knowledge to students, and see them learn and succeed in their professional life." His primary teaching interests were in telecommunications, electronic commerce, system analysis, and system design.

But for his many accomplishments as a faculty member, he is most remembered as a warm person and a dedicated family man. He, along with his wife Shoba and sons Makund and Deepak, enjoyed biking, playing cards and board games. He also enjoyed gardening in his free time, traveling around the world, and teaching whenever the opportunity arose.

Prem will be greatly missed by his family and friends, his profession, his department and college, and ISU. He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Shoba; his sons, Makund and Deepak, his dog, Leo; his sister, Usha; and his parents, Gopalaswamy and Devaki.