

PORTRAITS



Prof. Dr. Frederick George Pohland

born: 1931 in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin
died: 2004

Prof. Pohland's research led to fundamental advances in anaerobic processes. His concept of a landfill as a bioreactor through controlled leachate recycling was fundamental. He was honoured:

"For advancing the theory of anaerobic treatment processes and applications to solid waste management."

Education

- M.S. 1958 in environmental engineering at Purdue University.
- Ph.D. 1961 at Purdue University.
- Sc.D. (honoris causa) from Valparaiso University in 1996 for "excellence in service to the human family" as an engineer, student, explorer, teacher, professor, and writer interested in "the ways in which humans use and misuse that most vital of all elements - water".
- He was awarded the prestigious Harrison Prescott Eddy Medal by the Water Environment Federation (WEF) in 1964 for his excellent dissertation and research.

Scientific carrier

- He led the environmental engineering programs at the

Georgia Institute of Technology (1961-1988).

- and then at the University of Pittsburgh (1989–2004).
- He was also Visiting Scholar at the University of Michigan (1967-1968).
- and a Guest Professor at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands (1976-1977).
- Prof. Pohland was Professor and Edward R. Weidlein Chair of Environmental Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh; after his death, he was awarded an Emeritus Professorship, the first time the university conferred this honour posthumously.

Professional Activities & Research work:

- Prof. Pohland's research led to fundamental advances in anaerobic processes. His concept of a landfill as a bioreactor through controlled leachate recycling was adopted by the Delaware Solid Waste Authority, among many others. He originated and chaired the International Water Association (IWA) Specialist Groups on Anaerobic Digestion (1985-1992) and Landfill Management (1995-1999), which brought together practitioners, researchers, and educators from all over the world.
- In keeping with his commitment to applying research to practice and disseminating vital information, he served as regional editor of *Water Research* and *Water Science and Technology* (both 1993-2002) and as honorary executive editor of *Water Research* (1994-2000).
- From 1991 to 1998, Prof. Pohland chaired the American Academy of Environmental Engineers (AAEE) WA-STECH Program, which developed two series of books for practitioners in remediation.
- Prof. Pohland was the author of more than 150 technical and scientific publications.
- Chair of the WEF Program Committee (1989-1992); he worked to ensure that all professionals in the water quality field were supplied with the latest science and technology.
- Prof. Pohland served on the Environmental Protection Administration Science Advisory Board (1989-1997), where he worked hard to ensure that science and technology were used in the regulatory process.
- Election to the National Academy of Engineering (1993),
- Honorary memberships in WEF (1993) and IWA (2000).

Honors

- In 1989, WEF honoured him with the Gordon Maskew Fair Medal for "exemplary demonstration of proficient accomplishment in the training and development of engineers in the environmental engineering field".
- Bestowal of the Gordon Maskew Fair Award (2000),

- Presidency of AAEE (1992-1993),
- Selection as the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE),
- Simon Freeze Memorial Lecturer (2001),
- Bestowal of the Association of Environmental Engineering and
- Science Professors Frontier Award (2003).

Citation

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