



**Memorial Tribute to**

**JOSEPH SCHWAIGHOFER**

**Professor Emeritus  
Department of Civil & Mineral Engineering**

**October 31, 2018**

Be it resolved –

THAT the Council of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering record with deep regret the death on October 6, 2018 of Professor Emeritus Joseph Schwaighofer.

Born in Salzburg, Austria in the early 1920s, Professor Schwaighofer was conscripted to the Austrian army during WWII. He was captured and spent the remainder of the war as a POW working on farms in the southern United States. After the war, he finished his engineering degree (Dipl.-Ing.) in Austria and emigrated to Canada.

His career in academia began as a teaching assistant at the University of Toronto through the early 1950s, where he developed a strong interest in photo elasticity and its applications for structural engineering. Prof. Schwaighofer completed his Masters and Doctoral degrees on that subject at Pennsylvania State University. He began working at the University of Toronto in 1960 as an Assistant Professor and quickly progressed through the ranks to full professor by 1970.



Prof. Schwaighofer's research, building scale models of buildings in a photo elastic medium and testing them in three dimensions to identify weak points, influenced the design of many of the buildings constructed in Toronto at the time.

Prof. Schwaighofer is remembered as a connector and someone who was able to get large projects approved and off the ground. He was a key player in the instrumenting of Toronto's CN

Tower by the University of Toronto Civil Engineering Department to study the effects of wind loads on tall buildings. He also bridged the gap between engineers and architects, lecturing at the Faculty of Architecture and giving those students an appreciation for the structural elements of design.

He was known as being a great teacher, winning Professor of the Year awards numerous times. He was also kind and supportive of new younger staff members, often taking them to the Austrian Club for schnitzel.

Prof. Schwaighofer was fond of the outdoors, particularly skiing. He was very active until a few months before his passing. Professor Schwaighofer is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Theresa Schwaighofer

Be it further resolved –

THAT this tribute to Professor Emeritus Joseph Schwaighofer be inscribed in the minutes of this Council meeting, and that copies be sent to his family as an expression of the respect and gratitude of the members of this Council.

*Prepared by Brent Sleep, with reference to contributions  
by University Professor Michael P. Collins*