James and Maureen Gorman Emeriti Faculty Luncheon

1865 THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

Captain Karl

Super Engineer

ENGINEERING
Orono, Maine

CAPTAIN KARL SAVES THE WORLD

Saturday, October 13th 2007 11:00 am

1865 THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

James and Maureen Gorman Emeriti Faculty Luncheon

This event is named in honor of James Gorman, Sr. Mechanical Engineering Class of 1958, and Maureen Gorman, generous benefactors of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the University of Maine.

ENGINEERING

Orono, Maine

Welcome to the Party!

Eight years ago, UMaine Engineering began what has become one of our most enjoyable traditions. Every year during Homecoming weekend, we celebrate the career of a distinguished emeritus faculty member.

- 2000 – Mechanical Engineering -*Dick Hill Pajama Party*
- 2001 – Electrical Engineering - *Showtime with Mac Libbey*
- 2002 – Civil Engineering - *George Greenwood's Cowboy Roadshow*
- 2003 – Chemical engineering -*Bill Ceckler; Confessions of a Engineering Outdoorsman*
- 2004 – Engineering Physics – *Jerry Harmon, the Physics of Subjective Reality*
- 2005 – Mechanical Engineering – *John Lyman: No Jokes Required*
- 2006 – Electrical Engineering – *Carleton Brown's Three Ringed Circuits*

This year we are delighted be celebrating the career of one of the School of Engineering Technology's finest by adding Prof. Karl Webster to the ranks of our honorees. We chose "Super Engineer" as the theme for this year's event because, once you meet with Karl and hear about his adventures at sea, in the air, and around the UMaine campus, you quickly realize what an outstanding and adventurous soul he is.

UMaine Engineering has always viewed our emeritus luncheons as purely fun events that celebrate the numerous faculty members that have given our programs the life and character that is so fondly remembered by our alumni. With this in mind, every year when we send invitations to our alumni, we request humorous stories about our honoree.

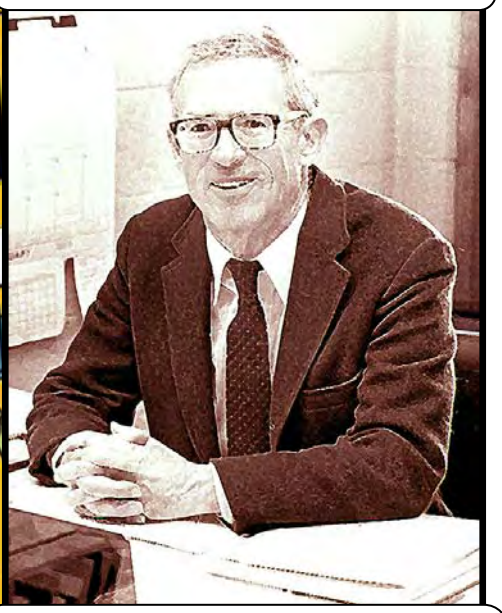
Responses to Professor Webster's invitations started arriving almost immediately. All of the contributions were wonderful stories about Karl and his impact on the lives of his students. However, the most common recollection of his former students dealt with his affection for the old equipment in Crosby Laboratory. He worked with the old steam system and even the Locomotive "the Lion" (now in a museum in Augusta.) Karl's abilities extended well beyond the classroom and laboratory. He was a sailor, a pilot and constant outdoorsman and is well deserving of the title "super engineer."

Like all of our emeritus faculty members, Karl is remembered primarily as a great teacher. However, as you read the stories in this book, you will see just how great a role he also played as a college, mentor and friend. Every time I visit our alumni, I experience the true measure of Professor Webster's years spent teaching Engineering Technology at UMaine. His students have become CEOs of major corporations, entrepreneurs and university faculty members. All of them credit their time at UMaine as a major factor in their success. Most importantly, all of our alumni remember their professors as a guiding influence that inspired them to reach their full potential in life.

We sincerely thank you for helping us to honor Karl, and hope you enjoy the party!

Dana N. Humphrey, Ph.D., P.E.
Dean of Engineering

BY DAY... KARL WEBSTER WAS A MILD MANNERED PROFESSOR



BUT WHEN DANGER CALLED OR OLD EQUIPMENT BROKE DOWN... HE WAS ALWAYS READY TO ANSWER WITH HIS AMAZING POWERS!

LITTLE DID CAPTAIN KARL KNOW THAT EVIL WAS ABOUT TO ENROLL AT UMAINE!

THE LEGEND OF CAPTAIN KARL

THE REAL CAPTAIN KARL

By Land

Karl relaxing at home

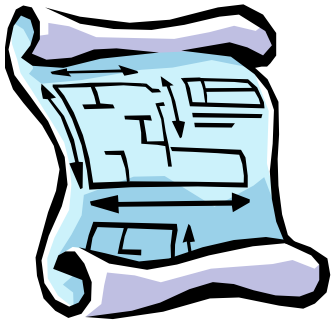
By Sea

Karl (second from left) with the University of Maine Sailing Team

By Air

Karl became an avid private pilot, and is about to take off for adventures unknown!

Karl Webster Super Stories



Karl Webster
A Meal to Remember

A recollection of Karl by Ed Bigney, a former student and long time friend.

During the late 1970's, I was assigned a small project to investigate reel hoist hooks used on 4 or 5 paper machines at the Millinocket Mill of Great Northern, where I was employed in the Plant Engineering Dept. I made arrangements with Karl to help us destructively test a hook in Crosby Lab at U of M.

Gene Pease, the group leader, (and a Maine graduate in Pulp & Paper Science) and I traveled to Orono on an early winter morning, met Karl, and proceeded to test the tensile strength of the hook assembly in the old Riele Tester in Crosby (this is worth another story). Upon completion, we asked Karl to join us for lunch at a restaurant of his choice. He suggested a place in Veazie. Veazie? Restaurant?

Since we felt we should honor Karl's request, we proceeded down Route 2 and pulled into a small parking area in front of a very small diner across from the gravel pits. The building was about half the size of a small house trailer, and had apparently been constructed (or re-modeled) when Veazie was part of Bangor. My eye contact with Gene suggested that we probably should have skipped this part of the test and grabbed a grinder on our way out of town.

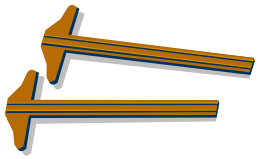
The diner consisted of 4 stools at the counter, 2 or 3 booths and a space for a card table on a busy day. One employee (owner?) cooked, served, and did the dishes.

We then proceeded to enjoy one of the best meals I have ever eaten. I believe we all had a beef stew (at Karl's suggestion), with homemade bread & rolls, and homemade pie. Coffee was excellent and service was as good as the food. Of course Karl had tea.

As I reflected later, the venue and meal was characteristic of Karl. No decorations or fluff. Just substance, quality and curiosity. You get exactly what you see.

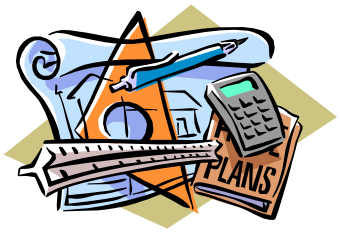
It started to snow while we were eating, and by the time we dropped Karl off at the University, you couldn't see you hand in front of your face. We got on I-95 at the Stillwater exit and 3 hours later, we pulled into my driveway in East Millinocket. But that's another story too.

Ed Bigney
BMET 1976



For over sixty years I have been associated with members of the University of Maine faculty. Certain generalizations are possible: each of us carries a little bucket of aggravation. Most of us are careful not let the bucket spill, yet certain stimuli can trigger, in most of us, hostile behavior. Many of us know that there were times when Karl's bucket was very full, yet he never let it spill. His never erring collegial, thoughtful, and engaging relationship with others should be a model for us all.

Richard C. Hill
Professor Emeritus
Mechanical Engineering
2000 Emeriti Luncheon Honoree



I am currently employed at Huhtamaki Corporation in Waterville, Maine and work here with two other BSMET graduates. We all have fond memories of classes with Karl Webster. In all honesty we often greet each with the classic Webster greeting of Wellllllll..... pause).....(last name drawn out for effect)". One of my co-workers, Peter Deane, has a last name particularly suited for the classic Webster greeting, "Wellllll,.....Deeeeeane". We all looked forward to becoming seniors in the MET program because then

we would not be on a "last name basis only" with Professor Webster.

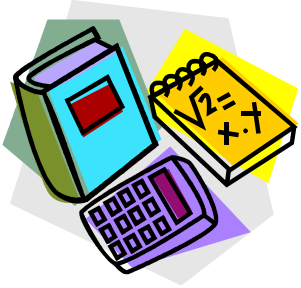
One of our favorite stories about Professor Webster happened one day in Kinematics class. It was during one of the spikes in gasoline prices, and there was a lot of buzz going around about different ways to improve the gas mileage on cars, you know like the 300 miles per gallon carburetor.
Well Professor Webster was telling the class about an advertisement he had seen for some "magical improvement" you could do to your car for just five easy payments of $19.95, plus shipping and handling of course, and your car too could get great gas mileage. Well in the commercial they showed an older large American car, and Karl's summation on the whole thing was, "you know that thing didn't get more than 8 miles per gallon going straight down an elevator shaft". Karl wasn't big on the magic of hyped up advertising.

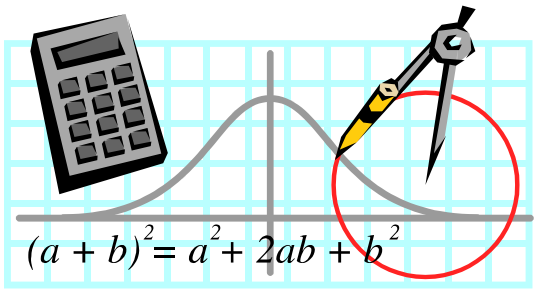
Another memorable story was the day that he was teaching us about the of the involute curve used for the profile of gear teeth. In order to demonstrate how the involute curve can be generated Professor Webster brought a frisbee to class. He proceeded to tell us how this Frisbee device actually did have a useful purpose other than that shown by the Liberal Arts Majors out on the lawn in front of the dorms. Holding the frisbee, Professor Webster wrapped a string around the outer circumference with a piece of chalk tied to one end, then holding the frisbee flat against the chalkboard and keeping the string taught, he unwrapped the string and the chalk scribed the perfect involute curve onto the board. He then revealed that in actuality it was a "special" frisbee, and he flipped it over to reveal it was emblazoned with the "School Of Engineering Technology" logo.

Those are just a couple of the memorable experiences from our classes with Professor Karl Webster, we wish him all the best in his well earned retirement years and thank him for the knowledge that he passed on to our generation of engineering students.

Sincerely,

William Ridley, *PE, CAP, 1982*
Peter Deane, *MET 1978*
Robert Hussey, *PE, 1985*





I remember Karl Webster as the no-nonsense Professor that not only developed you academically but, personally as well.

A valuable lesson came to me when one semester I had straight "A's" for my work in his course and one "B". Looking for an "A" for the semester, instead he gave me a "B". When I approached him about my grade he told me, "you have a "B" therefore did not do "A" work.

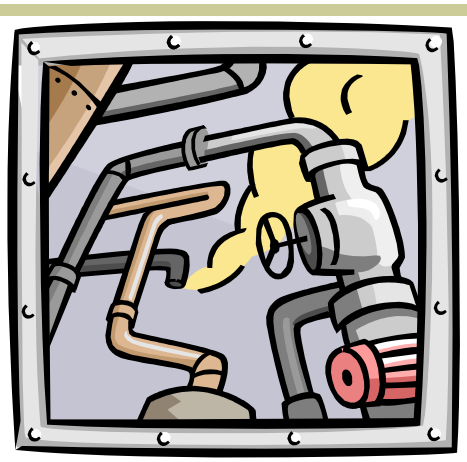
Feeling rejected, I later reflected on his reasoning and learned that even when you think you have done your best, it may not always be enough and it encourages me to go that extra mile.
Thanks Professor Webster.

Ron Tancrede
BMET 1979

I remember interviewing Karl to join the ME facility at the time when ME and MEE were still joined. The Vermont Northeast Kingdom's stamp was all over Karl. The attractiveness of his innate honesty, commitment to total fulfillment of responsibility for this tasks to be and simple forthrightness as a man could not have been clearer.

He joined us and his contribution to the success of students was an envy of the others of us who worked along side him. You could not have made a better choice for this honor.

John Lyman
Professor Emeritus
Mechanical Engineering
2005 Emeriti Luncheon Honoree



Fresh out of Stonington-Deer Isle high school, I sat in your Statics class in the fall of 1974 and a few others after that until I received my ASMET. Although at that point I switched over to the BSME program. Based upon the engineering work that I am currently doing (industrial refrigeration manufacturers rep.) I must say that my ASMET education is more applicable than the BSME portion.

Please take pride in that curriculum you helped to create. It does its intended job.

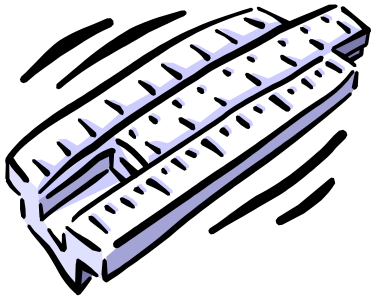
But of all the things you tried to teach me, there is one that I will never forget" If you keep at it long enough you will eventually see the hole in the donut".

Jeff Welch
ASMET 1976
BSMET 1979

Upon graduation, I accepted a job with Inter-national Paper Company in Jay. I have been working here ever since, having been assigned to several different departments in Production and Maintenance. My principle job functions have been Project Engineering related but in the interest of training, I have taken on Process Engineering assignments as well. I have noticed one very interesting thing while in the working world: this mill is extremely pleased with the quality of engineering candidates coming out of the University of Maine, and in particular, the Engineering Technology candidates. This mill hired three METs out of my graduating class alone, along with one EET! You Can take this as a compliment and a direct result of the commitment you have shown to the program and the students over the years

Even though I was very pleased with my experience at U of M, there were a couple of courses that were not always a barrel of laughs. Just the thought of deriving beam deflection equations in Strength of Materials sends shivers up my spine.

Steve Provencal
BSMET 1985



Karl Webster

PICTURES FROM THE PARTY

Dean Dana Humphrey and MEE Emeriti Don Grant welcome Jim and Maureen Gorman to the event named in their honor.

Karl Webster catches up with Norm Viger (MET Emeriti)

Associate Dean Chet Rock and Karen Horton (MET Faculty) in the buffet line

Dean Humphrey welcomes everyone to the event

Dr. Scott Dunning (SET Director) tells his favorite "Captain Karl" story

Dean Humphrey inducting the Jim and Maureen Gorman into the Francis Crowe Society

Karl was given ample time to rebut any of the incidents recounted during the event

Three Generations of MET Faculty

ECE emeriti Fred Irons (left) catches up with MEE Emeriti Dick Hill

Thank You Karl

For twenty-four years Professor Webster taught generations of UMaine engineering technology students to the highest standards of the profession. His service and dedication to his profession helped establish the tradition of UMaine Engineering Excellence that will continue to guide and inspire us for many years to come.

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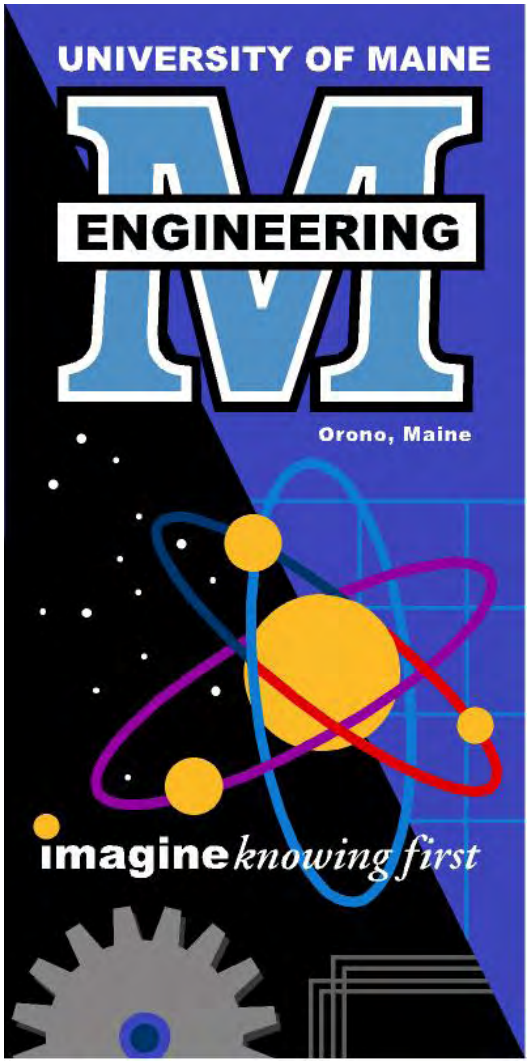
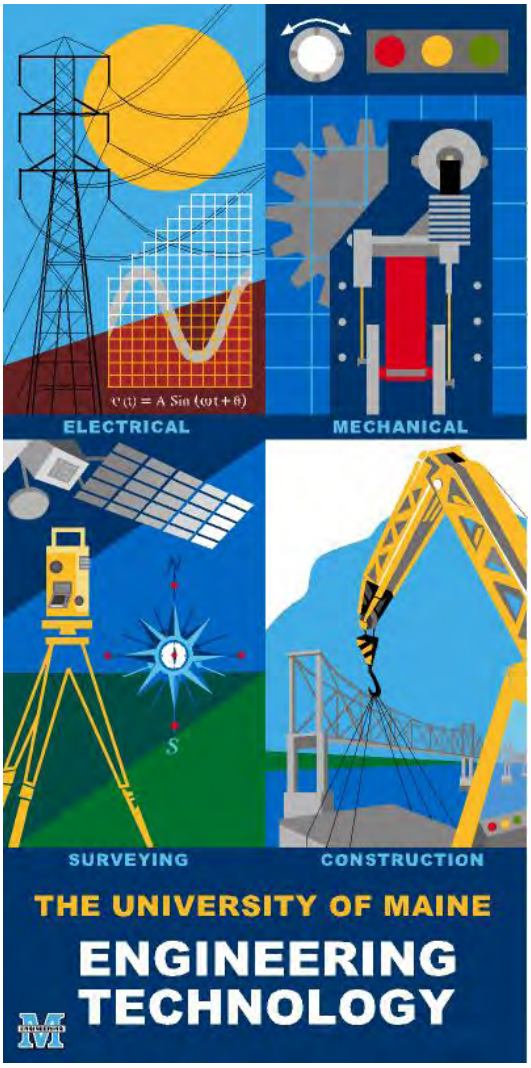
The alumni, faculty and emeriti of the UMaine College of Engineering that had the privilege of knowing Professor Karl Webster provided the memories in this book.





This James and Maureen Gorman Emeriti Faculty Luncheon was hosted by:

Dana Humphrey, Dean of Engineering
Scott Dunning, Director of the School of Engineering Technology

October 13, 2007