

In Memoriam

William Marshall Leach, Jr.
1940–2010

Marshall Leach died on November 20, 2010, in Decatur, Georgia. He graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1964 with an M.S. in electrical engineering. Following graduation he served in the United States Air Force as an electronics research and development officer. He received his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech in 1972 and joined their staff as a professor in the school of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He was a quadruple winner of the Outstanding Teacher Award, an honor determined by student voting and founded by the Audio Engineering Program in the EE school at Georgia Tech.

Leach wrote 26 JAES papers, and was published in other journals as well. He was particularly active in the area of amplifier design, including notable contributions to the understanding of transient intermodulation or dynamic intermodulation (TIM/DIM) distortion. He also developed some innovative audio loudspeaker designs, some of which were published for the benefit of experimenters who built their own high-performance loudspeakers.

Leach was the faculty adviser to the Georgia Tech student radio station, WREK, and his mentoring of the WREK staff will always be remembered. He designed and built a high-performance audio processor that was used in the air-chain at WREK for many years.

Perhaps the best commentary can be found in the scores of online postings to by students, colleagues, and friends:

Dr. Leach was always willing to teach in the most unpretentious manner, regardless of how simple the question was.

He was a true southern gentleman—brilliant, generous, and gifted in his ability to explain things to others. He will be sorely missed, and his work and accomplishments will be long remembered.

Marshall was a great example to us all—brilliant, caring, and a pinnacle of integrity.

We concur.

Geoffrey N. Mendenhall
Richard C. Cabot