San José State University Emeritus Faculty Association Biography

Name: Ralph Parkman

Department: Materials Engineering

Academic Rank: Professor

Year Retired: 1985

City of Residence: Los Gatos CA

Facebook Page or Website URL:

Birthplace: Penzance, Cornwall, England

Birth Year: 1920

Marital Status: Married

Spouse or Partner’s Name: Yetty (Henriette G. Parkman, M.D.)

Children’s Names: Phil, Judy, and Don

No. of Grandchildren: 6

No. of Great Grandchildren: -

Colleges or Universities Attended:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Degree</th>
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<tr>
<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>B.S. Metallurgical Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stanford University</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>M.S. Metallurgical Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stanford University</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>Ph.D. Metallurgical Engineering</td>
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Teaching Experience:  
From  To  
Stanford University  1951  1954  
San José State University  1954  1985  
U. S. Naval Postgraduate School, Visiting Professor  1962  summer  
University of Hawaii, Visiting Professor  1964  &  1971  spring  
Chancellor's Distinguished Teacher Award  1970  
Tau Beta Pi Engineering Professor of the Year  1984  

Administrative, Business, or Professional Experience (other than teaching):  
Metallurgist - Crucible Steel Company of America, 1941-1944  
U. S. Navy, 1944-1946 (saw service in Philippine Islands)  
Sturdivant Metal Products (electro-metallurgy), 1946-1947  

Selected Publications:  
Various papers on high temperature properties of materials. 1948-1954  

Personal Commentary (please limit comments to one page):  
In 1954, I came to San José State and soon began collaborating with the late Professor Jim Anderson in developing what would eventually become the first nationally accredited Metallurgical (later Materials) Engineering department in the, then, California State College system. I was Chairman during the 1960s. In the middle 1960s I joined with the late Dean of Engineering, Norman Gunderson, and the late Professor Edward Dionne in developing an interdisciplinary course, "Cybernation and Man," which examined the effects of the emerging information technologies on society. I wrote a textbook for the course, entitled *The Cybernetic Society*. The course was popular and out of it grew the interdisciplinary Cybernetic System Master's program. This program was taught by professors from a number of departments across campus, and for many years introduced students to problems of and potential strategies for a complex technological society.  

Date Completed:  November 2009