

Dr. Clayton P. Kerr has had a diversified career as a professional chemical engineer. Dr. Kerr received his B.S in Chemical Engineering with distinction from the University of Oklahoma in June of 1961. He then began work at the Baton Rouge refinery of the Exxon Corporation. In 1965 he enrolled in graduate school in chemical engineering at Louisiana State University and earned the M.S. in chemical engineering in 1966 and the PhD in August of 1968. He then joined the faculty of chemical engineering of Tennessee Technological University in September of 1968. He became associate professor in September of 1971 and professor in September of 1977. Dr. Kerr served as Interim Chair of the Chemical Engineering Department from August 2001 until his retirement in May 2002.

In the Chemical Engineering Department at Tennessee Technological University, Dr. Kerr taught the fundamentals course, undergraduate thermodynamics, all of the unit operation courses, the senior design sequence, air pollution, mathematical modeling, computational heat, mass, and momentum transfer for undergraduates, and all of the undergraduate laboratory courses. Dr. Kerr began teaching the undergraduate design sequence in 1971. At this time computer-aided process design was introduced at Tennessee Tech while essentially all other undergraduate chemical engineering design courses were being taught with pencils, paper, and slide rules. He taught the design sequence until his retirement in May of 2002.

Dr. Kerr has taught the graduate sequence of courses of computational heat, mass, and momentum transfer and a graduate course in process optimization.

Dr. Kerr has presented papers at technical meetings and published papers in technical journals dealing with physical properties, thermodynamics, optimization, air pollution control, process design, mathematical modeling, commercialization of Eastern oil shale, and wood pyrolysis. Abstracts of many of Dr. Kerr's papers can be found in Chemical Abstracts and Compendex.

Dr. Kerr worked for nine years as a part-time employee for the Industrial Environmental Research Laboratory of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. This work dealt with the development of processes for the control of gaseous pollutants from coal-fired power plants. He served for five years for EPA on their Alkali Wet Scrubbing Test Facility Steering Committee.

Dr. Kerr also worked for fifteen years as a part-time employee for various contractors that were responsible for providing engineering services to Department of Energy facilities located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This work included the use of Cray Supercomputers to model the operation of processes that recovered enriched uranium from various chemical processes.

Dr. Kerr was appointed by Governor McWhirter to serve two terms on the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board. During the second term, Dr. Kerr was elected vice-chairman of this board.

Dr. Kerr served as President of the Emeritus Faculty Club at Tennessee Tech from September, 2003 until September, 2004.