



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Leonardt F. Kreisle, Ph.D., P.E.

Mechanical Engineering Hall of Fame, 1993

BSArchE, The University of Texas at Austin, 1944

MSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1951

Ph.D., ME, Cornell, 1955

Professor Emeritus, College of Engineering
The University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Leonardt Kreisle earned an MS degree in mechanical engineering at UT Austin in 1951. He earned a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering from UT in 1944 and a doctorate in mechanical engineering from Cornell University in 1955. He was honorably associated with UT Austin as a student and a professor for more than 50 years. He retired in 1992 with the title of professor emeritus. He passed away on June 14, 2004 at the age of 82.

Dr. Kreisle entered the UT School of Architecture in 1939, but transferred to Architectural Engineering in 1941 due to his interest in structural design. He completed his BSArchE degree in 1944 and started work with Robert E. McKee, General Contractor in El Paso. He performed structural design and construction supervision for what is now known as Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in New Mexico.

In July 1945, Leonardt returned to UT as an instructor in mechanical engineering teaching mechanical design courses. Over the years he taught a wide range of courses, including thermodynamics, heat transfer, mechanisms, dynamics, vibrations, machine design, and numerical methods. In September 1953, he paused his UT tenure to study for a Ph.D. at Cornell. His dissertation was on hydrodynamic lubrication of journal bearings. While at Cornell, he received a teaching excellence award from Pi Tau Sigma.

Returning to UT in 1956 as an associate professor, Dr. Kreisle continued active involvement in the life

of the ME department and College of Engineering with emphasis on design courses. He was promoted to professor in 1969. From 1966-77, he served as assistant dean of engineering for academic affairs. Over his UT career, he received the Student Engineering Council's "Distinguished Advisor Award" twice. In addition, he received at least nine teaching excellence awards, including the Chancellor's Council Outstanding Teaching Award, four from the Student Engineering Council, and the Fred Merryfeld Award from the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE).

In 1946, the UT Board of Regents commissioned Leonardt to redesign and color render the official seal of The University. A significant decision in the seal design involved selection of the official University colors as burnt orange and white, with strict specifications for the "Burnt Orange".

Dr. Kreisle is best remembered for the senior-level course ME 366K (Mechanical Engineering Design Projects). The design projects program received accolades from the ASEE and ASME. The American Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) commended him for "directing the best capstone engineering design course available in American universities". Both the Leonardt F. Kreisle Machine Design Laboratory and the Leonardt F. Kreisle Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering were established in his name.