Professor Emeritus David W. Murray (1931 – 2010)
Known for being humble and generous, Dr. David W. Murray, a civil engineering professor with the Department for almost 50 years, lost his battle to Lewy Body Disease and passed away this summer - just days before his 80th birthday.

A native of Calgary, David completed his bachelor’s in civil engineering at the University of Alberta in 1952 and, thanks to receiving the Athlone Scholarship, earned his MSc at the Imperial College in London, England in 1954. He married Pearl in 1956, who was his life companion for the next 54 years. His journey as a professor at the University of Alberta began in 1960. A few years after joining the Department, and with four young children in tow, David went on to complete his PhD at the University of California in Berkeley.

Studying abroad instilled in David a love of travel. Throughout his career, he invariably spent his sabbaticals abroad. “Our family saw a lot of the world because of him and his work,” says Pearl. “We lived in Wales, Brazil and Germany – we travelled Europe from London to Istanbul and visited places like Machu Picchu in Peru. When we first were married, I was a farm girl who had never been beyond Alberta's borders! I can't believe how fortunate I have been to see the world as our family did.”

David's early academic career focused on Finite Element Analysis. After serving as Chair of the Department from 1982 to 1987, David returned to research and took up pipeline structural analysis.

“After his term as Chair, David experienced a renaissance in his research,” comments Roger Cheng, current Chair of the Department. “He really created a whole new area of research for our Department – and he made most of his contribution in this area after he had technically retired, as a Professor Emeritus.”

David taught graduate students from all over the world including India, Egypt, Iran and China. His long international collaboration was with the Civil Engineering Department at Pontificia Universidade Catolica (PUC) in Rio de Janiero. He cooperated with researchers in Brazil for over 15 years, supervised several Brazilian graduate students and had several extended visits to Rio de Janiero. PUC recognized his contribution to their PhD program by awarding David an honorary professorship in 1991.

David's last graduate student defended his thesis in 2008, marking David's 48th year with the U of A Civil Engineering Department.

“His lifelong commitment to research and teaching, his world experiences that he shared with his family, I think it's a powerful example of a life well lived,” say his wife Pearl. She is currently writing a book about his legacy, to celebrate his life.

----- From the University of Alberta newsletter, Tuesday, January 25, 2011
Research Interests:

Research Link:
The AltaPipe Group is a Research Group based at University of Alberta in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (informally referred to as the PipeTech group at UofA). The group undertakes experimental, theoretical, and computational research in the areas of stress analysis, including thermal buckling, and pipe testing, in steel pipelines for different industry interests: oil, gas, petroleum, and nuclear, among others.

Current Research Projects:
- Behavior, Design and Assessment of Energy Pipelines
- Soil-Pipe Interaction: Upheaval Buckling
- Soil-Pipe Interaction: Generalized Planar Soil-Structure Interaction
- Deformation Control Criteria for Pipeline Design
- Experimental Investigation of Hot-Tap Connections for Gas Pipelines
- Pipeline Anchor Tests

Education:
- Ph.D. in Structural Engineering, University of California, Berkeley, 1967
- M.Sc. in Engineering, University of London, London, 1954
- D.I.C. in Civil Engineering, Imperial College, London, 1953
- B.Sc. in Civil Engineering, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1952

Professional Experience:
- 1992 to present, Professor Emeritus, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Alberta
- 1982 to 1987, Chairman, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Alberta
- 1970 to 1992, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Alberta
- 1961 to 1970, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Alberta
- 1964-1967, Teaching Fellow, Department of Civil Engineering, University of California, Berkeley
- 1960 to 1961, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Alberta
- 1957 to 1960, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Manitoba

Professional Affiliations:
- Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta
- The Canadian Society for Civil Engineering
- American Society of Civil Engineers

Honors and Awards:
- 1952 · The Association of Professional Engineers of Alberta Gold Medal in Civil Engineering
- 1952 · The Athlone Fellowship
- 1991 · Honorary Professor, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
1992 · Certificate of Merit, Department of Civil Engineering, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
1995 · Life Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers
1996 · Life Member of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering
1996 · Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers
1996 · Fellow of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering

**Invited Papers:**


**Publications in refereed journals:**

(more than 75 papers listed on the website: [www.altapipe.ualberta.ca/dwmcvl.htm](http://www.altapipe.ualberta.ca/dwmcvl.htm))