



## **Richard “Dick” Lance**

November 29, 1931 – August 4, 2022

Professor Emeritus Richard “Dick” Lance passed away peacefully at his home on Thursday, August 4, 2022, surrounded by his family which included his wife of 69 years, Virginia "Ginny" Lance.

Dick was born in Geneva, Illinois in 1931. After finishing his bachelor's degree, he worked for a year as a test engineer at Minneapolis Honeywell (now known as Honeywell). Later, he served in the U.S. Army for just under two years. He earned his master's degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology and completed his Ph.D. in solid mechanics at Brown University.

In 1962, Dick joined the faculty of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics at Cornell University, where he dedicated his career until his retirement in 1998. His research at Cornell primarily delved into the inelastic mechanical behavior of solids. One notable example of his work is the creation of a continuum model for understanding the plastic behavior of ductile fiber-reinforced composites.

Dick was highly regarded for his passion for teaching, a vocation that his wife Ginny Lance described as his true calling. Among his many achievements, he played a pivotal role in establishing the Engineering Study-Abroad program in 1992, initially centered in Hamburg, Germany. Additionally, he was instrumental in developing the Freshman Seminar (now known as Engineering Seminar), a platform for first-year engineering students to engage with their faculty advisors in groups of 18 to 20 students. This seminar served as an introduction to the engineering curriculum, student programs, engineering careers, ongoing research in the field, and valuable study skills.

Throughout his academic journey, Dick undertook various leadership roles. He served twice as the acting chair of TAM, and he held positions as the associate dean of engineering for external affairs from 1974 to 1980, followed by associate dean of engineering for undergraduate programs from 1981 to 1986.

Upon retiring in 1998, Dick and Ginny settled in Chestertown, Maryland, at Heron Point. He continued to stay deeply engaged with the Washington College Academy of Lifelong Learning and nurtured a fervent interest in photography. Ginny passed away in March 2023, eight months after Dick.

Dick is survived by his three children: Cathy Lance (Christopher Dilger), Julie Lance (Steve Ball), and Fritz Lance (Kelly Kaufman Lance). He is lovingly remembered by his five grandchildren: Virginia Carroll (Bobby), Kirsten Lance (Hilary Gram), Zach Ball, Erin Ball, and Sandrine Lance Duboscq (Chris Lefancheck). His legacy extends to his great-grandchildren, Cass Gram Lance and Teddy Carroll.

Written by Herbert Hui and Richard Rand