

A Tribute to a Giant

Western lost a giant, a great man, a great professor and researcher, who dedicated his life to engineering science, training many engineers, and mentoring many more. Argyrios (Gerry) Margaritis was born in Kastoria, Greece. He joined Western in 1975 and later became one of three pioneering Professors of the Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering. As a Department Chair he passionately worked to establish the Department and to elevate its reputation across Canada and worldwide. He was a very productive researcher with interests ranging from biosurfactants, natural bacterial toxins, polysaccharide production, ethanol fermentation, bioenergy and immobilized enzyme and cells, mostly related to bioreactor design. He supervised 91 graduate students and had 209 publications in major research journals. His excellence in research and teaching was recognized by a number of awards, including the PEO's Order of Honour Award and the Fellowship in the Canadian Academy of Engineering. As a passionate man with a warm personality, he helped many peoples in different ways and tried to bring happiness to their lives. Gerry is unforgettable and will remain in our hearts forever.