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IN MEMORIAM: RICHARD PATRICK WOOL

The Center for Composite Materials mourns the passing of Professor Richard P. Wool, age 67, who died unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 24, 2015.

Prof. Wool came to the University of Delaware 20 years ago from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, drawn by a directorship at the Center for Composite Materials and a chance to work more closely with industry. At the center, and in his Affordable Composites from Renewable Sources (ACRES) laboratory, he and his colleagues and students created revolutionary industrial materials with reduced impact on the environment and human health.

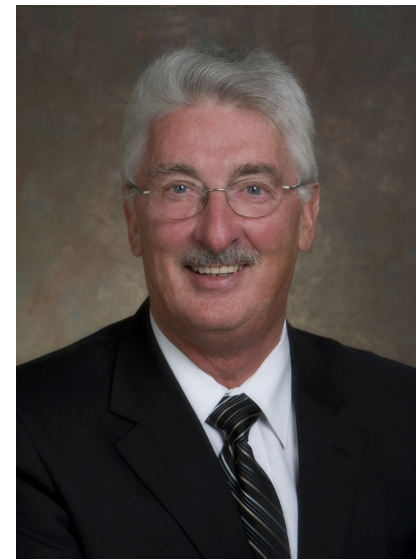
"Richard was an outstanding teacher, researcher, adviser and mentor," said John W. (Jack) Gillespie, director of the Center for Composite Materials. "He was also founder of Affordable Composites from Renewable Sources, for which he was world renowned."

"We will remember Richard for his many academic and professional accomplishments, but even more for his legacy as a gentle soul, a mentor, and a positive, guiding force in our campus community," said Provost Domenico Grasso.

"Richard was a remarkable scientist, engineer and researcher," said Babatunde Ogunnaike, dean of the College of Engineering and William L. Friend Chaired Professor of Chemical Engineering. "But above all of that, he was a genuinely good person. He was truly one of a kind and a blessing to those of us who had the great honor of knowing him."

Abraham Lenhoff, Allan P. Colburn Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and chair of the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, said, "Richard's passion for developing materials from renewable resources included mentoring the next generation of green engineers, and made him a highly visible spokesman for the area. At UD his elective courses in bio-based materials and green engineering were enormously popular with students in chemical engineering and beyond. We will miss his irrepressibly positive outlook, good humor and, of course, his leadership of a very important field in our discipline."

Prof. Wool was born in Cork, Ireland in 1947. Wool met his wife, Deborah Fitzgerald Wool, at University College Cork Ireland in 1969 and moved to the United States where they married and started a family. He received his bachelor of science honors degree in chemistry at the University College Cork Ireland in 1970 and his master's degree (1972) and doctorate in materials science and engineering (1974), both from the University of Utah. After



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teaching at the University of New York and the University of Colorado, Richard and Deborah moved to the University of Illinois, where they lived for 18 years and started a family with their three daughters Sorcha, Meghan and Breeda. In 1995, the family moved to Delaware and Richard taught as a Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Delaware until his passing.

Some of his professional accomplishments include: winning the EPA's Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award plus being elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the American Physical Society, Division of High Polymer Physics. He published over 150 papers, wrote 2 books, and held 4 patents. He was a guest Professor in the Physics Department, Trinity College Dublin, 2002, the Ecole Polytechnique, Condensed Matter Physics, Paris, France, 1991 and the Politecnico DiMilano, Natta Laboratory, Milan, Italy, 1984.

Prof. Wool had many accomplishments throughout his personal and professional life. He brought great joy to everyone with his generosity, kindness, humor, music, wisdom, and love of life. A life-long sailor he treasured the times he could bring others with him to enjoy his favorite pastime. His guitar music sessions were special gifts enjoyed by many throughout the years. His daughters feel extremely grateful for such an incredible father, who always took care and time for them regardless of how busy he was with work.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Dr. Richard Wool Award for Women in Green Chemistry, c/o the University of Delaware Development Office, Development and Alumni Relations Gifts Receiving and Processing Office, 83 East Main Street, 3rd Floor, Newark, DE 19716.

