

College of Engineering & Mines

245 Duckering Building, P.O. Box 755900, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-5900

September 17, 2013



Dear Friends of Bill Mendenhall,

We, the members of the ad hoc group "Friends of Bill Mendenhall", have pooled our time and resources to honor a long-time distinguished UAF Civil Engineering Professor Emeritus William W. Mendenhall on the occasion of his 90th birthday. We plan to honor him for his commitment to his students and future civil engineers in Alaska by endowing a scholarship in his honor to provide support to Junior – level civil engineering students at UAF College of Engineering and Mines (CEM) who have an interest in surveying. This scholarship will be announced at the National Surveyors Conference in Fairbanks, Alaska in March of 2014. Our goal is to endow this scholarship and name a classroom in the Duckering Building after Bill Mendenhall. We have started the process by contributing over \$7,000 to date, and ask you to join us in this worthwhile endeavor.

We know as a UAF CEM alumnus during the years of 1955 through 2005, you have probably had Bill as a professor. If you are like many of us, you might recall how he has influenced your career as well. We ask you to consider contributing to this scholarship account to honor Bill as well as provide financial support to future young entrepreneurial Alaskan civil engineers.

As background, Professor Mendenhall began his long career as the UAF Civil Engineering faculty in 1955 teaching engineering and surveying classes for over 50 years, and finally "retiring" in 2005. He started local UAF chapters of Tau Beta Pi (TBP), the national engineering honor society, Phi Kappa Phi, a national interdisciplinary honor society, and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). He continues to demonstrate his commitment to student success by serving as the chief faculty advisor to TBP, a role he has filled since 1975, and in 2000 he received the auspicious National Outstanding Advisor Award in recognition of his outstanding service. He also belongs to Chi Epsilon, the civil engineering honor society, and Sigma Xi, the national honor society for scientific research. At the 2007 College of Engineering and Mines awards banquet, Prof. Mendenhall was presented with a special recognition award for his service in Civil Engineering, to UAF students, and to the greater Fairbanks community.

Professor Mendenhall's commitment to learning and service extends beyond the UAF campus. His career as a professional engineer demonstrates the love of life-long learning and professionalism. As an accomplished pilot, Prof. Mendenhall conducted aerial

mapping surveys throughout the state of Alaska. He developed more accurate mapping procedures for high latitudes, receiving the Wild Heerbrugg Award in 1961 for research in photogrammetry. He taught about 15 short courses at the annual Alaska Surveying and Mapping Convention, and was inducted into the Surveying and Mapping Hall of Fame in 1996. Prof. Mendenhall's considerable service to teaching and to the surveying community was recognized during the restoration of the BLM Initial Point on Birch Hill, which was dedicated to William Mendenhall for his efforts in education.

Professor Mendenhall is a member of many professional societies, including the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Alaska Society of Professional Land Surveyors, and the Alaska Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors. Over the years, he has served as the president of many of these societies, and was named Fairbanks Engineer of the Year in 1986.

Professor Mendenhall's service to the state and to mankind began with his military service during World War II, and again during the Korean War. Since first coming to Alaska in 1948, Prof. Mendenhall has volunteered extensively for the greater Fairbanks community, in many different roles. He has been a member of the Greater Fairbanks Community Hospital Foundation since 1968, and of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Platting Board since 2001. He volunteers for the Rotary Club of Fairbanks "Sunrisers," the Pioneers of Alaska, and the Interior Alaska Sourdoughs. In 2008, William and Nancy Mendenhall, his wife of 55 years, were named the Pioneer King and Queen Regents to honor their long-term service.

In summary, Professor Emeritus Bill Mendenhall's long history in Alaska, in Fairbanks, and at the University of Alaska Fairbanks is one of service, teaching, and professionalism. He is a beneficent and exemplary person, who has selflessly given his time and professional expertise to countless individuals over many years. We are honored to know him and to have worked with him at UAF. We hope you will join us in commemorating the service of Professor Mendenhall by contributing to Bill Mendenhall Endowment in his honor.

Scholarship contributions may be easily made on-line at: cem.uaf.edu/giving.aspx and following the link to the "*Bill Mendenhall Scholarship Endowment*". We would also encourage you to ask your employer to match your contribution, providing them with a higher education tax credit. (See: www.alaska.edu/cfr/educationaltaxcredit)

Thank you for your consideration of this request to assist future UAF College of Engineering and Mines students to pursue their educational goals and future careers in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Friends of Bill Mendenhall Committee

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