

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

CHARLES RILEY SHICK

(December 20, 1928 – January 19, 2013)

Charles R. “Charlie” Shick was born December 20, 1928, in New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He graduated from New Bethlehem High School in 1947. Following service in the United States Marine Corps, he completed his pre-professional education at the Indiana University-Purdue University Extension Center in Fort Wayne.

He attended Indiana University in Bloomington from 1955 to 1958, where he obtained B.S. and M.Opt. degrees. The latter degree was at that time the terminal optometry degree offered by Indiana University to qualify graduates for the clinical practice of optometry. After he graduated, he was pressed into service as an Instructor when an optometry faculty member suddenly resigned. That began Professor Shick’s thirty-five year career as an Indiana University faculty member in which he progressed through the ranks from Instructor to full professor and Professor Emeritus.

Charlie Shick taught many courses in the optometry curriculum, including ophthalmic optics, contact lenses, low vision, and practice management. He maintained a private practice for twenty-eight years and frequently drew on his experiences in practice to illustrate points made in the classroom. The recognition of his clinical expertise is illustrated by the numerous continuing education lectures he gave to practicing optometrists, covering thirty states and three countries.

Professor Shick was particularly well known for his work in contact lenses. He invented new contact lens modification tools and held a patent for a reversing prism contact lens. He was a consultant to contact lens companies. In 1962, he coauthored *Corneal Contact Lenses: Fitting Procedures*, one of the first textbooks on contact lenses, with William R. Baldwin. A review of the book in the *Journal of the American Optometric Association* proclaimed that it would, “serve both student and practitioner well in supplying the necessary ingredients for the firm foundation upon which to build a successful contact lens practice.” That same year, he also proposed a modification to the mires on keratometers to improve the accuracy of corneal curvature measurements, a design which continues to be used in some commercially produced keratometers to this day. He also contributed to four chapters in one of optometry’s best known books, the third edition of *Clinical Refraction*, edited by his colleague Irvin M. Borish.

Professor Shick served the IU School of Optometry in various administrative posts, including Director of the Contact Lens Clinic, Director of Continuing Education Programs, Chairman of the Department of Patient Care, and Director of Clinics. One faculty member noted that in his role as Clinic Director, “Shick was able to see potential in his clinical staff and give them opportunity to prove themselves. He generated remarkable camaraderie and loyalty

among the clinical teaching staff.” Another role played by Shick was advisor to various student groups, including many years as placement advisor.

Because he started optometry school in 1955, two years after IU started professional courses in optometry, and moved into an instructional position immediately after his graduation, Professor Shick had the distinction of being either a student with, or an instructor of, every graduate of the first forty years of existence of IU’s optometry school. He was a member of the optometry faculty during several important times of transition – during the change in terminal degree from M.Opt. to Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) in 1968, and the transition from Division of Optometry to School of Optometry in 1975. And in 1975 he was the moving force behind the development of external rotations for fourth-year optometry students to give them greater breadth of clinical experience. In 1979, he received the Foley House Award given for contributions to the development of IU’s optometry school for his work establishing a contact lens laboratory facility.

Professor Shick retired from IU in 1993, which allowed him to spend more time on his hobbies of hunting and fishing. He was the president of the Sycamore Valley Gun Club for many years, and he was a firearms instructor for various organizations. His avocation as an outdoorsman also led him to serve as an advisor in recreational sports at IU. He had many friends from those activities as well as from his optometric work. Charles Shick died in Bloomington on January 19, 2013.

He is survived by his wife Shirley, one son, two daughters, six grandchildren, four step grandchildren, five great grandchildren, and two step great grandchildren. In recognition of his devotion to the university and his profession, this resolution of appreciation is presented to the Bloomington Faculty Council to become part of the minutes of that body and to have copies of the resolution sent to his wife Shirley.

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