

## in memoriam

The Faculty of Engineering sincerely regrets the passing of the following alumni and friends.

James Alfred Barnes, Electrical '51, of Edmonton, AB, in June 2009

Emil John Bécze, Eng Physics '55, of Edmonton, AB, in April 2009

Peter Edward Den Hartog, Petroleum '55, of Calgary, AB, in April 2009

Robert B. Dryburgh, Civil '58, of Burlington, ON, in February 2009

James Thomas Flynn, Eng Physics '43, of Waterloo, ON, in June 2009

H Thomas Greaves, Electrical '50, of Edmonton, AB, in November 2008

John Gregory, Chemical '45, MSc Chemical '48, of Edmonton, in May 2009

Richard Eugene Harris, Chemical '44, of Thornhill, ON, in June 2009

Roger William Hill, Mechanical '69, of Calgary, AB, in April 2009

Bradley David Koberstein, Mechanical '94, of Edmonton, AB, in May 2009

Gary David Kraft, Metallurgical '91, of Fruitvale, BC, in January 2009

Robert George Mason, Electrical '48, of St. Albert, AB, in March 2009

Leo Francis McDonnell, Chemical '48, of Upper Providence, PA, in January 2009

Alec Duncan McEachern, Chemical '57, of Campbellford, ON, in January 2009

Donald John McNeil, Petroleum '50, of Trochu, AB, in May 2009

Raymond Clinton Miller, Civil '53, of Richmond, BC, in March 2009

Alex Sacuta, Chemical '51, of Edmonton, AB, in April 2009

William Schulz, Chemical '56, of Fort Saskatchewan, AB, in February 2009

Osman James Walker, Chemical '42, of Lansdowne, ON, in April 2009

John P. Walsh, Civil '51, of Abbotsford, BC, in May 2009

Karl Michael Weiss, Electrical '74, MSc Electrical '78, of Kanata, ON, in June 2009

Peter Rollo Willette, Civil '88, of St. Albert, AB, in May 2009

The Faculty of Engineering was recently made aware of the following alumni who passed away more than a year ago.

Luis Berrios Jamett, Electrical '89

Allister Scott Brekke, Mechanical '72, of Edmonton, AB, in August 2008

William Donald Broughton, Mining '49, in August 2006

James Joseph Burris, Chemical '46, MSc Chemical '48, of Lincroft, NJ, in February 2007

Lucien M Dworkin, Electrical '35

Francis William Kelly, Chemical '72, MEng Chemical '73, of Calgary, AB, in December 2002

John Charles Pratt, Mining '32, in October 2003

Kenneth Patrick Sheeran, Electrical '50, of Roanoke, VA, in August 2008

# DAVID PANAR

## 1918-2009

Long-time Mechanical Engineering professor David Panar passed away July 9 in the Weinberg Residence of the Louis Briar Home and Hospital.

From the very beginning Panar wanted to be an engineer, so in 1937 he enrolled in Engineering at the University of Alberta, where he stayed two years. Mechanical Engineering was not offered at the U of A, so he completed his degree at the University of Michigan.

The Second World War was on. With his knowledge of aircraft engines, and through a series of interviews, he was selected to attend a course for the British Air Commission. Panar was then sent on various training courses to a number of aircraft factories that included the Hawker Hurricane factory in Fort William. This thorough training gave Panar an excellent background in aircraft manufacture and repair. A few years later when he went to Israel, this training was a major factor in the successful reconstruction of "the Black Spit," the first fighter aircraft produced in Israel—engineered by David Panar.

The story began with the shooting down of an Egyptian Spitfire in May 1948. The aircraft made a wheels-up forced landing on the beach just north of Tel Aviv. Other than a separated right wing, broken propeller, damaged radiators, and bent crankshaft, this aircraft was in flyable condition. At least it seemed so to David and the fledgling Israeli Air Force.

The immediate concern was to repair that Spit and to maintain it in serviceable condition with no spare parts. The hunt for parts was on; spares were available at nearby airfields. A rapid inventory indicated that one, and maybe two, aircraft could be assembled from the spare parts. The project to repair the Tel Aviv Spit was abandoned, and the Israeli Air Force shops proceeded to assemble, under Panar's guidance, "Daled 130," later named the "Black Spit." The aircraft was airborne on its first take-off attempt, then flown to an operational base near Hadera.

When the war ended, Panar returned to the University of Michigan to take his Master's degree in Industrial Engineering. At that time the Faculty of Engineering at the U of A was reeling under the onslaught of the returning veterans. David was offered a teaching position. He remained as a full-time professor at the U of A for over a quarter of a century, but always found ways to work in a little "on the side" consulting. He is remembered as Mr. Everything—teacher, story teller, entrepreneur, Assistant to the Deputy Minister of Public Works, and the real brain centre of the Department. He was always a willing effective teacher who had an excellent rapport with the students. Busy as he was, he seldom missed a lecture. He flitted about the province in a small plane and once on a take-off he misjudged the height of a wire fence. The wheels caught and over he went in a perfect "wheels-up" landing. The next morning Panar staggered in with two black eyes, facial cuts, and a broken nose, but ready to give one of his best lectures.

Panar is survived by his wife Bea Goldberg, daughter Arna Poupko Fisher, and grandchildren, Avi (Shifra) Poupko, Tamar (Elliot) Smith, Hindy (Seth) Galena, Eliezer Poupko, Adina Poupko and four great grandchildren.

*(With excerpts from George Ford's article David Panar: The Black Spit and other reminiscences, U of A Engineer, Winter 2002.)*

