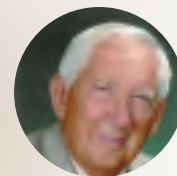


# Legacy of James Y. Oldshue Lives on in New Undergraduate Lab



**JAMES Y. OLDSHUE** (CHE '47, M.S. '49, PH.D. '51) WAS A SPECIAL KIND OF CHEMICAL ENGINEER—AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PIONEER IN THE PROFESSION, A RECIPIENT OF PRACTICALLY EVERY HONOR A CHEMICAL ENGINEER COULD ACHIEVE, AND A TREMENDOUS BENEFACTOR TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING (CHBE).

The world lost James Oldshue in January 2007, but his memory and legacy now live on through a laboratory named in honor of his contributions to the industry and ChBE. The lab, which was made possible through the generosity of Oldshue, **John Sachs** (CHE '48, M.S. '50, Ph.D. '52), other anonymous alumni donors, Armour College of Engineering, and a match provided by IIT, was dedicated in a ceremony on Friday, May 2, 2008.\*

Oldshue came to IIT as a freshman chemical engineering student in the early 1940s, but the World War II draft interrupted his studies. Rather than serving overseas, he enrolled in the Army Specialized Training Program, which eventually led him to Los Alamos to work on a top-secret government initiative, the Manhattan Project. After the war ended, Oldshue returned to IIT to complete his bachelor's degree through the benefits provided by the GI Bill. He completed his undergraduate studies in 1947 and went on to earn his master of science degree in 1949 and his Ph.D. in 1951.

While working on his Ph.D. degree, Oldshue began working with the Mixing Equipment Co., now known as Lightning' Mixers. He held various positions at the company throughout his career and retired as senior vice president in 1993 after 42 years of service.

In 1980, the National Academy of Engineering elected Oldshue into its membership for his pioneering work in establishing fluid mechanics of mixing and its practical application to industrial and municipal processing. He also authored 100 journal articles; published *Fluid Mixing Technology* (McGraw Hill, 1982); held various positions, including president, in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers; and presented his work in more than 120 countries.

During one of his last visits to IIT, Oldshue received a tour of the undergraduate labs located in Room 112 of Perlstein Hall. After remarking how few major renovations had been made in 50 years, Oldshue, along with other ChBE alumni, generously donated money to help renovate the lab so that current students could learn the fundamentals of chemical engineering in a state-of-the-art setting.

Under the direction of then-ChBE Chair **Fouad Teymour** and Director of Department Laboratories **Nader Aderangi**, the project began during the fall 2007 semester with the extensive job of breaking down equipment and clearing the space for the new features being added. Fresh paint, new flooring, and an air ventilation system were soon added to the lab. Equipment and student workspaces with new computers loaded with the latest software were installed in the space after the renovations were completed. Stations have been designated for each chemical engineering process taught in CHE 317 and CHE 418.

Sadly, Oldshue passed away before the completion of the lab. ChBE was very pleased to welcome Oldshue's wife, **Betty**, sons, **Paul, Richard** and **Robert**, and other family members to share in the dedication of the lab. Through this lab, Oldshue will always be remembered at IIT as a pioneer in the industry, and his legacy will undoubtedly continue to influence many generations of chemical engineers to come.

*\*Later that day, the family of James Oldshue accepted the IIT Lifetime Achievement Award in his honor at the 2008 IIT Alumni Awards Ceremony.*



*From left: former ChBE department chair Fouad Teymour, former Armour dean Hamid Arastoopour, James Oldshue's sons, Richard, Robert, and Paul, and wife, Betty, at the dedication ceremony*