

Wesley K. Foell, Ph.D Biography



Wesley K. Foell, Ph.D – Class of 1953 - b. 1935 From the EHS Yearbook, Class President 2-3-4, Student Council 2-3-4, Football 2, Basketball 2-3, Track 3-4, Cross Country 3-4, Tennis 2, “E” Club 2-3-4.

Wes believes his most significant educational building blocks were at Elgin’s Lowrie Grade School, Abbott Jr. High, and EHS, graduating in the Class of ’53. With this excellent foundation, he went on to receive a B.S from Stanford University, an M.S. from

MIT, and a PhD in Engineering from Stanford in 1964.

Continuing an early scientific interest in energy technologies, Wes moved to Germany in 1965 with his Dutch wife, Ankie, and conducted research on the safety of nuclear power plants at the international EURATOM research center in the German *Kernforschungszentrum* in Karlsruhe, Germany. Along with the European Coal and Steel Community, EURATOM was one of the early “supranational” European institutions that would ultimately become today's “European Union”.

Wes joined the University of Wisconsin-Madison engineering faculty in 1967. From an early academic focus on applied nuclear science and technology, his career broadened in the 70’s to interdisciplinary teaching and research in energy-environmental-economic systems and policy analysis. Wes founded and directed the campus-wide Energy Systems and Policy Research Program from 1972-87. In the early 1970s his team developed the “Wisconsin Energy Model”, one of the first statewide energy policy analysis models in the U.S.

From 1974-1976, he directed a multinational energy/ecology project at IIASA, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Vienna, Austria. In this project, the Wisconsin Energy Model was applied to multiple European regions, including a unique collaboration with scientists and officials of the German Democratic Republic (the former East Germany).

In 1980, expanding his international activities, Wes founded Resource Management Associates (RMA), a Madison-based international energy/environmental consulting firm. RMA carried out a large number of international research-, consulting- and training projects for a wide range of institutions, including USAID, the Asian Development Bank, OECD, the World Bank, the U.S. Department of Energy, and several foreign governments. In the following two decades, Wes and his teams of engineers, economists, and social scientists specialized in problems of energy efficiency, energy planning and policy, and the links between energy and the environment, including issues of air pollution and climate change. Their projects spanned a wide range of countries in Asia, North Africa, Eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union.

Much of Wes’ later career was devoted to teaching, research and consulting in the developing world. From 1987-89 he spent two years in Bangkok as visiting professor at the Asian Institute of Technology

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in Bangkok, Thailand, and from 2000-01 lived in Jakarta, Indonesia, directing a major energy policy project in collaboration with the first post-Suharto Indonesian government. From 2008-11, he worked with an international group of research institutes on analysis, policy development and outreach on problems in providing clean and affordable traditional and modern cooking fuels and technologies in developing countries. During their many travels, Wes and his wife, Ankie, devoted considerable energy in support of *SOS Children's Villages*, the international organization caring for abandoned and needy children.

Wes' professional life is partially reflected in his more than 100 publications, including four books. But he speaks more fondly of the accomplishments and contributions of his many former students and colleagues in the energy and environmental fields throughout the world. Wes and Ankie live part time in the Netherlands: she is a classical pianist and has studios in Amsterdam and Madison.

In 2012 he and his two brothers, Howard G. of the Class of 1945 and Ronald R. of the Class of 1946 (note: all three brothers were presidents of their respective EHS classes) founded the Presidents' Fund Scholarship for Elgin High Students.