

In Memoriam - Dr. J. Gordon Duff

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on behalf of

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In Memoriam - Dr. J. Gordon Duff

It is with regret and sadness that the College of Pharmacy, Faculty of Health Professions, Dalhousie University advises of the loss to our community of Dr. J. Gordon Duff on December 11th, 2014. Dr. Duff was well known and respected in pharmacy academia across Canada and within the profession of pharmacy in the Maritimes. His dedication to pharmacy education, to professional pharmacy organizations and to the preservation of pharmacy history were inspirational. Dr. Duff made a difference in the lives of individuals, professional organizations and Dalhousie University through his kindness and generosity. His generosity was far reaching through his willingness to contribute financially to student activities, professional organizations and Dalhousie University.

Dr. Duff studied at the University of Saskatchewan, earning Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Master of Science degrees in the 1950s. In 1958 he was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree in pharmaceutical chemistry from the University of Florida. He served the University of Saskatchewan as an Instructor of Pharmacy from 1958 to 1961. In 1961 Dr. Duff moved to Halifax to take up the position of Director of the College of Pharmacy in the newly formed Faculty of Health Professions at Dalhousie University. The Maritime College of Pharmacy, an independent institution, had just been incorporated into Dalhousie University. Dr. Duff was charged with creating a four-year degree program in pharmacy while also overseeing the completion of the Diploma in Pharmacy program. He served as Director of the College of Pharmacy from 1961 to 1972. In addition to developing the Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy) degree, a research program and Masters of Science program were initiated. Under his tenure a continuing education program for practicing pharmacists was also begun. As well, Dr. Duff was instrumental in the establishment of a hospital pharmacy residency program for pharmacy graduates at Camp Hill Hospital.

Following his Directorship, Dr. Duff continued as a faculty member at the College of Pharmacy until his retirement in 1990. He was promoted to the rank of full professor and served as a member of the University Senate. He served on countless committees at all levels at the University – College, Faculty, Senate and University.

Dr. Duff was active within pharmacy on both provincial and national levels. In 1965 he served as Chair of the Canadian Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties. He later served this organization under its new name, the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada, as the Dalhousie Councilor for four years. He was an executive member and President of the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy and served as Secretary, Treasurer and President of the Canadian Academy of History of Pharmacy. He served as a Board member of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association, now the Canadian Pharmacists Association, for four years, and as their representative to the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada for a further three years.

Dr. Duff was awarded honorary membership in six pharmacy organizations: the Nova Scotia Pharmaceutical Society, the New Brunswick Pharmaceutical Society, the Prince Edward Island Pharmaceutical Association, the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada and the Dalhousie Student Pharmacy Society. In addition, he has been honored with a Life Membership with the American Pharmaceutical Association and a Meritorious Service Award from the Canadian Pharmacists Association. In 1972, when Dr. Duff stepped down as Director of the College of Pharmacy, he was honored by his former students and associates through the development of the Dr. J. Gordon Duff Senior Stick Award, recognizing leadership within the student body. The Nova Scotia Branch of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists also created the Dr. J.G. Duff Appreciation Award, in recognition of the support and encouragement Dr. Duff has provided to this organization over the years. In 2007, he was honored by the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association as a Centennial Pharmacist for his significant contributions to the profession of pharmacy in Canada.

Dr. Duff has always maintained a keen interest in pharmacy history and has been active and successful in preserving historical items and literature. Dr. Duff was the major force behind the establishment and furnishing of the historical pharmacy in Sherbrooke Village. As well, he has collected over 3700 historical items, mainly from pharmacies within the Maritimes and these are housed within the College of Pharmacy, in the J. Gordon Duff Pharmacy Museum. He is recognized as the main source of Pharmacy historical information within the Maritimes.

Following his retirement from Dalhousie University in 1990, Dr. Duff was appointed a Professor Emeritus at the College of Pharmacy. He served as archivist of the J. Gordon Duff Pharmacy Museum. In 2012, Dalhousie University awarded Dr. Duff with an honorary degree, recognizing his many contributions to pharmacy education and the profession of pharmacy. In 2014, The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, University of Saskatchewan, honored him as one of their Centennial Alumni of Influence.

Dr. Duff will be missed by many. We honor him for his many contributions to pharmacy and Dalhousie University and for the kindness and friendship he extended. A celebration of his life will be held on January 15th, 2015 1:30PM-3:30PM at University Hall, Dalhousie University (please visit www.dal.ca/pharmacy in early January for additional details). As an expression of sympathy, donations to the College of Pharmacy in memory of Dr. Duff may be made c/o External Relations, Dalhousie University, PO Box 15000, Halifax, NS, B3H 4R2 (Tel: 902-494- 8801 or Toll Free 1-800-565-9969). Please make cheques payable to Dalhousie University.