Professor W.J. Minkowycz Named the First James P. Hartnett Professor of Mechanical Engineering Energy Systems

On April 28, 2006, W.J. Minkowycz, a long-time faculty member in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, was named the James P. Hartnett Professor of Mechanical Engineering Energy Systems. The fourth endowed professorship received in the College of Engineering, it is endowed primarily by the late-Professor Hartnett and through gifts made by Professor Warren M. Rohsenow of MIT, and Elsevier, Ltd. in his honor.

His colleagues recognize W.J. Minkowycz as the intellectual leader of the worldwide heat transfer community over the past decades, where his editorial activities have nurtured the growth of heat transfer activities worldwide. He is the point of reference for an entire generation of thermal engineering professors.

Professor Minkowycz received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1965 and joined the UIC Faculty in 1966. To his colleagues, he is recognized as an editor and scholar. He is the author of over 125 journal and conference papers and actively leads numerous editorial boards. By his students, he is recognized as an extraordinary teacher, one who brings current research and knowledge and a sense of humor into the classroom and prepares for every class session he teaches. His door is open to all.

Professor Minkowycz is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and received the Ralph Coats Roe Award, an American Society for Engineering Education national award and the Heat Transfer Memorial Award, an ASME national award.

Jim Hartnett would have been pleased to see Minkowycz accept the plaque naming him the Hartnett Professor from Chancellor Sylvia Manning. In 1954, Dr. Minkowycz enrolled in the Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of Minnesota. The timing of his enrollment coincided with the era in which Professor Ernst R.G. Eckert was developing a world-class heat transfer laboratory with the assistance of professors James Hartnett, Thomas Irvine, and Roger Eichhorn. Later, both Hartnett and Minkowycz found themselves at UIC on a new campus in a new College of Engineering.

In 1967, at the invitation of Professor Hartnett, he started his almost 40-year affiliation with the International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer. Their joint editing activities have proved very fruitful, resulting in the journal’s ascendancy to the top rung among the journals in the field. A sister journal, International Communications in Heat and Mass Transfer, was founded in 1974.

Dr. Minkowycz has been a coordinating editor of Communications since its inception. He is currently the editor-in-chief of both journals. He is the founding editor of the Numerical Heat Transfer journal and has served as its editor-in-chief since its inception in 1978. He is also the senior Editor of the textbook series, Computational and Physical Processes in Mechanics and Thermal Sciences, of the review monograph series, Advances in Numerical Heat Transfer; and of the Handbook of Numerical Heat Transfer, the second edition of which has just been published in 2006.

Professor Minkowycz has been the recipient of the UIC Silver Circle Award for Excellence in Teaching six times, the University Distinguished Teacher Award in 1989, and the Board of Trustees Recognition for Excellence in Teaching in 1987.

Faculty and staff celebrated this honor with the College Advisory Board as Chancellor Sylvia Manning presented a recognition plaque to Professor Minkowycz. Joining in the celebration were members of Professor Hartnett’s family, James and Sandy Hartnett and Carla Podrasky.