

1981 Engineer of Distinction



James Seay Brown

B.S. Mechanical Engineering, TPI, 1941
M.S. Mechanical Engineering, University of Illinois, 1950

President
Seay Brown & Associates
Cookeville, TN

Dean of Engineering Emeritus
Tennessee Technological University
Cookeville, Tennessee

Citation

James Seay Brown, born February 8, 1920, in Franklin, Kentucky, received his baccalaureate degree in engineering in 1941 from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (now Tennessee Technological University). In 1950, he received a Master of Science in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois.

Beginning as an instructor of engineering at Tennessee Tech in 1941, Brown rose through the academic ranks to become dean of engineering in 1961, a post which he held until retirement in 1979. His tenure at Tech was interrupted in 1944 for two years service in the U.S. navy. While in the Navy, he participated in electronics programs at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Returning to Tennessee Tech in 1946 as assistant professor of mechanical engineering, he progressed to associate professor and chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering in 1950. He was named professor in 1952. Prior to becoming dean in 1961, he directed the cooperative education program in addition to other administrative and professional activities.

Dean Brown, as he is affectionately known throughout engineering circles, was designated dean emeritus in 1979 with his retirement. For Dean Brown retirement from academe did not mean quitting. He has since formed the consulting firm of Seay Brown & Associates and is very active as a manufacturer's representative. His primary activities are in solar energy. He is making substantive contributions to Solar Unlimited of Huntsville, Alabama. He is directing installation training activities for that firm, which has established a network of dealerships throughout the nation.

Dean Brown is a member of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers, American Society of Mechanical Engineering, American Society for Engineering

Education and American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineering. He is a registered professional engineer and currently serves as a member of the Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners. He is well known for his commitment to professionalism.



1981 Engineers of Distinction: (l to r) Dean Emeritus James Seay Brown, Mrs. Henderson for her late husband, James M. Henderson, Aubrey Wagner, Landon Corbin, George Jasny