

Memorial Resolution
Presented to the University of Kentucky Senate
March 9th, 2009

STEPHEN C. DEGER
1939-2009
Professor of Architecture
University of Kentucky College of Design

Stephen C. Deger, Professor of Architecture at the University of Kentucky, died January 8, 2009 of natural causes at his home in Lexington, Kentucky.

Professor Stephen Deger always knew that he wanted to design buildings. It was this desire that guided him through a successful career as an architect and an educator. He received his B.S. in Architecture from the University of Cincinnati in 1963, and his M.S. in Architectural Engineering from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, in 1966. He began teaching at the University of Kentucky College of Architecture in the fall of 1966 and taught here continuously until his passing in the fall of 2008.

Professor Deger was passionate about architecture, but he was even more passionate about the work of his students. He was a truly inspirational teacher, mentor and colleague, and he touched all those fortunate enough to have known him. His students remember fondly his unique ability to both challenge and inspire, while his colleagues and friends will always remember his wit, intelligence, and selflessness.

Friends of Professor Deger shared these memories of his endearing idiosyncrasies: he loved Reese's Peanut Butter Cups to a fault; he spent hours in libraries reading Mid-Century Modernist magazines; and he loved to explore the built environment by attending real estate open houses.

A former student, Brian Stephen Rosen (Class of 2001), had this to say about Professor Deger: "He changed my life. I remember when I came to visit UK's campus, trying to find a home in architecture and not sure of my abilities or myself. Professor Deger believed in my potential, he believed that anyone with the heart and passion for architecture could be a part of it. That is such an important ingredient in a professor and teacher. I feel very fortunate that our paths crossed. I will always remember Professor Deger. Thank you for believing."

Another of his former students and colleague who is now an architect and professor remembered Professor Deger this way: "As we traverse through life there are milestones. We may not recognize them when they are in front of us, but when we look back they are clearly visible. Stephen C. Deger is responsible for a number of those moments in my life. As a student in Professor Deger's third year studio I

learned, more than any anywhere else, analytical thinking and creativity. Stephen opened the doors for me and influenced my development as an architect and a teacher. He was a mentor and a friend and I am deeply in his debt.”

We celebrate Stephen’s life, his quiet demeanor, his quirkiness, his insight, his wonderful sense of humor, and most of all his teaching. Stephen was a devout Christian and I believe that in his eternal life he will have the great pleasure of knowing how many lives that he touched and changed for the better. Well done, Stephen!”

Stephen C. Deger changed lives one at a time and as a result he left the University of Kentucky and this world a better place than he found it. His contribution will endure for years to come. In honor of Stephen’s ability to change the lives of so many incoming undergraduates, the Stephen C. Deger Scholarship fund has been established.

The College of Design will hold a Memorial service for Stephen Deger on Tuesday, April 14, at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Center Theater. The service will be followed by a reception in Pence Hall.