

Distinguished Alumni Award: Norman J. McCormick, class of 1956



The University High School Alumni Association honors Norman J. McCormick, class of 1956, as the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient for his contributions to his profession and civic service.

With over forty years of experience as a professor at the university level, McCormick is recognized as a nationally renowned educator and mentor to both students and educators. He graduated from University High School in 1956 and attended the University of Illinois to study Mechanical Engineering. Graduating in 1960, he quickly earned his Master's degree, also at the University of Illinois, in Nuclear Engineering in 1961. Then four years later, at the University of Michigan, he earned his Ph.D. in 1965 with a Doctorate of Philosophy in Nuclear Engineering.

After receiving his doctorate, McCormick began teaching as an assistant professor in Nuclear Engineering in 1966 at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. In 1970, he was promoted to associate professor in Nuclear Engineering. In 1974 and 1975, he also served as a risk analyst for Science Applications, Inc. From 1975 to 1990, McCormick served the University of Washington as a professor of Nuclear Engineering. In 1990, his job changed again when he became a professor of Mechanical Engineering. And since 2003, he has served the University of Washington as Professor Emeritus in Mechanical Engineering.

McCormick's principal research activity has involved solutions of linear problems of transport theory. After 1990, he began to focus on analytical methods for solving inverse radiative transfer problems for oceanic, atmospheric, and biological applications. Specific projects where his solutions were applied included the development of inversion algorithms for in-situ ocean measurements and for remotely sensing the optical properties of seawater and clouds, and the estimation of the optical thickness of clouds.

In addition to his research and teaching activities, McCormick also authored two books. In 1981, he authored *Reliability and Risk Analysis Methods and Nuclear Power Applications* (Academic, 1981), and in 2011, he co-authored *Risk and Safety Analysis of Nuclear Systems* (Wiley, 2011) with John C. Lee.

McCormick has also been active with the community, serving as a youth advocate in King County Court for Family Law, as well as a tour guide for high school students interested in the University of Washington Medical School.

Over the course of his career, McCormick has received the following awards and recognitions:

- Fellow, American Nuclear Society
- Outstanding Alumnus, University of Michigan Department of Nuclear Engineering
- Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Illinois Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
- Fellow, U.S. National Academy of Sciences, University of Ljubljana

While at U-High, McCormick received the Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award. His favorite teachers were Dr. Douglas Bey, Dr. T.E. Rine, and Miss Ruth Stroud.

He is married to Mildred McCormick, a 1960 graduate from Illinois State University. They have two children, Kenneth McCormick, who graduated from Central Washington University in 1986 with a Business degree, and Nancy McCormick, who graduated from the University of Washington in 1991 with a Civil Engineering degree.