

Miner taught physics for 64 years. His long career included dedicated service at the high school, college and university levels.

Miner earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1929 from Indiana Central College (now the University of Indianapolis) and a master's degree in physics from Indiana University in 1933. Upon graduation Miner taught in two Indiana high schools and then at Indiana Central College, Indiana University and Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois.

In 1948 Miner joined the faculty of Northern Illinois University, where he remained until his death. After his so-called retirement in 1976 he continued to teach weekend and summer workshops for teachers, including one the weekend before his death.

All three of Miner's sons and one grandson followed him into physics teaching. Together they have reached thousands of high school and college students, many of whom have become physicists. There is a saying in Illinois that "the Miners have made a major contribution to physics education."

THOMAS ROSSING
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Raymond Pepinsky

Raymond Pepinsky, a professor of physics at the University of Florida since 1968, passed away on 7 May 1993. Ray had been ill for several months following his slow recovery from Guillain-Barré syndrome.

Ray is very well known for his contributions in crystallography, his discoveries in ferroelectricity and his pioneering work applying computer techniques to the study of biological molecules. Particularly notable was his seminal work on developing analog computer techniques for transforming x-ray crystallographic data into intelligible molecular pictures.

Ray obtained his doctorate in crystallography at the University of Chicago in 1940, and joined the Alabama Polytechnic Institute as a faculty member in 1941. During World War II he took leave from API to join a group of distinguished scientists at the MIT Radiation Laboratory working on problems of national interest, including the development of radar. He returned to Alabama as a research professor of physics after the war. In 1949, he accepted the directorship of the Crystal Research Laboratory and Growth Institute at Pennsylvania State University. It was

there that Ray carried out his studies in crystallography.

Ray came to Florida in 1963 to head the department of physics at Florida Atlantic University and was the Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Physics at FAU until 1965. He was the Robert Law Professor of Physics and Chemistry at Nova University in Fort Lauderdale until 1968, when he joined the University of Florida as a professor of physics and metallurgical and materials engineering.

Ray also served on several committees of the National Academy of Sciences, on the National Committee on Crystallography, on the advisory panel of the National Bureau of Standards and on the governing board of the American Institute of Physics.

In addition to his career in crystallography Ray is remembered for his culture, especially his appreciation of music. He brought University of Florida listeners a special treat with his weekly hour-long radio program, "The Art of Song", which featured performances of poetry sung to music. He taught courses on both biophysics and the art of song in the university honors program. His students had a great appreciation for his courses and the depth of understanding that he showed.

NEIL SIMON
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Inge Lehmann

Inge Lehmann died in Copenhagen on 21 February 1993, three months short of age 105. Born in Østerbro, Denmark, Lehmann graduated in 1920 from the University of Copenhagen with a degree in mathematics and physical science. In 1928, she was appointed chief of the newly formed seismological department of the Danish Geodetic Institute, a post she held until her retirement in 1953.

In 1936 she discovered the Earth's inner core. Her proposal, published in the *Bureau Central Seismologique International, Travaux Scientifique* (14, 87, 1936), was intended to avoid difficulties that arose in interpreting the observed arrival times of seismic core waves when one assumed only a single terrestrial core.

A two-shell Earth with a liquid core gives rise to refraction phenomena analogous to the optical caustic formed by a spherical lens. It was known by the middle 1930s that the seismic-wave caustic came at approximately 145° epicentral distance, that is, the angle between the earthquake center and the recording seismograph, subtended at the Earth's

center, yet core waves could be clearly observed on seismograms from the antipodes back to distances smaller than 145°. Lehmann was in an excellent situation to observe those waves, because the seismographs of her far-flung Danish network were located at such epicentral distances from large earthquake sources in the South Pacific. Her observations with the network enabled her to make the necessary imaginative jump.

In effect, Lehmann proved an existence theorem: namely, that one can find a plausible tripartite structure for the Earth that explains the main features of the observed core waves. The inverse problem was to use the observed travel times to estimate statistically the inner-core parameters that satisfied them within the measurement uncertainties. This final step was done in 1938 by Beno Gutenberg and Charles F. Richter and, independently, in 1939 by Harold Jeffreys, who had shown already in 1926 that the (outer) core is liquid. In the next few years, arguments by Frances Birch and Keith Bullen established that the increase in P-wave velocity at the Lehmann inner-core boundary was such that the inner core had to be solid if the pressure-induced gradient in elastic incompressibility was to be realistic.

Lehmann's retirement opened up a new active period of research. One of the research centers she enjoyed visiting during this period was Lamont Geological Observatory (now Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory), in Palisades, New York. She explored in particular the structure of the upper mantle, using both P and S waves from underground nuclear explosions and earthquakes. Her work with nuclear explosions was important at a time of much associated political controversy over the validity of monitoring criteria for a comprehensive test ban, not so much because she found something new but because her stature and integrity provided high respectability and credibility to the independent studies she supported.

The pioneering work of Inge Lehmann was a product of several qualities of a remarkable woman. Those of us who were fortunate to know her as friends and colleagues will always think of her as a strong and independent person, with great physical energy (exemplified by many mountaineering trips to the Alps) and personal warmth.

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