

## Brief Biography for Dr. Hans Gesund

This is to announce that Dr. Hans Gesund, Dr. Eng'g., P.E., F. ASCE, F. ACI, Professor of Structural Engineering in the faculties of Civil Engineering, Architecture, and Historic Preservation, University of Kentucky, passed away on March 17, 2023. Dr. Gesund was born September 18, 1928, in Vienna, Austria, the son of Carl and Else (Sternberg) Gesund.

Dr. Gesund earned a Bachelor of Engineering with honors from Yale University in 1950, Master of Engineering from Yale University in 1953, and Doctor of Engineering from Yale University in 1958. While completing his graduate studies, Dr. Gesund was an instructor for the Department of Civil Engineering at Yale University from 1954-1958.

Dr. Gesund joined the University of Kentucky Civil Engineering faculty as an assistant professor of Structural Engineering on July 1, 1958. He was awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of associate professor in 1959. He was promoted to the rank of Professor of Structural Engineering in 1965. Dr. Gesund retired after 66 ½ years of teaching, 62 ½ years at UK. He retired at the end of December 2020 at the age of 92.

Dr. Gesund made significant contributions to the Department of Civil Engineering. Soon after arriving in Lexington, Dr. Gesund had the opportunity to design a structural engineering laboratory and to obtain federal funding for its construction and equipment. The lab is housed in the basement and sub-basement of the F. Paul Anderson Tower in the engineering quadrangle.

Dr. Gesund served on every committee of the Civil Engineering Department. He also served as Director of Undergraduate Studies and Director of Graduate Studies. Dr. Gesund served as Department Chair from 1987-1992. During that time, he was instrumental in obtaining private funding, matched by the State, for the construction of the Oliver H. Raymond Building in the engineering quadrangle. It houses the Department of Civil Engineering and the Kentucky Transportation Center. He also obtained private funding for several endowed chairs, professorships, and student scholarships in the Department.

Dr. Gesund served the College of Engineering as its representative on the University's Promotion and Tenure area committee, and for four 3-year terms each, on the University's Undergraduate Council and Graduate Council. He also served for approximately 30 years in the University Senate and its various committees. During one of his terms as a member of the Graduate Council, Dr. Gesund helped establish the Ph.D. program in the Department of Civil Engineering. Sometime after his service as Department Chair, the Civil Engineering faculty elected Hans to represent it on the College of Engineering Faculty Advisory Council. He was re-elected multiple times and served on the Council for 21 years, 18 of them as its elected chair, until shortly before his retirement.

Civil Engineering was not Dr. Gesunds' only Department. A couple of years before 1970, his friend and colleague, Professor Charles P. Graves, then Dean of the College of Architecture, asked Dr. Gesund to take over the College's Structural Design program part-time and to accept a joint appointment on the Architecture faculty. Dr. Gesund accepted and taught one or two ARC prefix courses each year until shortly before retirement. He also recruited younger faculty members and teaching assistants to handle the other Structural Design courses.

As a member of the Architecture faculty, Dr. Gesund used his experience with faculty governance to help the College transition into a College of Design with a Department of Historic Preservation, whose

faculty he also joined, directing several graduate theses in the Department. He also helped the College faculty establish its Faculty Advisory Council, which he remained a member of until retirement. Over the years, Dr. Gesund has directed the dissertations of 14 Ph.D. students to successful completion and the work of many MSc. students. His research has resulted in more than 50 technical publications, many with his students. Dr. Gesund was a member of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Engineering, the American Society for Testing and Materials, and the American Society of Engineering Education. Dr. Gesund was elected to the rank of Fellow for the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Concrete Institute. He was also inducted into four scientific and engineering honor societies: Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, Chi Epsilon, and Tau Sigma Delta.

Dr. Gesund was a veteran of the Korean War. He enlisted as a private in the Connecticut National Guard in the summer of 1948. After two long and many short active-duty deployments, he retired from military service in the fall of 1968 with the rank of Major, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Reserve. During his 20 years of service, Hans was, at various times, a machine gunner, platoon leader, staff officer, and, for seven years, a company commander.

Not long after settling in Lexington, Dr. Gesund and his family joined Ohavay Zion Congregation. Eventually, he was elected to the Board of Trustees, on which he served for 14 years, including six years as Vice-President and President of the congregation.

Dr. Gesund was a prodigious blood donor. He had donated 28 and a half gallons (107 liters) of blood to the Central Kentucky Blood Center.

Dr. Gesund was married to his loving and beloved wife, Irmgard Elias-Orth Gesund, whom he married on January 28, 1951. Dr. Gesund and his wife have two children, Ann Gesund Maoz, APRN, and Peter J. Gesund, MD (deceased), and five grandchildren, including two attorneys, a computer engineer/scientist, a physician (MD), and a psychologist. As of this writing, they have nine great-grandchildren.