



**DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS SCIENCE & ENGINEERING  
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**Memorial Resolution in Remembrance of  
Professor Michael R Notis  
June 20, 2023**

The entire Lehigh community mourns the death of our esteemed colleague and friend, Michael R. Notis, Emeritus Professor of Materials Science and Engineering on June 20, 2023, at the age of 84. It is with great sadness that I enter this Memorial Resolution on behalf of the faculty, alumni and countless students of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering as well as the entire Lehigh community.

Professor Notis, originally from Arverne, New York, attended Far Rockaway High School and later Lehigh University where he received his B.S. degree in Metallurgy in 1960. Upon graduation, he was employed by the prestigious Bell Laboratories of Western Electric in Allentown, PA. While working he obtained his M.S. degree in 1963 and his PhD in Metallurgy and Materials Science in 1969. His PhD Dissertation was on "Electrical conductivity and elastic moduli of pressure-sintered lithium substituted nickel oxide". Soon afterwards he began his nearly 45-year career as an educator at Lehigh, teaching and conducting research in both ceramic and metal systems.

In his research career he published over 130 peer reviewed publications and gave countless presentations predominantly on sintering, thermodynamics, transformations and kinetics of ceramic and metal systems, utilizing light microscopy, X-Ray, and High-Resolution Transmission Electron Microscopy. He testified before Congress's Committee on Science, Space and Technology about his research on superconducting composite ceramic wire, and about the need for US industry, university, and federal agencies to work together to develop a long range research program similar to Japan's. In recent years he dedicated his research to archaeometallurgy. He was a member of the American Ceramic Society (ACS), American Society for Materials International (ASMI), American Institute of Metallurgical Engineers (AIME), the International Institute for the Science of Sintering (IISS) and the Iron and Steel

Institute of Japan (ISIJ). In 1990, he was elected as a Fellow of ASMI. He was awarded a Senior Visiting Fellowship at Imperial College in London, and received an Honorary Diploma from the IISS, Warsaw, Poland.

Professor Notis was especially well known for his expertise in Japanese Swords which led to his starring role in a Nova TV presentation "Secrets of the Samurai Sword" on PBS in 2007, where he was lauded as an expert on samurai swords, "he shed light on the principles that underlie the weapon's strength, resilience, beauty, and distinctive shape." His research allowed him to travel throughout the world, especially to China and Japan in pursuit of his research on archaeometallurgy. Through the 1970s and 1980s he participated in US-USSR Cold War diplomatic scientific and technological exchange; in multiple trips to the former Soviet Union, he clandestinely carried books to Jewish "refuseniks".

He was a knowledge resource for everyone who benefited from his encyclopedia-like memory of various concepts available in the open literature. Besides his knowledge of solid-state transformations, he also was well known for his expertise in liquids, especially the amber malt liquid made in Scotland. His cultivation of his own beloved hot peppers was legendary. Mike is survived by his wife Cooky, brother Steven (Nina), children Beth (Brian), Mark (Alice), Jenny (Greg), Debbie (Marc), and his beloved grandchildren and great grandchildren. His colleagues, graduate students and undergraduates will remember him as fair and objective teacher, a scholar, and a gentleman. He touched the lives of all of us who interacted with him. He will be sorely missed in the halls of Whitaker Laboratory and throughout the Lehigh Campus and beyond.

Chair Gunter, I move that this memorial resolution be made a permanent part of the Lehigh University Faculty record by being included in the minutes of this Faculty Senate meeting, and that copies be sent to the members of his family.