

Martin P. Andersen

1904 - 1985

PROFESSOR OF SPEECH COMMUNICATION, EMERITUS

B.A., M. A., Ph.D., Speech, University of Wisconsin, May, 1947
California State University, Fullerton From February 1, 1965 To September 1,
1970;

Birth: August 22, 1904; Death: January 9, 1985

Martin Petty Andersen, son of Thom and Peroline (nee Peterson), was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on the 22nd of August, 1904. After a public education in elementary and high school, he entered the State Teachers College at Aberdeen, South Dakota where he studied for two years before entering the University of Wisconsin.

He received his B. A. degree from that institution in 1928 and began his teaching career the same year in Aberdeen at the State Teachers College.

He followed this with a five year stint at the Stoughton, Wisconsin, High School and renewed his graduate study at the University of Wisconsin, receiving his M. A. in 1936. While teaching at the University from 1935 to 1943 and from 1946 to 1947, he received his Ph.D. and married Margaret Bell Myer. Their two children are Susan Jane occupied with business activities in New York, and James Thom, a producer of documentary films.

During the World War II years, 1943-1946, Martin served in the United States Navy, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. In 1947, he accepted a position at the University of California at Los Angeles, moving up from assistant professor to professor. In 1965, he left UCLA and joined the speech communication staff at the newly formed State University at Fullerton. He completed his distinguished teaching career at this institution.

Martin Andersen's legacy remains at Cal State Fullerton in the form of the Andersen Research Center, an area in which students of speech communication have access to the extensive library of Dr. Andersen as well as many other research materials.

His interests were wide and varied, but most of them centered on people--his students. As a director of graduate studies, he gave much time to the enhancing of the scholarly effort of his students. He spent many hours developing grants to assist the Department of Speech Communication and its students. He was meticulous in every activity he undertook.

As an author, he was known for many articles, pamphlets and syllabi in the fields of leadership, discussion and personal communication. His textbook, *The Speaker and His Audience*, co-authored by Wesley Lewis and James Murray, and later revised with the assistance of E. Ray Nichols and Herbert W. Booth, was widely used in beginning and advanced college speech classes.

Martin Anderson belonged to many societies and institutions--to mention only a few: AAUP, Speech Communication Association of America,

Western Speech Association, Pi Kappa Delta, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and many other academic associations. He was a member of the American Legion and the Military Order of the World Wars. His religious affiliation was with the Presbyterian Church and as a member at Laguna Hills, he took pleasure in giving his minister active support and suggestions for the improvement of oral communication within the church.

In 1970 Martin Andersen was granted Emeritus status as he retired from active teaching to concentrate on research at his home in Laguna hills, California. It was during this retirement that he organized the retired and Emeritus teachers of the Speech Communication Association into a functioning and supporting activity of the parent organization. In these last years, Martin lived quietly with his wife Margaret, enjoying his unique ability to continually immerse himself in his work until his death, January 9, 1985.

Submitted by
E. Ray Nichols, Jr.
Professor of Speech Communication, Emeritus
February 28, 1985