Barclay G. Jones has been an integral part of nuclear engineering at Illinois since the program’s beginnings back in the late 1950s. As a student, faculty member, department head, colleague, advisor, mentor and friend, Professor Jones has shaped the current Department of Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering, as well as every student that has entered our doors. What follows are some wonderful memories and grateful thank-yous from those who have had the pleasure of an association with Professor Jones.

Barclay, you well fit that ultimate description, “a gentleman and a scholar.” You clearly had the knowledge, perspective, empathy, and enormous patience that is characteristic of the best of teachers. Your legacy will live on in the form of the students that you so deeply and positively influenced. All the best for a happy and healthy retirement.

— Robert L. Hirsch, PhD 64, Senior Energy Advisor, Management Information Services, Inc.

Dr. Jones was the first faculty member I met in the NPRE department. I was transferring to UIUC for the spring semester and was the only undergrad entering NPRE at that time. When I arrived for my orientation, no one was aware that I was coming. Dr. Jones took me under his wing after bumping into me in the hallways of NEL (Nuclear Engineering Laboratory), looking completely lost. He helped me devise a 4-year plan and gave me many pieces of advice. He went out of his way to make a shy 18 year-old feel welcome and ready to start studying nuclear engineering.

Many congratulations, Dr. Jones! You deserve it!

— Monica Forbes, BS 03, MS 04, PhD 09 (Bioengineering), MD 2011

My wife June and I remember Prof. Jones and his wife Becky hosting us students and spouses/dates in their home as one of the many things about our time at the U. of I. that made it a more enjoyable experience. One of the more lasting memories is Mrs. Jones’ blueberry pie, the recipe for which she shared with June and which we use several times every year.

Heartiest congratulations to Prof. Jones on his retirement. I remember his concern for his students’ welfare and hopefully this has become an established legacy within NPRE. In addition, the endowed (Barclay G. Jones) fellowship is a truly fitting honor for Prof. Jones.

— Richard Kanazawa, PhD 69
Professor Jones taught my very first graduate-level course, NucE 421, in Fall 1979. Whenever I look at my copy of Bird, Stewart, and Lightfoot that I STILL have on my shelf at work, I always think of him! But I admit, I need a refresher course in the BSL notation...

I always found Barclay to be caring, and an excellent teacher. I last met Barclay at a conference in Miami a few years ago. I told him that he seemed to age almost as slowly as Dan Hang. It was good to see him again. I’m sure the department will miss him.

Congratulations, Barclay, on your retirement. Thanks for providing your energy, interest, and excellent teaching style to countless NucE students throughout the years. All the best in your retirement, and long may you have good health to enjoy it.

— John Kessler, BS 79, MS 81, Manager, Used Fuel and HLW Management Program, Electric Power Research Institute

Professor Jones was my thesis advisor and mentor during my time at the University of Illinois (1971-78). My memories are of a kindly, intellectually rigorous and insightful teacher. Barclay Jones is a gentleman and has had a substantial impact on me and my career. In part, because of the University and Professor Jones, I have very fond memories of my student days. I attribute much of my career success to his (and Professor Thomas Hanratty’s) guidance and coaching.

Professor Jones, I wish you a productive and enjoyable next period in a well lived life.

— John (Jay) Dallman, MS 72, PhD 78, Program Manager, Los Alamos National Laboratory

Dr. Jones was always generous with his support and praise, and kind in is his criticism. I remember the hot summers working the two-phase particle tracking system he designed and wishing for a small breeze to cool us down a bit. His ability to take the complex physical phenomena of turbulence and lead his students to not only understanding the subject, but to develop a passion to advance the subject was a great strength. Well done Dr. Jones.

Congratulations on your retirement. What an IRON MAN!!!

— John Gronager, MS 75, PhD 78

Dr. Jones:

Congratulations on a career of which you should be very proud, and thank you for the wisdom and knowledge you conveyed. It has served me – and I am certain many others – well.

Best wishes.

John Britis, MS 74, Group Leader and Lead, Systems Engineer, MITRE Corporation
A tribute to Professor Jones

We had a social function associated with ANS at a barn (I think it may have belonged to Debbie Worthington Laughton’s parents). Anyway there was a cash bar, and Dr. Jones and I were next to each other talking about beer and barns and nuclear research. Surprisingly those topics fit very well together. Anyway, I attempted to pick up our $4 tab (beer out of keg, very cheap):

Doug: “I’ll get this Dr. Jones”
Dr. Jones: “Now why would you do that? Let me get it.”
Doug: “Because thanks to you and your department, I get paid a bunch of money every month.”
Dr. Jones: “Well, I get paid a bunch more.”

I got the total logic smack-down from Dr. Jones, and a free beer to boot. Go Dr. Jones! With him retiring, I probably now make more money so next beer is on me....

Thanks for your leadership, friendship, and guidance Dr. Jones. Enjoy your next phase.
— Doug Hayden, BS 93, MS 95, PhD 99, Sr. Director of Product Management and Marketing, AKT Display CVD, Applied Materials

Barclay:
You and Bob Bohl were the two best teachers on the Department staff. I have only fond memories of our interactions while I was a student there and later during our occasional get-togethers at ANS meetings.

Congratulations, best wishes, and thank you for all you have done for so many students.
Dave Alberstein, MS 71, retired, Los Alamos National Laboratory

Barclay was one of the most influential teachers and mentors in my career. He has a remarkable ability to achieve a balance between technical rigor and pragmatism. I am still using lessons he taught me in problem solving.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and prosperous retirement.
Ben J. Sliwinski, MS 83

Professor Jones, congratulations on your retirement. You’ve led a noble cause at the University of Illinois by empowering thousands of students in a way that is far more impactful than anything else - education. Your kind and compassionate demeanor helped us connect with you and learn without barriers. You should be proud of your accomplishments and those of your students. Know that we’re proud of you. All the best to you as you move on to the next stage of your career.
Sarfraz Taj, BS 05, Corporate Project & Asset Management, Exelon Corporation
A tribute to Professor Jones

Thank you, Dr. Jones, for all you have done for myself, the department, and campus. We are all better for your efforts on behalf of the University.

Martin J. Neumann, BS 99, MS 03, PhD 07,
Senior Process Engineer, Soladigm, Inc.

Professor Jones was always willing to spend extra time helping students. I remember reviewing for an exam with many other students late one night in the lounge in NEL. Professor Jones had been in the lab and on his way out, walked past the lounge. Seeing that we had hit a standstill, (I believe we were in fact arguing about how to correctly solve a problem in the text) Dr. Jones came in and helped us work through the problem and stayed an extra couple hours to answer remaining questions. We were all so grateful for the extra help.

Congratulations, Professor Jones! You are an amazing teacher and your dedication means so much to your students. Thank you.

Jill Anderson, BS 08 MS 10, Nuclear Associate, Sargent & Lundy LLC

It has been my pleasure to learn from you; an honor to have been hired when you were heading the department; and a learning opportunity from your vast experience as a colleague over the last 15 years. CONGRATULATIONS!

Rizwan Uddin, MS 83, PhD 87, NPRE Professor