



Faculty

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ISU to Name Buildings for Coover and Snedecor

Ames, Iowa -- Iowa State University will rename two buildings to honor long-time faculty members, George W. Snedecor, professor emeritus of statistics, and Mervin S. Coover, dean emeritus of engineering.

The Electrical Engineering Building will be designated as Coover Hall and the Service Building will be known as Snedecor Hall. Approval for the action was given Friday (Nov. 14) by the State Board of Regents at its meeting in Iowa City.

Coover was head of the electrical engineering department when the Electrical Engineering Building was completed in 1950 and was instrumental in the planning of it.

The Service Building houses the Statistical Laboratory, which was founded by Snedecor in 1933, and the department of statistics. The building has been in use since 1939.

Coover, 79, came to Iowa State in 1935 as head of electrical engineering and served in that capacity until 1954 when he was appointed associate dean of engineering. Because of retirement regulations, his appointment was changed to administrative assistant for the Division of Engineering in 1956.

From January 1958 to March 1959, he was acting dean of the College of Engineering, after which he was made dean emeritus. At various times he served as acting head of the departments of industrial and civil engineering, and continues

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to serve in the administration of the College of Engineering.

A 1914 graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, he had been a faculty member at the University of Colorado for 16 years before coming to Iowa State.

Coover was the active promoter for design and development of a network analyzer, a specialized analog computer used for power systems research for two decades, and was chairman of the special committee assigned to establish television and FM radio broadcasting stations at Iowa State.

He is a past president of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and of the Iowa Engineering Society.

Snedecor, 88, has lived in San Diego, Calif., since 1958. He received the B.S. degree from the University of Alabama in 1905 and the M.A. degree from the University of Michigan in 1913. He joined the Iowa State mathematics faculty in 1913 and the growth of statistics as a major field at Iowa State coincided with his career.

He was a pioneer in the application of statistics to agricultural experiments and, in 1915, he introduced the first formal statistics courses at Iowa State.

With Henry A. Wallace, then editor of Wallaces Farmer, Snedecor instituted a series of seminars for Iowa State research workers on the use of business machines for research computations in 1924. The two men collaborated on a bulletin, "Correlation and Machine Calculation," which was widely used throughout the world.

In 1927, a Mathematics Statistical Service was formed and, in 1933, the Statistical Laboratory, the first of its kind in the United States, was established with Snedecor as its director. In 1947, he relinquished administrative duties but continued to serve on the faculty until 1958 when he went to San Diego to do statistical work with the Navy Electronics Laboratory.

Snedecor's book, "Statistical Methods," is a classic text. First published in 1937, it is now in its sixth edition and has been translated in many foreign languages. In 1958, Iowa State conferred the Doctor of Science degree in recognition of his contribution to the University's international prominence in statistics.