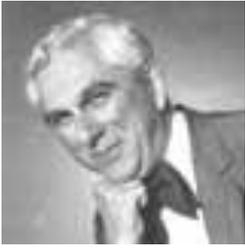


Who Was Richard L. Anderson?

(April 20, 1915 – Jan. 19, 2003)



Richard “Dick” L. Anderson lived through the farm depression of the 1920s and the general depression of the 1930s. He missed two elementary grades, so that he was two years younger than his high school class mates. Income from clover seed bags was used to pay for his room and board at Depauw University, where he had a tuition scholarship, and eventually went on to earn AB degree in 1936, and his Ph.D. in Mathematics, Statistics, and Economics at Iowa State College in 1941. He began his academic career at North Carolina State College and rose from Instructor to full professor in his 25 years of service there to 1966. He was away from Raleigh in 1944-45 when he consulted with the Army and Navy at Princeton, in 1950-51 when he visited Purdue, and during 1958 when he spent time at the London School of Economics. In 1967, after a year as a visiting research professor at the University of Georgia, he took up the chairmanship of the newly established Department of Statistics at the University of Kentucky.

Professor Anderson had long-standing interests in experimental design, regression methods, variance components and time series analysis and their application to agricultural, industrial and operational problems. He took an active role in statistics in the US and internationally. He was a fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was President of the Eastern North American Region of the Biometric Society, was a member of the International Statistical Institute, and was President of the ASA. He was a joint author of the well-known book *Statistical Theory in Research*.

Dick had a long association with the American Statistical Association, and was elected as a fellow in 1951, president in 1982, and received a Founder’s Award in 1992. He was also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Institute for Mathematical Statistics. He was a member of the International Statistical Institute, and the International Biometric Society.

Dick Anderson was one of the panel of original organizers of the Regional Statistical Summer Season (the precursor to the Summer Research Conference) and was a long-time member of SRCOS, and served as president of SREB-COS from 1975-1977. In recognition of his many contributions to the advancement of statistics in the South and nationally, graduate student travel awards were made annually in honor of Richard L. Anderson. The first awards were given in 1994 at the SRC in Williamsburg, Virginia, supported entirely by the SRCOS. Beginning with the 2000 SRC, support in the form of grants from federal agencies was obtained for this student award, along with the Boyd Harshbarger Travel Awards.

Resources

- Anderson, R.L. (1982) “My Experience as a Statistician: From the Farm to the University,” in *The Making of Statistics*, edited by J. Gani, published by , pp. 129-148.
- Taylor, R.L. and Padgett, W.J. (2006) “The Summer Research Conferences and the SRCOS: A Historical Perspective,” *Journal of Statistical Computation and Simulation*, Vol. 76, No. 5, May, 2006, pp. 373-383.
- “Richard L. Anderson” in *Statisticians in History*, published on-line by the American Statistical Association,
<http://www.amstat.org/about/statisticiansinhistory/index.cfm?fuseaction=biosinfo&BioID=19>