



WEBB INSTITUTE

Excerpts from then-Chairman of the Board, R. Keith Michel's remarks presented during Professor Hadler's retirement party on May 20, 2011:

“Jacques has led a truly extraordinary life -- his long and distinguished career is a testament to a man with an endless thirst for knowledge, a curiosity about all things marine, and a desire to pass along to others all that he has learned. Yes, his career (I should say careers) have been long – in fact, very, very long. Rumor has it that Jacques’s first job was consulting for Noah when he built the Ark.

That’s not quite true. Jacques was born in 1918, in a small town on the prairies of North Dakota, where he enjoyed a simple but wonderful childhood. From the beginning, Jacques liked to make things. No surprise here. In his memoirs, Jacques talks fondly of one Christmas when, as a young child, he received his first set of tools. He laments that they were a “child’s set of tools,” and not the professional ones so elegantly displayed in the Montgomery Ward catalog. This simple set of tools did not stop Jacques from building many wondrous things as a child. These early years would set the foundation for an engineer that could combine theory with practice, turning dreams into realities. Now an accomplished and skilled woodworker, Jacques thoroughly enjoys those moments of solace in his workshop, which, I am told, is outfitted with an array of tools that puts the Ward’s catalog to shame.

Jacques’s middle and high schools were structured around agriculture programs. He claims to have enjoyed the agriculture courses. His summer job was milking cows. But somehow, while squeezing utters in the fields of North Dakota, Jacques developed a fascination for water and ships. Don’t ask me how such a thing could happen, but Jacques does have a remarkable imagination. Jacques was accepted into the Naval Academy and at age 18, journeyed from North Dakota to Annapolis to begin life as a midshipman. Not surprising, Jacques excelled at the Academy, graduating with distinction. In his senior year Jacques met his lovely wife Caryl. For the last 65 years, they have navigated through life together, and an amazing life it has been.

After graduating from the Naval Academy, Jacques took a position at the naval post graduate school, where he found teaching to be an enjoyable and satisfying experience. This would set the stage for the second of Jacques's careers. But first-things-first, Jacques studied naval architecture at MIT and in 1947 took a position as head of the Sea Trials Group at David Taylor Model Basin, reporting to Captain Harold Saunders. Over the next 31 years, Jacques was involved in many exciting, cutting-edge research efforts. He performed groundbreaking work on marine propeller design, including development of supercavitating and ventilating propellers for high speed craft; contrarotating propellers; highly skewed propellers; ducted propellers; partially submerged propellers; and on hull form development for surface ships and submarines. He consulted on a variety of commercial projects, including the design of the ice propellers for the SS MANHATTAN in preparation for its voyage through the Northwest Passage in 1968.

Jacques's second career began in 1978 when, at the young age of 60, having retired after an illustrious career at David Taylor Model Basin, he took the post as head of research at Webb Institute of Naval Architecture. In 1980, he was asked to teach a course in propeller design. This was just the beginning. Since that time, Jacques has taught ship resistance and propulsion, ship design, marine propellers and propeller-induced vibrations to 31 classes of Webb students. Jacques has also served two terms as Dean of Webb Institute and has held the J. J. Henry Professor of Naval Architecture faculty chair since its inception.

Jacques blends his real-world experience, his world-renowned expertise in marine propellers and ship hydrodynamics, and his endless enthusiasm, to make learning at Webb an exciting and memorable experience. He is our most sought after thesis advisor. Over the last decade, Jacques has been the advisor for one-quarter of all senior theses. Not surprising, his students excel upon leaving Webb. Of the four principal propeller designers at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Carderock, all are Webb graduates taught by Professor Hadler.

Jacques is committed to sharing his knowledge and has produced numerous technical publications for the public record. Awards presented to Jacques over the years include the US Navy Meritorious Civilian Award, and, most appropriately, SNAME's David W Taylor Award and ASNE's Harold E Saunders Award. As noted, Jacques was also granted an Honorary Doctorate from Webb Institute in 1993.

93 years young, Jacques still captivates Webb students and his colleagues around the world with his breadth of experience and willingness to share, his curiosity and

desire for lifelong learning. Jacques is an inspiration to all of us who have had the pleasure and good fortune to work with him and learn from him. Perhaps Jacques most enduring trait is that wonderful smile. I have never seen Jacques without a smile. Sometimes it's a sly smile, and you wonder what he is thinking. Other times it's an effusive, broad smile – there is no hiding Jacques's love for life and all that it offers. Well, we love you too Jacques. We are forever grateful that you chose to make Webb and its students such a special part of your life.”