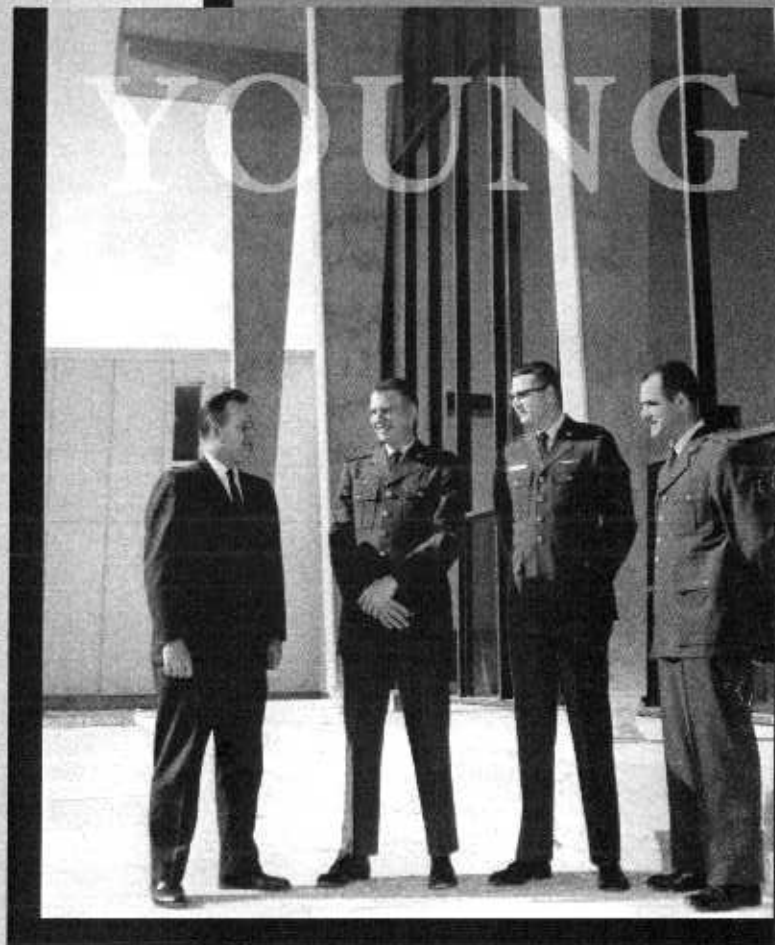


Celebration of Life
“Renaissance Man”



November 16, 2006
11:00 a.m.
UTSI Auditorium

Dr. Robert L. Young

April 3, 1925 – October 31, 2006

IN HIS HEART, BOB WAS A TEACHER

Before graduating from Neoga (Illinois) Township High School in 1943, Bob Young knew he wanted to become a teacher, but he surely never dreamed of the sterling career as an educator that awaited him at a small graduate school in Middle Tennessee. Picked for special officers training in the Navy's V-12 program, the high school graduate attended the University of Illinois for eight months before entering Northwestern University to earn three degrees. It was there in 1945 at the age of 20 that he would take a class in heat, ventilation and air-conditioning from Assistant Professor Joel Bailey. In 1957, he was to hear again from Dr. Bailey, by then head of the Mechanical Engineering program at the University of Tennessee.

Heading a new UT-AEDC graduate program that opened in 1956, Bailey offered that job to Bob, or, if he preferred, a teaching job at UT Knoxville. Bob accepted the AEDC job for two years but held it for seven, then stepped in to build an academic program for the UT Space Institute's opening on Sept. 24, 1964. As deputy director and professor of aerospace and mechanical engineering, Dr. Young fanned life into the Institute under trying conditions as pioneering faculty members met classes in spaces provided at AEDC while the spectacular glass-enclosed Institute took shape beside Woods Reservoir. (Dr. Young, serving under Knoxville's Dr. Hilton Smith, was given \$30,000 to hire fellow faculty members to get the program started.) With the Institute's opening fast approaching, the director, Dr. B.H. Goethert, was named chief scientist of the Air Force Systems Command – leaving Bob Young in charge. Later he recalled: "I worked like a demon; took no vacation. Our ARO consulting contract (at AEDC) greatly increased, and we were able to hire five graduate research assistants, including Maurice Hale and Dick Hanklin."

Dr. Young later became UTSI's first associate dean, a position he held for seven years until 1979 when he asked to return full time to "the best job of a university," that of professor. By the time he retired in June 1990, the Illinois farm boy had served as major professor for 80 students earning master's degrees and ten Ph.D. graduates. Later, he declared, "It has been a real thrill to watch the Institute and to be involved in something which started from very little but has become quite significant..." Despite difficulties associated with working with a government facility, he felt UTSI's relationship with AEDC probably represented "the most successful venture into this type of operating within the United States." He credited this success to administrators of UTSI, UT, and the U.S. Air Force. "Here, over a fairly long period, we have worked in reasonable harmony with a governmental test center," he wrote after retiring. "The AEDC-UTSI relationship represents one of the most successful governmental-university relationships in the country, and I've been privileged to participate in it." It was a career considerably different than the ambition he expressed in an essay written when he was 15 and hoping "to land a job in a little high school as a math teacher and coach." All who knew him know that he would have succeeded in that job, too, and enjoyed every minute of it. That was Bob Young.

PROGRAM

Celebration of Life
"Renaissance Man"
Dr. Robert L. Young
April 3, 1925 - October 31, 2006

Musical and Picture Prelude

WelcomeDonald C. Daniel

InvocationRev. Bill Starnes

Introductory RemarksDonald C. Daniel

ReminiscencesJohn Rampy
Jimmy Wu
K.C. Reddy
William Kimzey
Bill Snyder

ResponseRon Young

Dedication and ClosingDonald C. Daniel

And now for the last word.....

Memories

