

NICHOLAS EDWARD DeCANDIA MEMORIAL SCHOLAR

Established 1985

Fall 2024

The DeCandia Scholar will be a rising senior who qualifies for the Syracuse Pulp and Paper Foundation scholarship/grant program. The candidate will be proposed by peers in the Paper Engineering major during the Spring of their senior year.

The seniors in Paper Engineering will meet in the Spring to review the criteria of the award and bring forward a rising senior enrolled in the Department of Chemical Engineering for the Nicholas Edward DeCandia Memorial Scholar to be awarded at the Annual Meeting of the Syracuse Pulp and Paper Foundation in the fall.

The SPPF Scholarship Committee will finalize selection of the award in accordance with foundation policies and considering candidates proposed by the seniors in Paper Engineering.

The DeCandia Scholar should be a Paper Engineering senior who exemplifies the qualities that distinguished Mr. Decandia in all his undertakings, specifically:

- Exhibits integrity in all respects,
- Having a healthy interest in, and respect for, all the people associated with his/her career
- Who combines pride of accomplishment with regard for the welfare of others.

This scholarship resulted from his many friends wishing to perpetuate the memory of a man who loved life, had a wonderful sense of humor and was always there as a tremendous support to his family, friends and co-workers.

Biography of Nicholas E. Decandia

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Nick was born December 6, 1938 in Brooklyn, N.Y. Since his father was in the navy the family moved often and lived in New York City, Newfoundland and Georgia. Through his many years in the Boy Scouts, he developed a love for the outdoors and nature that prompted an interest in a career in forestry which led to the paper industry.

In 1956, Nick graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School in New York City where he majored in chemistry. After college, he married Rita Prestopino whose father was one of Nick's high school teachers. They had two sons, Nicky born in 1962 and Don born in 1964.

Nick began his career at Westvaco Corporation in Tyrone, Pa., progressing from staff engineering to line management positions. He joined Johnson+Johnson Corporation in 1966 and held progressively responsible positions in its Cel-Fiber Paper Company culminating his J + J experience as Vice President - Operations for its Dental Products Division.

In 1975, Nick received a Master of Business Administration from Pace University in N.Y.C. as part of Johnson+Johnson's executive/ master's degree program.

Nick joined Congoleum Corporation in July 1977 as Vice-President of Manufacturing for their three plants in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

In December 1980 he joined Thilmany Pulp and Paper Company in Kaukauna, Wisconsin, a division of Hammermill Paper Company where as Vice President of Manufacturing he was responsible for all production, engineering and materials management.

Nick was killed in a commercial plane crash in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on September 6, 1985, when he was on route to Atlanta, Georgia to be in the wedding of a dear friend.

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Rita Decandia (his wife)
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