

• Outside of that extraordinary 2-year period of deceased Presidents from 2002-2004, other of our Past ISSS Presidents have passed away.....

• All were inspiring role models to our research community, & close friends.

• Among them was another of the original SGSR-ISSS Founders, also a Founder of Operations Research as a discipline, and faithful SGSR members who became leaders responsible for saving the ISSS

• There is simply no way to adequately express the extent of our loss & sorrow or our determination to carry on their important work.....

Anatol Rapoport, ISSS President for 1965



1911-2007

- Beloved Co-Founder of the Society for General Systems Research (SGSR) (later renamed ISSS).
- Served as the first Editor of the General Systems Yearbook and Editor for several years.
- Specialized in mathematical psychology so was an early example of rigorous interdisciplinarity.
- Pioneered not only general systems theory, but also mathematical biology, network models of social interactions, game theory, and stochastic models of contagion.
- Born in Russia became U.S. citizen in 1928. Was Professor at University of Michigan, University of Chicago, & Univ. of Toronto.
- One of our longest lived Pres., Rapoport lived to be 96 years old
- He was exceedingly productive thru that time publishing about 400 research articles; 10 Encyclopedia entries; 40 review chapters in books; edited 4 books; published 20 books
- He earned a Ph.D. in mathematics at U. of Chicago; received a 1yr Fellowship at the prestigious Center for Advanced Study, Stanford; was a Founding member of the Mental Health Research Institute; & served as Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies in Vienna
- He also performed research on social networks and semantics, psychological conflict and international politics

• Trained as a pianist in Germany, he left to escape Nazism; was a concert-level classical pianist throughout his life and even delivered a classical concert to ISSS members at the end of the Annual Conference in Toronto in 2000

• He championed pacifism moving to Canada to escape war focus of U.S. during Vietnam period; started the trend for “teach-in’s” to protest war

• Won computer tournament based on Axelrod’s Evol of Coop book with his “Tit-for-Tat” program (only 4 lines of code) & good chess player, but poor at poker

• Rapoport received many awards and honors such as: (Honorary Doctorates from 4 universities; Lenz Int’l Peace Prize; & Lasswell Award for Distinguished Sci Contributions to Political Psych)

• Thruout his life he remained interested in the meta-theoretical, epistemological, and looking for invariants



Robert Rosen, ISSS President for 1980

1934-1998



- Robert Rosen was known as one of the premier and founding mathematical biologists, student of Rashevsky
- He received his PhD in relational biology in 1959 from the University of Chicago later moving to SUNY and the Center for Theoretical Biology under Danilelli
- Rosen was a Fellow at the Hutchins’ Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions at UC, Santa Barbara where he developed his Anticipatory Systems Theory, an adjunct of his theoretical work on relational complexity
- He retired in 1994 as Killam Research Professor , Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- Rosen served as the 19th President of the ISSS
- His work in systems is characterized by early attempts to define complexity in terms of relations to escape the outdated notions of Cartesian mechanism in Newton
- Rosen published five books while another five were published post-humously by his very vigorous following, Rosen Enterprises
- He took issue with the reductionist approaches of conventional biologists preferring instead instead favoring approaches like quantum biochemistry and quantum genetics which raised issues with the ability of nucleic and amino acid sequences to explain fully the activity of proteins & selection
- Rosen maintained that the “organization” found in biology implied things not accessible by reductionism; abstract “relations” were the missing key
- He took issue with conventional attempts at simulation for not including the modeling relations of his anticipatory (M,R)-systems where emphasis is placed on the function rather than the material modes
- The upper picture of Rob shows him with his proverbial pipe; neither his mentor nor his students liked smoking, but he took it up as the “politically incorrect” thing to do indicating his tendency to challenge the conventional
- It should be noted that like other general systems theorists, Rob was involved in 3 unconventional but outstanding groups that eventually fell to standard univ politics as have so many other GST academic efforts in systems (Committee on Mathematical Biology, U. Chicago; Center for Theoretical Biology, SUNY; Red House Biomathematics Program at Dalhousie). We in today’s ISSS continue to face this age-old problematique

Remembering Our ISSS Presidents II.

Russell Ackoff, ISSS President for 1987

1919-2009

- Ackoff was a pioneer in systems thinking & management science, and is often cited as the Founder of Operations Research (OR)
- For most of his academic career he was Anheuser-Busch Prof of Mgmt Sci and Systems Science at the prestigious Wharton School of U. of Penn
- He was known as an organizational theorist and a general systems theorist, but also revered for his practical management planning & advic
- He consulted for an unusually broad range of industries (including aerospace, chemicals, computers, data services, electronics, energy, food/beverages, healthcare, hospitality, industrial equipment, automotive insurance, metals, mining, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, utilities, and transportation showing that systems principles can advise many different specializations
- Russell was President of the Operations Res Soc of America (ORSA) for 1956-1957 receiving their Silver Medal in ‘71
- He was President of the ISSS in 1987
- He received an award from the UK Systems Society in 1999 for “out-standing achievement in Systems Thinking and Practice



- Russ was known as a tough critic of his student’s and colleagues work as well as of GST and OR as shown at right. He often criticized even the GST Founders
- The White House under Clinton and Bush (WH Communications Agency & WH Military Office) were intro’d to systems thinking via consulting with Russ Ackoff
- Russ and his colleagues Churchman and Peter Drucker were and remain an inspiring for us in the need to fuse theory & praxis.

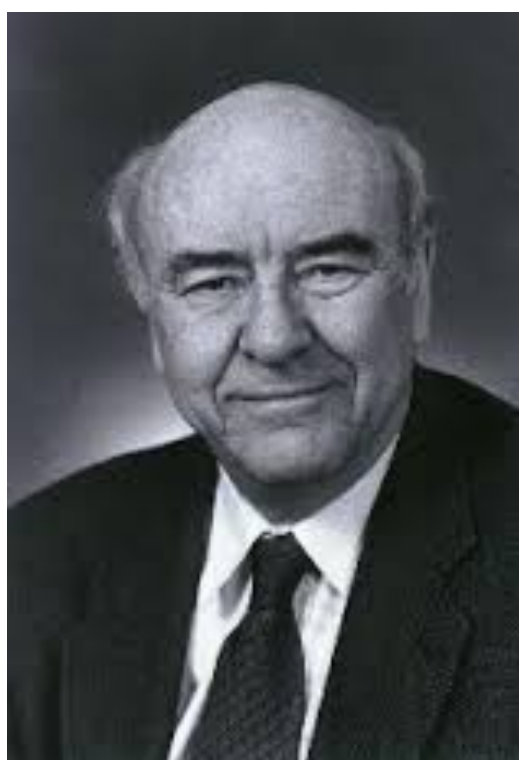
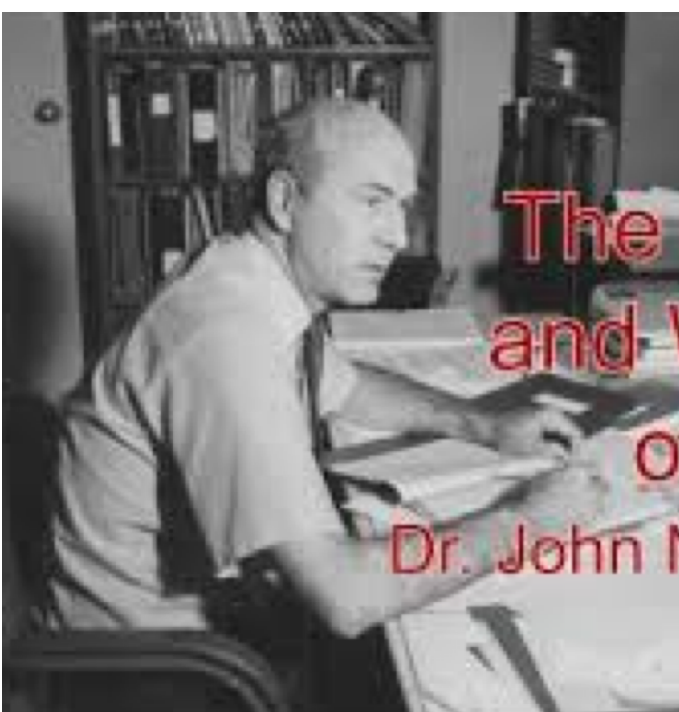


John N. Warfield, ISSS President for 1982

1925-2009

- Warfield, our 21st ISSS President, was professor and Director of the Institute For Advanced Study in the Integrative Sciences at George Mason University
- Although he earlier majored in chemistry & math, because of WWII he became interested in electrical engineering rec’g degrees from U. Missouri & Purdue
- In systems, he was most known as the originator of Interpretative Structural Modeling (ISM tools & techs) & Interactive Mgmnt with Christakis, our 41st ISSS Pres
- John had >10 years of industrial experience at Wilcox, Battelle, and Burroughs involving both work on theory, development, & reliability tests
- He was also President of the Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society of the IEEE (Institute of Electrical & Electronic Engineers) & an IEEE Fellow
- John was active and effective as an Editor, first as chief of the original attempt at an ISSS journal, Systems Research for nine years, then for the widely respected journal, the IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics, & the Int’l Encyclopedia of Systems
- Warfield published 10 books and more than 100 research papers; he also served in the unusual position of President of a publishing company, AJAR

- Warfield received many awards namely IEEE Third Millenium Medal, the IEEE Centenial Medal and was named a “Pioneer” of Systems Engineering by INCOSE (the Int’l Council on Systems Engineering); He was awarded the Joseph G. Wohl Award for Career Achievement by IEEE in 2006 the highest award of that society not given every year
- Another unusual feature of John’s professional life was that he held two patents as an inventor of electronic equipment; He was a Fellow of the International Society of Design and Process Science
- John was appointed to the Board of Governors or the Int’l Society for Panetics, was a member of the Association for Integrative Studies, and on the Academic Committee for the Int’l Encyclopedia of Systems and Cybernetics



John Dillon, ISSS President for 1985

1923-2005



- John Dillon was a physicist at the University of Louisville; He was also its Provost, VP for Academic Affairs, the #2 administrator, at the time when our 12th ISSS Pres, J.G. Miller became UofL President
- Together they founded the Institute for Systems Science in 1979, one of the first such internationally
- Previously a reductionist oriented scientist and univ administrator, he became one of the few natural scientists to join & reinvigorate the SGSR (now ISSS)
- Because of his new found dedication to what is now called the complexity sciences, he transformed from a critic of the Systems Institute to its Director

- Like many other of our early ISSS Presidents, John served in WWII in the US Army air force working on radar & guided missile sys dev’t
- He earned his degrees at Fordham and Brown Universities & became Dept Chair at Brown
- He moved to UofL first becoming its Dean of the Graduate School; he also served as Provost and Dean at Spalding University
- With Miller, John sponsored & supported the ISSS main admin office at UofL giving the prof society stability at a critical time in its history
- John was a people-person and loved to spend time in debate and fellowship
- In 1986 he was awarded the title of Distinguished Teaching Professor
- As shown in the picture here, he was rarely seen without his tweeds, sweaters and pipe
- As you might expect from his decidedly Irish surname, John also loved to drink and exchange witty comments with all; he was a delightful companion and very practical administrator



Richard F. Ericson, ISSS President for 1978

1919-1993

- Dr. Ericson was the backbone of the Society for General Systems Research (SGSR) before it was renamed Int’l Society for the Systems Sciences
- He was the confidant and mentee of all of the original Founders of General Systems Theory and communicated with them closely as they turned over their early stewardship of GST to the SGSR
- He was the SGSR first Managing Director and guided it thru the 60’s & 70’s changing the name to Int’l SGSR as he tried to make in global in reach
- As the 17th ISSS Pres he initiated the Chapter and National Division structure that is still present in the ISSS; he wanted it to be a global umbrella for systems

- Richard was an organizational theorist and Professor of Management at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.
- He was also Director of the Interdisciplinary and Cybernetics Project and the Program of Policy Studies in Science and Technology at GWU
- Ericson received his B.S. and M.S. with Phi Beta Kappa honors at the University of Chicago; and his PhD from Indiana University
- He was named Professor and Chair of the Dept of Management at Stetson University and then Hospital Administrator at the State University of Iowa also consulting for the Ohio Dept. of Transportation
- Richard was Chair of the Comparative Administration Task Force of the Academy of Management
- It cannot be emphasized enough that Ericson’s played a vital role in managing the early efforts at GST in the SGSR; he was responsible for bringing in the luminaries of early systems approaches (Miller, Mead, Klir, Beer, Pask, von Foerster, Vickers) to serve as ISSS Pres and give increased credibility to this new growing movement

• In this poster, we remember some of the Past Presidents that passed away in the nineties and in the new millenium after 2004; before and after Poster One

• Notice the wide diversity of disciplines of our Presidents and their seminal roles in initiating new disciplines or bringing rigor to inter-, multi-, & trans-disciplinary work which is the essence of comparative systems research

• Also note that many were the inspiration for the beginning of entire new fields of research, or new institutions, marks of creativity, independence, and boundary-breaking as needed today as in their day

G.A. Swanson, ISSS President for 1997

1939-2009



- “GA” he was called and he never would tell us what his initials stood for (see below)
- GA was an accountant & business law specialist awarded his Ph.D. from Georgia State University
- He was a professor at several universities but the longest at Tennessee Technological Univ from which he supported and sponsored the ISSS main office for several years
- In general systems, he was mainly known as a developer of Living Systems theory and a close collaborator with J.G. Miller

- “GA” served the ISSS as Managing Director and in many other administrative roles before becoming its 36th President
- But this obscured the crucial role GA served because he was the one who “saved” the financial health of the society at a time when it faced a crisis of accounting, finances, and planning; we still use some of his innovations and policies
- GA organized many international conferences in systems and served on the Editorial Boards of Behavioral Science (now Systems Research and Behavioral Science) and 3 other publications
- Most of his work was in applying systems concepts to auditing, macro-accounting, organizational theory; he published 4 books and numerous research papers

- What was not known about GA in general systems circles was his devotion to the sacred beyond science
- He was a founding member in his college years of the Pioneers for Christ & an evangelist across the U.S. & Mexico; he actually served as a minister of the Church of God; he was also a military minister who travelled thruout Europe & the Middle East
- Other unknown aspects of GA are that he worked in private industry and even owned a restaurant
- About that “GA.” I hope he will not be offended by our solving the mystery post mortem; it stood for “Gale Alden” a fine set of names to us who loved him



Milton Rubin, ISSS President for 1968

1914-1996

- Milton D. Rubin was a companion and supporter of the first Founders of the SGSR (later ISSS)
- He was the 7th President of the SGSR
- He was a “systems engineer” at a time when there were few of those. it is particularly interesting that the ISSS and INCOSE (Int’l Council on Systems Engineering) have just now (2011) entered into a Memo of almost 60 years after the Rubin presidency
- This indicates how alert the Founders were to potential allies even back at the time of initiation
- Before being elected SGSR President, Milton served as Secretary-Treasurer of the society and as Editor of the original “General System Newsletter Quarterly.”
- Rubin wrote two books on systems & many articles.

- Rubin was educated In applied mathematics and electrical engineering at Harvard University
- He was an inventor-practitioner and worked for many industrial engineering firms, for example Raytheon and Mitre, specializing in radar (as did so many early systems workers due to the wars), materials, and components.
- He also served as an administrator; one of the first managers of systems engineering; and Director of Research at Philbrick
- In 1981 he received the IEEE-USA Award from IEEE
- Rubin was the earlier SGSR member who emphasized the idea that GST allowed and enabled the “transfer of systems concepts from one field to another”; one of the staple contributions of systems theory and given the isolated disciplines of the time, a revolutionary thought.
- One of his early paper foresaw the new field of biomimicry by applying biological processes to systems engineering; this transfer is just now being recognized by many books and a new INCOSE-WG.