

# Stanley Korzep, OH E '66

The Stanley Korzep Endowment for the Ohio Epsilon Chapter at Cleveland State University.  
Editor's Note: Stanley Korzep passed away on October 19, 2019, after a long battle with cancer.

While his father was not electrically inclined, he picked up on Stanley's curiosity with electric circuits at age 5 encouraging him to learn Morse code and to take the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) test for his amateur radio operator/ham license. At age 9, he earned call sign W8NXX, met older ham operators, and built his first receiver and transmitter. In high school, he was repairing radios for his friends.

Fenn College (now Cleveland State University) required a "co-op" curriculum, so Stan studied computers while working at Addressograph-Multigraph and telephone systems while at Lorain Products. Stan notes, "The education I received working with experienced engineers was invaluable." Courses at Fenn were made easier by the co-op system because he had already learned the topics taught by the professor and ultimately his good grades led to an invitation from Tau Beta Pi.

Five years at Fenn were fertile ground to meet classmates who also were ham operators and evenings were spent "on the air" working calculus problems and comparing notes. Stan jokes that co-op income was inadequate for living expenses and weekend activities quickly became TV service.

At graduation, his co-op experience and weekly electronic repair provided a good inclusion into a very slim resume. One short sentence included the Greek letters ΤΒΠ and spoke volumes about his ability to perform assigned tasks.

Stan discovered there were four more letters that were helpful in a different way: ARRL, the American Radio Relay League, which published the magazine *QST* and was dedicated to ham operators containing articles related to building radios, transmitters, and antennas. Timely articles were written by fellow *hams* about communications equipment then in the early stages of development. The *QST* articles were far ahead of books as the technology advanced through wired telegraph, to AM radio, FM radio, and single sideband (SSB) transmission and as tube electronics rapidly became transistor circuits.

Stan's first real job had a good foundation and discrete component electronic design was state of the art in 1966 with a bright future. Magnavox located in Fort Wayne, Indiana, provided the challenge and taught him the fine art of working with other engineers on a team. Five years at Magnavox provided him an excellent background in Radio Frequency (RF) design of an early satellite navigation receiver and an early cable television tuner.

At that point in his career, Stan married a young lady who lived in Orlando, Florida. Nancy Palvisak quickly sold the Orlando climate as more appealing than cold Indiana winters, so Stan began a career at Martin Marietta Orlando (renamed Lockheed Martin). The newly created electronics division was very fruitful for



RF designers. Stan worked on teams creating a miniature hand-held radio for the Department of Justice and a mobile telephone control unit for Canadian Bell. Martin Marietta encouraged him to broaden his horizons to include a launch control for the Assault Breaker missile and an interface for a Pilot Night Vision System with an AH1S helicopter.

As Stan approached retirement, he realized that he missed the enjoyment of ham radio. Contract work allowed him to mix hobby with part-time work for his first retirement attempt. After a few short stints at other companies, he found Industrial Smoke and Mirrors a very pleasant place to end his career in electronic engineering design and fabrication.

Looking back on many years, Stan notes, "I think my late father might agree that I had a moderate amount of success. I did not do it alone: I had help from everywhere and everyone. Three major sources of help stand out, and I owe each of them a big thank you. The mandatory co-op education system at Fenn College added immeasurably to my engineering education. The Greek letters ΤΒΠ on my resume got me into almost any interview. Lastly, the American Radio Relay League represents several 'amateur radio operators' worldwide, every one of them willing and eager to help me with an electronic problem. I thank them all."

He adds, "My gift to the Ohio Epsilon Chapter at Cleveland State University towards the Tau Beta Pi endowment is my way of trying to repay all who have helped me along the way. I think it is called 'Paying It Forward.' To all my fellow members, past, present, and future: I wish each of you great success in your future engineering endeavors, and I encourage each of you who do attain that great success to remember Tau Beta Pi when you pay it forward."

Stan lived in Orlando with wife Nancy and three children, each with a master's degree in business, software, and medicine, respectively.