

UNL grad, inventor honored

By Christine Anderson
Senior Editor

Harold Edgerton walked to the podium to accept his Outstanding Alumnus Award amid bursts of camera strobes.

Edgerton, 85, the world-famous inventor of the stroboscopic light and fast-speed photography, was recognized Friday at the annual awards banquet of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Engineering and Technology.

The UNL graduate was thanked for his numerous financial contributions to the college's undergraduate program.

Edgerton came to the University of Nebraska from his hometown of Aurora during the Great Depression. The semester he arrived, tuition was raised to \$25 per credit hour. It was free during previous years.

Edgerton said money was scarce then.

"I didn't have it," he said.

Edgerton said he decided he needed to make money. He began

to electrically wire Lincoln houses at nights.

"I wired half of the houses in Lincoln," Edgerton said. "That's how I paid my way through school."

As an electrical engineering student in the early 1920s, Edgerton said, he wanted to study only generators and motors.

After college, he continued working with electric machinery as an employee of the General Electric Company in Schenectady, N.Y. There he made the stroboscopic light

to study the machinery—and became well-known for his invention.

"I worked on motors," Edgerton said, but "nobody paid attention to my motors."

Soon Edgerton's invention led to the beginning of high-speed photography. It also paved the way for both aerial and underwater photography. Edgerton was also the first person to photograph the atomic bomb explosion.

Other participants who were awarded at the banquet were Lyle

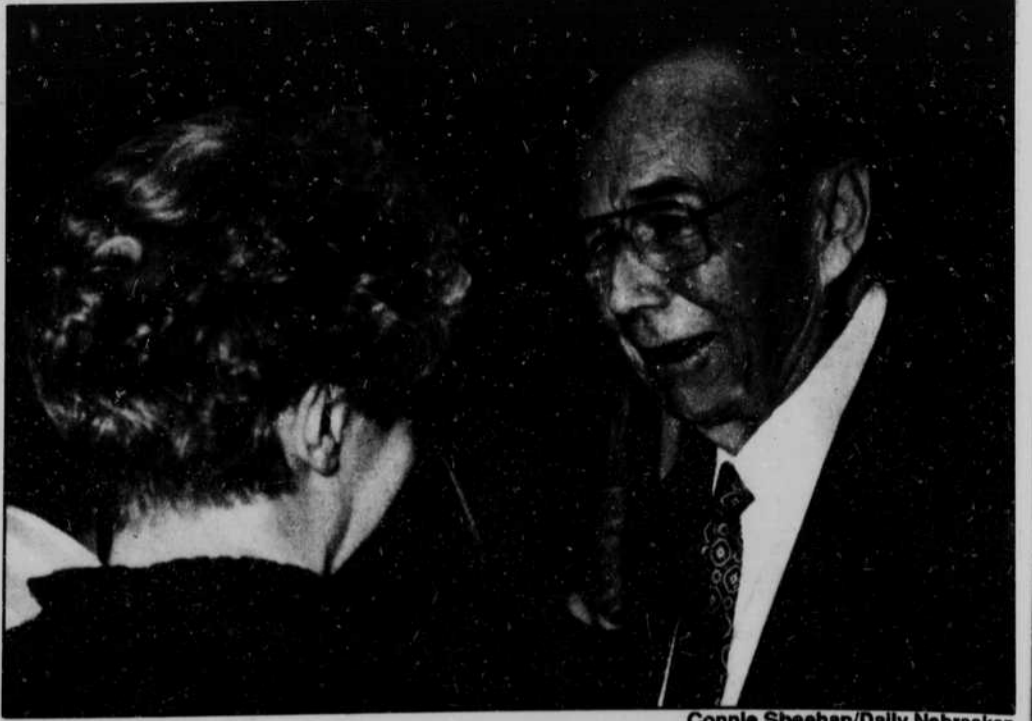
Young, former interim dean of the college; Josef Sorkin, a civil engineering graduate; and Ross McCollum, undergraduate program contributor.

Young received an Honorary Life Membership for the time he contributed counseling students and evaluating student credentials since his retirement in 1986.

Young was a professor at UNL in 1953 in the department of engineering mechanics. He was also assistant dean of the college in 1966 and was named associate dean four years later.

Sorkin received an Outstanding Alumnus Award for establishing undergraduate scholarships, graduate assistantships and faculty research grants in UNL's department of civil engineering.

McCollum received a Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to the undergraduate laboratory equipment program of the college.



Connie Sheehan/Daily Nebraskan

Harold Edgerton, inventor of the strobe flash, receives congratulations for his receipt of the Outstanding Alumnus Award during the College of Engineering and Technology's awards banquet Friday.

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REFUNDS from Page 1

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