

ROBERT MACKENZIE

Robert (Bob) Mackenzie graduated with a bachelor's degree in physics from Cal Tech in 1942. He worked as a physicist during World War II at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory in Washington D.C. Following that, he began graduate study in mathematics at Indiana University and later moved to Princeton University where he received his doctorate in 1950, working with Emil Artin, one of the outstanding algebraists of the twentieth century. He then came to Indiana which became his academic home until his retirement in 1990.

During his time at Indiana, Bob was a key player in the department. His work included being the assistant chair at a time when this meant being both the director of undergraduate studies and graduate director. He also served as the managing editor of the *Indiana University Mathematics Journal* between 1971 and 1977.

He was a model mentor, especially helpful to young faculty members in explaining how the department and university really worked. On a visit to IU many years ago, Serge Lang, among the most influential researchers and expositors in algebra, related that he had been an undergraduate philosophy major and when he made the switch to graduate study in mathematics at Princeton, Bob was the one who helped him fill in the gaps in his knowledge.

Bob's research contributions came in two phases. Early on he wrote a series of research papers which appeared in such prestigious journals as the



American Journal of Mathematics and the *Duke Mathematics Journal*. These papers attracted reviews from some of the luminaries of mathematics at the time, including Kobayashi, Tate, Clifford, and above all Chevalley, who described Bob's work as "very ingenious."

Bob's later work was more expository. His publication record in this realm includes a paper in the prestigious *American Mathematical Monthly* and his textbook "Introduction to Differentiable Manifolds," written with Louis Auslander.

Born: Los Angeles, California March 17, 1920
Died: Bloomington, Indiana October 20, 2012
Years at IU: 1950-1990