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Long-Time Academy Member John A. Yeakel Awarded Life Membership in August 2016; Sadly Passes Away the Same Month

John A. Yeakel, a professor emeritus of management and Latin American studies at the University of New Mexico and a prominent member of the state's accounting community, died Aug. 30 in Albuquerque after a lengthy fight with melanoma. He was 85.



Yeakel was born on Christmas Day 1930 in Pennsylvania, where he later worked for banks in Bethlehem and Quakertown. After serving in the Army as a pharmacist during the Korean War, he received his CPA license and earned his bachelor and master's degrees in accounting and finance from Pennsylvania State University. He taught at Penn State for a couple of years before moving to Santa Fe in 1963 to work as a senior auditor for Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. He subsequently received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida, where he was an accounting instructor.

From 1965-1988, Yeakel taught finance and accounting at the UNM Anderson School of Management and Latin American studies from 1988-1990.

He was the recipient of several awards for teaching excellence, authored a number of articles for professional journals, and was active in a host of professional organizations. In 1991, he received the New Mexico CPA Society's first Lifetime Achievement Award in Accounting Education.

From Richard Vangermeersch:

"I was introduced to John by Williard Stone, the long-time chairman of the Accounting Dept. at the University of Florida and a key founder of The Academy of Accounting Historians. John and I bonded at the very memorable 4th World Congress of Accounting Historians at Pisa in 1984. We were very entertained, as the only non-Italians, at a session on the Borgia family. The discussion was in Italian, which we did not understand, but the passion of the discussion was entertaining. John and his wife, Deborah, exchanged Christmas cards with me. We did speak on the phone a few times through the years about The Academy, to which John and Deborah were kind and generous donors. Farewell to a good friend."

Yeakel is survived by his wife, Deborah W. Davis, a former APS teacher whom he married in 1969. He also is survived by two sisters and three brothers.