WASHINGTON NAMES - A Pronunciation Guide on Washington State Names Author Biographies



Hugh Rundell in the KWSU-AM Studio. (WSU Archives)

Val Limburg (WSU Archives)

HUGH A. RUNDELL

Hugh Rundell served on the WSU faculty from 1948 until his retirement in 1982. After service in the Army and employment at the University of West Virginia, he began his 34 year tenure at Washington State College (later University) as an Assistant Professor of Speech.

Until 1968, he held a joint appointment with Radio-Television Services where he was Director of Announcing and Special Events for many years. Rundell was Acting Chair of the WSU Communications Department from 1968-70.

Rundell concentrated on a variety of radio-related jobs, both with the college radio station and in classes. He was well-known as the author of a pronunciation guide to place names in Washington and the announcer on the widely-syndicated program Legendary Pianist.

In a project commissioned by the Washington State Association of Broadcasters, Rundell conducted a series of oral interviews of several radio and television broadcasting pioneers around the Pacific Northwest, which became "They Took To The Air – An Oral History of Broadcasting in Washington, Narrated by the Men and Women Who Built the State's Radio and Television Stations," which was published by the WSAB.

The Murrow College awards a scholarship in his name annually to a student showing demonstrated enthusiasm for broadcast activities. Mr. Rundell passed away November 15, 1983.

VAL E. LIMBURG, PhD

Val Limburg, PhD led a distinguished 35-year career as a Professor for WSU's Murrow School of Communication where he taught a wide range of broadcast courses and was instrumental in developing the school's focus on ethics.

Limburg came to WSU as an Assistant Professor in Communications in 1967 and was a mentor to countless students until his retirement in 2002. While he specialized in teaching and researching broadcast law and ethics, he also taught the popular introductory course (Communications 101) to thousands of students during his tenure at the Murrow School.

Limburg served on a long list of academic committees. He chaired the Faculty Senate from 1996-97. He frequently gave presentations on ethical and journalistic issues to academic groups and service organizations.

Limburg was Secretary/Treasurer of the Washington State Association of Broadcasters for more than two decades; chaired the History Division of the Broadcast Education Association from 1993-94; and regularly served as a judge for competitions sponsored by the Broadcast Education Association and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications. He was the faculty advisor for WSU's chapter of Alpha Epsilon Rho - the national broadcast honor society. His book "Electronic Media Ethics" was published in 1994 and was translated into Italian in 1996.

Shortly after his retirement in 2002, Limburg was given an award in Special Recognition for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching and the Practice of Ethics at WSU by the university's Ethics Interest Group.

The ethics award was only one of many earned by Limburg in his illustrious career. He was named "State Broadcaster of the Year" by the Washington State Association of Broadcasters in 1997 and was recognized for lifetime achievement with the Silver Circle Award from the Seattle Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, also in 1997. The Murrow College awards a scholarship in his name annually—the Val E. Limburg Visiting Lectureship and Scholarship in Media Ethics.

Dr. Limburg passed away October 11, 2005.