

# PROCEEDINGS OF SPIE

## ***Thermosense XXXI***

**Douglas D. Burleigh**  
**Ralph B. Dinwiddie**  
*Editors*

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## In Memoriam



We dedicate this Thermosense conference to **Lee Allen**, a pioneer in thermography. Lee Richard Allen, Sr. was born on August 29, 1925 in Weehawkin, NJ, and passed away peacefully on Dec. 25, 2008 in Coward, SC at the age of 83, after a long illness.

Lee Allen was an insulation contractor who started using thermography to inspect his own work, which was a very admirable and honorable thing to do. That's the way Lee was; he was proud of his work and always wanted to do things correctly. I met Lee and his daughter, Sharon Allen Semanovich, at Thermosense IX in 1989, which was my first. With the exception of the last couple years when his health prevented his attendance, Lee was a very active participant at every Thermosense conference. As Lee got older, he sat in the front row of every session and strained to hear. But he rarely missed a presentation, even though many were on advanced subjects that were not in his area of experience. I think Lee believed he might learn something new and useful from any paper and he didn't want to miss an opportunity. Lee's daughter Sharon was chairperson of Thermosense XII in 1990 and Lee was the chairman of Thermosense XV in 1993. Sharon is still working in infrared in New Jersey. Lee started the Kantsios Award in honor of Andy Kantsios, who chaired Thermosense VII in 1984 and passed away a few years later. Lee and Sharon started the Thermosense party, which started as a small gathering in their hotel room. With the help of others, these grew into truly memorable events in large suites. The infrared community owes a lot to pioneers like Lee. He will always be fondly remembered by those of us who knew him. There will always be a seat up front for Lee.

**Douglas D. Burleigh**, Chairman, Thermosense XXXI

Lee was a true pioneer in infrared thermography applications. I met Lee in the late 1980's when I was a building contractor. We worked on thermography projects together for 18 years. We would shoot anything with an infrared camera and did...just about everything...furnaces, buildings, microcircuits, all things electrical and mechanical. He was comfortable in any setting. Lee had an unassuming style that made people feel comfortable around him and he was always the cool cucumber—even on the day I called him to tell him that I let a robot in a factory knock over his \$70,000 scanner onto the floor, and it would not start back up. Lee was my friend and my mentor in infrared technology. I miss him and so will the entire infrared world.

**Gregory R. Stockton** (United States)

Lee had the highest integrity, yet he was still a very down-to-earth guy. He was one of the first insulation contractors to use IR thermography as a quality control tool for his own crews. This, when many were eschewing the technology, not wanting anyone to discover their shoddy work. Though parents cannot take full credit for how their children turn out, Lee's daughter Sharon grew up to be a fine individual as well. Following in her dad's footsteps does say something for his parenting skills. And for that the IR community is grateful. As co-chairs of FLIR's InfraMation Conference, Gary Orlove and I offered Lee a lifetime free pass to the conference out of respect for him and the seminal work he did for the IR thermography community. I miss Lee both as a friend and as a very important contributor to the advancement of infrared applications.

**Robert P. Madding** (United States)

It might be a slight exaggeration to say that Lee was even well known in Siberia, where I live. I met him at several Thermosense conferences, and I always enjoyed his charismatic personality and his sense of humor. To me he is a patriarch of IR thermography. His passing means that we lost a piece of that epoch.

**Vladimir P. Vavilov** (Siberia, Russia)

Lee Allen has been involved in ThermoSense building and structures applications as far back as I can remember. He was a good human being by any definition. He never hesitated to contribute his time, his expertise and even his cash (sponsoring the Kantsios Award several times) to make the conference an ongoing success. I'll miss his participation, his smile, and his warmth.

**Herbert Kaplan** (United States)

I first met Lee at my first Thermosense in 1991. I knew his name before that and looked him up to get information about building thermography in the US. We discussed this subject every year at later conferences, and he was always interested in what we were doing and he presented new viewpoints and ideas. He was always ready to help, and he followed recent progress in thermography without forgetting his fundamental practical work, which gave him unique perspectives and an outstanding background to evaluate situations. Unfortunately I never had the opportunity to work with him, even though it was always in my plans. Lee will remain an example of how to connect best practices and theory. We will always follow his footprints in building thermography.

**Timo T. Kauppinen** (Finland)

I was always astonished to notice how deeply interested Lee was in all that was presented during the sessions at Thermosense. Whatever the topic was, Lee was very much interested by the material. Incredible, infrared was really part of his life, and especially during his yearly pilgrimage to Thermosense!

**Xavier P. V. Maldague** (Canada)

I met Lee around 1993 at Thermosense. As far as I remember he was never absent until his health prevented him from attending. He was a soldier of Thermosense...a very strong supporter of the conferences in all its activities and applications. From my view, Lee was not an academic or a scientist but a very practical experienced professional in the infrared field. He had a great sense of humor and he always had a joke to entertain anyone who would listen. He was a very pleasant and warm person and treated everyone he met equally.

**Andrés E. Rozlosnik** (Argentina)

I first met Lee Allen in 1985 at my second Thermosense conference and we instantly shared a common language of building thermography. Throughout the decades that I have known him, our discussions would eventually always get back to thermography. Lee epitomized the role of the pioneer building thermographer in that he seldom talked about theory, but rather practical applications and methodologies...and always with the glint of youthful exuberance of discovering something new. He was a true inspiration for all of us.

**Antonio Colantonio** (Canada)

