



**B. J. Winer**

These documents were provided by the Department of Psychological Sciences, Purdue University in 2015. The Obituary on page 6 appeared in their local newspaper "Journal and Courier."

Further documents, such as letters and emails, can be obtained from the Department of Psychological Sciences, Purdue University, by emailing Trudie Kopf: [kopft@purdue.edu](mailto:kopft@purdue.edu).

Resume of Professional Experience

BEN JAMES WINER  
Born: June 18, 1917

Education:

B.A. 1939 University of Oregon  
M.S. 1941 University of Oregon  
Ph.D. 1951 Ohio State University  
Post-doctoral Ford Foundation Fellow, University of North Carolina, 1951-1953

Work Experience:

1959 - Present Professor, Purdue University  
1954 - 1959 Assoc. Professor, Purdue University  
1953 - 1954 Asst. Professor, Univ. of North Carolina  
1949 - 1951 Research Associate, Ohio State University  
1947 - 1949 Research Psychologist, Personnel Research Branch, A.G.O.,  
U. S. Army  
1946 - 1947 Research Psychologist, U. S. Civil Service Commission  
1942 - 1946 Military Service, U. S. Army  
1941 - 1942 Examiner, U. S. Civil Service Commission

Professional Memberships:

American Psychological Association  
American Statistical Association  
Institute of Mathematical Statistics  
Psychometric Society  
Psychonomic Society  
Biometric Society

Major Publications:

Statistical Principles in Experimental Design (McGraw-Hill)  
Introduction to Multivariate Analysis (In preparation)  
Several technical reports in the area of Leadership, Ability Evaluation, and  
Methodology in Factor Analysis

Professional Activities:

Managing Editor, Psychometrika, 1962 - 1966  
President-Elect, Psychometric Society, 1966  
Board of Editors, Psychometrika, 1966  
Consulting Editor, Psychological Bulletin, 1967

Ben James Winer

B. J. Winer was born in the grandeur of Oregon in 1917. Either there was nothing particularly notable during his childhood years or they have been forgotten. He started his academic career at the University of Oregon in 1935 in the field of journalism and completed his work at the University of Oregon with a Master's degree in psychology in 1940. Winer's first professional job was in New York City at the Cooperative Test Service, which at that time was under the direction of John C. Flanagan. In later years this organization was merged with the Educational Testing Service or really vice versa. The shift from the wilds of Oregon to an even wilder New York City was indeed traumatic. At the Cooperative Test Service, Winer's job was in test research.

After a brief period as a graduate student at Princeton Winer in 1940 took a job with the Test Construction Unit of the Civil Service Commission in Washington, D.C. At that time the unit was under R. C. Richardson. In June of 1941, Winer received greetings from President Roosevelt. Not wishing to disappoint the President, Winer spent the next five years of his life in uniform. These years started with the Signal Corps because Winer had done microscopic photography during his graduate student days. Winer was soon shifted to Pentagon to assume a research job under one of his former professors. When Pentagon became overly crowded, the unit was shifted to New York City and Winer found himself at the Army's Motion Picture Studio along with many of the big names of Hollywood.

Two very serious incidents (at the time) almost resulted in court martials but ended up as a comedy of errors (Winer's). To this day it may be said that military discipline and Winer never went hand-in-hand.

When Winer's tour of duty ended, he returned to the Civil Service Commission in Washington, D.C. for a short time and then took a position at the Pentagon with the Army Personnel Research Branch in the Statistical Research Unit. During these years in Washington, Winer continued his graduate studies at night at George Washington University, primarily in mathematical statistics. He was seriously considering completing his Ph.D. in statistics, but this was not to be. R. J. Wherry, who was director of research at the Personnel Research Branch, returned to Ohio State University. Winer followed Wherry in 1949 to complete his Ph.D. in industrial psychology in 1951.

While a graduate student at Ohio State, Winer worked on some of the quantitative phases of the Ohio State Leadership Studies, which were under the direction of John C. Hemphill. With the help of Dorothy C. Adkins, who set it up, Winer accepted a post-doctoral fellowship in the Institute of Statistics at the University of North Carolina. With L. L. Thurstone in the department of psychology and some of the best-known statisticians in the world at the Institute, the North Carolina years were indeed extremely valuable ones. In 1954 Winer was offered a teaching position at Purdue as well as North Carolina. It was an extremely difficult decision to make, but the Purdue salary was quite a bit higher.

Winer accepted a joint appointment in psychology and the Statistics Laboratory at Purdue. The laboratory was under the direction of the man from whom Winer had had his first course in statistics at the University of Oregon. At that time many of the applied statistics courses were taught in the Department of Psychology since there was no formal statistics department at Purdue then. Things changed considerably in more recent years.

Winer became a full-time member of the Department of Psychology in 1956. During the 30 years that he taught the first-year sequence for graduate students in applied statistics there have been approximately 3,000 students, mostly in psychology, who have had their primary exposure to quantitative methods from Winer. Over this span of years there have been at least five generations of students turn professors who are now teaching in the same area. The roots are sometimes a little difficult to trace accurately.

Class notes for the introductory courses were enlarged into the first edition of the book Statistical Principles in Experimental Design. The first edition was published in 1962, the second edition in 1972, and the third edition is nearing completion for publication in 1985. Winer has been president of the Psychometric Society, editor of the journal Psychometrika, and has been on the editorial board of several major journals.

# Unpretentious prof giant in his field

Jack Alkire  
and Courier

never married and he lived alone in the apartment where he died this week; but Dr. Ben Winer was not a lonely man. "His students were his family," said Dr. Joseph Capaldi, head of the Purdue University department of psychological sciences, where Winer had taught statistical psychological sciences to more than 2,500 graduate students since 1954. "Everyone who ever met him loved him. I was going through his things and he had this sizeable stack of letters of appreciation from students had sent to him over the years," Capaldi said.

Winer was a giant in worldwide psychological circles.

"People keep track of all the publications in the field of psychology, counting the number of times that psychologists are named as a source for information.

"Ben was quoted more often than anyone in the field, with the exception of Sigmund Freud and Jean Piaget, the French psychologist," Capaldi said.

A textbook he wrote several years ago, "Statistical Principles in Experimental Design," is the basic source in statistical work in psychology.

Among his papers, Capaldi said, she found a nearly completed revised edition of the book.

Winer underwent heart surgery several

years ago, and heart failure was the cause of his death.

After surgery, Winer's friends tried to persuade him to install a telephone in his apartment, an instrument for which he saw no need.

"He refused, saying he probably wouldn't be home anyway if someone called to check on him," Capaldi said.

Winer was slated for retirement in a year, and his friends guessed that it would have been hard for him to take.

"His students and his work were his whole life," Capaldi said.

Winer's friends and fellow workers are planning a memorial service for him, tentatively set for Wednesday, June 13.



DR. BEN WINER: Students were his family.

## Noted psychologist, prof

### Ben James Winer, 66, dies

Dr. Ben James Winer, 66, of Varsity Apartments, 101 Andrew Place, WL, a noted psychologist and Purdue University professor, was found dead in his home Thursday morning.

Winer was the third most cited psychologist in the world, behind Freud and Piaget.

Born in Portland, Ore., June 18, 1917, he lived in Chapel Hill, N.C., before coming here in 1954. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon in 1939, and his master's degree there in 1941. In 1951, he received his Ph.D. from Ohio State University.

Dr. Winer was assistant professor at the University of North Carolina from 1953 until 1954, and had been on the faculty of the Department of Psychological Sciences at Purdue for the past 30 years. Over 2,500 students had taken his graduate courses.

He was author of the book "Statistical Principles in Experimental Design." Last year he received the American Psychological Foundation Award for distinguished teaching of quantitative methods in psychology.

He was an Army veteran of World War II. Surviving are a sister, Mrs. Calvin R. (Sylvia) VerMeer; and one brother, Isador Winer, both of Portland, Ore.

The body is being returned to Portland for services and burial.

**Funeral Arrangements**  
WINER, Dr. Ben J. — Private services at Holman Funeral Home, Portland, Ore. Memorial service will be held at Purdue University at a later date. Memorials may be made to Scholarship Fund, Purdue Foundation, Dr. Ben J. Winer Scholarship Fund, Department of Psychological Sciences, Purdue University. Hippenstein funeral directors in charge of local arrangements.

# Obituaries



Ben Winer

**Ben Winer, 66, professor emeritus of psychological sciences, died May 31 in his West Lafayette home.**

In his field of statistical reseach, Winer was a giant in worldwide psychological circles.

"People keep track of all the publications in the field of psychology, counting the number of times that psychologists are named as a source for information," says Betty Capaldi, head of the department of psychological sciences.

"Ben was quoted more often than anyone in the field, with the exception of Sigmund Freud and Jean Piaget, the Swiss psychologist," Capaldi says.

He was author of the book "Statistical Principals in Experimental Design," the basic source in statistical work in psychology. Last year he received the American Psychological Foundation Award for distinguished teaching of quantitative methods in psychology.

At the time of his death, Winer had nearly completed a revised edition of the book.

Born in Portland, Ore., in 1917, he lived in Chapel Hill, N.C., before coming here in 1954. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon in 1939, and his master's degree there in 1941. He received his Ph.D. in 1951 from Ohio State University.

Winer was assistant professor at the University of North Carolina from 1953 until 1954, and had been on the faculty of the department of psychological sciences at Purdue for the past 30 years. Over 2,500 students had taken his graduate courses.

"Students were his family," Capaldi says. She says although Winer never married and had lived alone, he was not a lonely man.

"Everyone who ever met him loved him. I was going

had this unbelievable stack of letters of appreciation that students had sent to him over the years," Capaldi says.

He was an Army veteran of World War II.

Surviving are a sister, Sylvia VerMeer, and one brother Isador Winer, both of Portland, Ore.

Winer was buried in Portland. A memorial service for Winer is scheduled for 2 p.m. Monday in the West Faculty Lounge of the Memorial Union.

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Ben James Winer

### *Distinguished Teaching of Quantitative Methods in Psychology Award*

Ben James Winer

*Citation.* "While some psychologists have been recognized for their unflagging effectiveness in transmitting knowledge and others honored for their genius in creating knowledge, it is indeed exceptional for one person through masterful teaching, devotion to students, and a legendary textbook to have cultivated in generations of students, and in many of their seasoned mentors as well, the joy of learning and the statistical sophistication requisite for designing and interpreting research whose outcomes enrich the corpus of knowledge in psychology and other social and behavioral sciences. He has thus earned a lasting and revered place in the annals of psychology's great teachers and of psychology's great psychologists."

*Biography.* B. J. Winer was born in the grandeur of Oregon in 1917. He started his academic career at the University of Oregon in 1935 in the field of journalism and completed his work at the University of Oregon with a master's degree in psychology in 1940. Winer's first professional job was in test research in New York City at the Cooperative Test Service,

which at that time was under the direction of John C. Flanagan and in later years was merged with the Educational Testing Service.

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Winer accepted a joint appointment in the Department of Psychology and the Statistics Laboratory at Purdue. The laboratory was under the direction of Carl Kossack, the man from whom Winer had taken his first course in statistics at the University of Oregon. At that time many of the applied statistics courses were taught in the Department of Psychology because there was no formal statistics department at Purdue then. Things changed considerably in subsequent years!

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