

The  
University of Oklahoma at Norman

School of Meteorology

April 22, 1980

Professor Heinz H. Lettau  
University of Wisconsin  
Department of Meteorology  
1225 W. Dayton Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Heinz:

On the occasion of your retirement from the University of Wisconsin's Department of Meteorology, I wish to express my personal thanks to you for all the many hours you've spent with me inside and outside the classroom, as teacher, adviser, major professor, and friend. I particularly remember how willingly you would invite me into your office to discuss my research and academic questions. No topic seemed too small for your full attention or for your sage advice. Your constant encouragement and confidence in me were a great psychological and practical help in surmounting the hurdles in completing my Ph.D. requirements. For these, I am grateful.

I have also come to greatly admire your insatiable curiosity about nature and how one can derive profound universal laws from studying such everyday phenomena as the bending of a blade of grass in the wind, the formation of ridges on a snow-covered field, the occurrence of frost, the distribution of barchans on a Peruvian desert, etc. To use observations such as these and be able to develop a climatonic model which can accurately predict the surface climate of the moon and Mars is certainly a mark of your genius.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to know you and work with you in the past decade. I wish you a productive career as Professor Emeritus and wish you and Katie a long and happy life together.

Very best regards,

Stephen Berman  
Visiting Associate Professor

SB/ts



May 12, 1980

Professor Heinz H. Lettau  
Department of Meteorology  
The University of Wisconsin  
1225 West Dayton Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Professor Lettau:

It is both a sincere joy and privilege to be able to participate in the recognition of your contributions to meteorology at Wisconsin and throughout the world and to offer my own personal appreciation for the influence you have had on my professional activities.

I will not attempt to summarize and place in perspective the very many contributions you have made to micrometeorology, fluid dynamics, and climatology; others can articulate them far better than I. It is, however, important that I be able to use this opportunity to tell you how significant and valuable I feel and know those contributions have been. I relearn this regularly in the aerometric research we do here. Not only is it significant that your work has been so thorough, outstanding, and original, but also that you have taken the time and effort to share this with your students. It was very reassuring and beneficial to know that your door was always open to us. The freedom and responsibility you gave us as students were things I only fully appreciated with time. Looking back, I can truly say how fortunate I was to have had the good luck (sense had nothing to do with it at the time) to choose Madison for my graduate studies and even more fortunate to have had you as my major professor. And looking back, those were only the first of many good things that were to ensue: field research opportunities at Second Point, in India, and at Davis; the encouragement and support to continue graduate study beyond the two years I had originally intended; and an association with a fine group of people whose friendship I value very much.

I regret that I will be unable to be with you and Professor Schwerdtfeger personally. I do hope, however, that we will again be able to persuade you and Mrs. Lettau to spend some time with us in Menlo Park.

With very best wishes,

Walter F. Dabberdt  
Associate Director  
Atmospheric Science Center

**SRI International**

March 12, 1980

Dear Professor Lettau,

Before you retire, I want to express my appreciation for your teaching, guidance, and encouragement while I was your student. I learned much about turbulence in your course and learned even more when I tried to teach the same topics, but I still wish that I had the intuitive understanding of turbulence that you possess. I remember Marg Hopkins and I investigating turbulent updrafts for your turbulence class - with the help of Christmas angel chimes. Little did I think that a few years later I would be showing a similar demonstration to my own students in Korea. (The students also appreciated the laminar-turbulent transition in cigarette smoke.) I think your simple demonstrations made turbulence more real to them than all the equations I wrote on the board.

When I was first working on radon diffusion, I can remember your suggestion to try an empirical solution - if it described the problem, it would be useful even if it was not an elegant analytical solution. I surely dragged my feet - and certainly was disappointed when I finally had to use a computer model. You would have smiled to see me enthusiastically describing the usefulness of simple computer models to my fellow programmers in Omaha.

During prelims I was relieved to hear that English was still the spoken language - I was not sure that you had acclimated after only two days back home from Germany. I also remember waiting nervously in the hall while you all discussed my prelim presentation. I was worried when I heard uproarious laughter, but you assured me afterward that it was not about the quality of my presentation but rather a debate over who tackled harder problems - physicists or meteorologists.

During the final stages of writing, I appreciated your efforts to improve my style. You worked long and hard to get rid of all my half-page sentences, but I think I managed to slip one or two into the last chapter anyway. I have tried to follow your advice - to spend time finding the correct word rather than a cumbersome phrase - and my bosses seemed to appreciate it.

If you ever run out of problems to study in your spare time, I know several Korean meteorologists that would certainly appreciate your insight into the particular phenomena found here in Korea. It has been a pleasure and an honor to have worked with you, and I hope that you and Katy enjoy many retirement years together.

Sincerely yours,

Marian Duwe Hollingshead

Marian Duwe Hollingshead

Dr. L. F. Hall, Senior Meteorologist  
The Montana Energy and MHD Research  
and Development Institute, Inc.  
Post Office Box 3809  
Butte, Montana 59701

Professor Emeritus Heinz H. Lettau  
Department of Meteorology  
University of Wisconsin at Madison  
1225 West Dayton Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Dr. Lettau,

Congratulations! It was with a genuine joy that I learned of your coming advancement to Professor Emeritus in the Department, and of the continuing formal association with the professors and students that will be assured thereby. Permitting you to escape completely into "retirement" would be tantamount to closing the oracle at Delphi -- unthinkable!

Several years ago, in response to my query as to when you might write the definitive textbook on micrometeorology, you said that writing textbooks was an activity appropriate to youth and old age, or words to that effect. Since the former condition is receding somewhat as a source of hope to those of us who dearly desire such a text from your hand, we must look to the future. Perhaps, in the greater independence of this next decade you would consider such a text. There is no end of too-young people who think they understand, who can give us an assembly of facts, figures, and equations in textbooks. These contributions are valuable, as we cannot understand our science without that information, but they are much like a literal translation of a Chinese poem. The nature of the Chinese language creates a particular richness to each character, and to the association of the characters, which is totally lost to the western reader without careful commentary to elucidate the subtleties implied by the associations. The comprehension of science, as opposed to the assimilation of a set of objective theories and statements of natural law, also requires such mature commentary. I am but one of many who are certain no other than yourself could do that best.

While you performed many services of education and encouragement during my many years as your student, perhaps the most significant was your slide show on 18 December 1969. You opened an entire visual world during that hour, which I had not previously seen for one reason or another, and thereby opened the door to what has been both extremely educational and deeply satisfying. While there has been joy in exposing and sharing a few interesting images over the years, seeing natural processes and their "footprints" has been a most rewarding fascination.

I shall always remember and cherish the many pleasant evenings in your home, and your particularly warm hospitality. Thank you.



 THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

May 13, 1980

Dr. Heinz H. Lettau  
Department of Meteorology  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Heinz:

Congratulations on your promotion to Emeritus status! I would so like to be there in person to join the tribute to an eminent scientist, a dedicated teacher, and a warm, kind human being. Although I cannot be there in person, I will certainly be there in spirit, and hope that this letter will convey some of the importance you have been in my life.

It hardly seems 20 years ago that I hit the fourth floor of that marvelously monstrous Science Hall, barely knowing how to spell meteorology, and not having the slightest idea of what sort of research work to begin. I was soon somewhat horrified to learn that I was to be assigned to the "Dean of Micrometeorologists" for my work! Couldn't I start with a little-shot rather than a big-shot?! But through your wisdom and patience you managed to transform me and a polyglot group of other novices into a reasonably respectable experimental micromet group. We all revered you, and tried to absorb as much as we could from your classes, research group briefings, and individual sessions. I hope you felt we were learning something!

Memories of those five years in the early '60's:

Creating research space on tent platforms, then remodeling a summer caretaker's cottage into a year-round research laboratory with our own blood, sweat, and almost tears.

Learning to scuba-dive as part of a research program, installing miniature Texas-towers out in the lake.

Learning about numerical weather prediction through a computer seminar with you.

Pleasant evenings in your home, with good good and stimulating conversation with you and Kate.

My first scientific conference: delivering a paper, prepared under your guidance, in Salt Lake City.

Just about giving up, one month before graduation, on completing my dissertation when I couldn't satisfy your demands for clear, sophisticated writing.

Watching you and Kate paddle up in your kayak to our home-designed, home-constructed boat dock, and being jealous that we couldn't stop work to enjoy the nice summer day also!

May 13, 1980

Developing a short-lived but intense dislike for small pinetrees after realizing that they could not only be used as Christmas trees but also as arrangeable surface roughness elements that needed lots of attention on cold, windy, winter days.

And proudly being escorted by you across the commencement stage to receive my degree.

Those five years under your careful guidance are precious to me. You challenged me, you stimulated me, you taught me, you nurtured my curiosity. I will, of course, always be indebted to you for the scientific concepts you imparted to me.

I salute you on your retirement. I wish you many happy years of relaxing with your family and writing of science when the mood moves you. I will do my best to nurture the Lettau legacy.

Sincerely,



Harry L. Hamilton  
Associate Professor & Chairman

HLH:prm



May 14, 1980

Professor Heinz H. Lettau  
Department of Meteorology  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin 53715

Dear Heinz:

It was with mixed feelings that I received the news that you would be retiring this May. On the one hand, I feel a bit sad that this will mark the end of your "official" teaching career at the University of Wisconsin. On the other hand, I feel happy to have the opportunity of joining all of your colleagues, former students, and other friends in recognizing your many achievements and in thanking you for what you have given us.

As you may recall, we first met in 1958 when I began my meteorological studies at the University as a U.S. Air Force student. My subsequent attempts to understand the atmosphere and forecast weather in the field led me to believe that I should learn a bit more about meteorology, so I showed up again at the University in 1961. To my great good fortune, you became my major professor. I consider this as the best thing that has happened to me during my career in meteorology.

I must confess that, when I first started my association with you, I was somewhat awe-struck by the Distinguished Professor Who Wrote His First Book When He Was Younger Than I Was, and a little apprehensive about my ability to measure up. I soon found that you were an ideal teacher and advisor. You were gentle and understanding with your students, and showed a genuine concern with their welfare and progress. Your door was always open to your students, and you would willingly set aside your own work at any time in order to advise us. And very importantly, you were there when we needed you, not off in Washington every week attending some committee meeting.

Yes, you expected good work and set very high standards for your students, but now all of us bless you for that. For instance, I was

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astonished to find that my professor from Germany was one of the best writers of English that I had ever met! (Your constructive criticisms vastly improved my own writing style.)

Furthermore, you weren't afraid to let us know that you were human. I'll never forget the time you "let your hair down" in that restaurant in Tombstone, Arizona, and told me about some of the hair-raising adventures that you had before you came to the U.S.!

The "Lettau School" of micrometeorology and boundary-layer meteorology has had one very important distinguishing characteristic: it has thoroughly integrated both the observational and the theoretical sides of the subject, rather than separating them as is done in some places. Who among your former students can forget our days servicing the instruments on Lake Mendota, or our hours trying to understand wind-profile theories? You impressed on us the necessity for evaluation of theories or models by means of data from properly designed experiments. I know that this training has been very valuable to us former students in bringing a balanced approach to our work.

Perhaps most important of all, in your dedication to science and your style of teaching you have set a magnificent example for all of those around you, and we are the better for it. I feel most fortunate to have had the privilege of being your student.

I offer you my very best wishes for much happiness in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

*Warren*

Warren B. Johnson, Ph.D.  
Director  
Atmospheric Science Center

WBJ:baw



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA

College of Agriculture

Department of Atmospheric Science

701 Hitt Street  
Columbia, Missouri 65211  
(314) 882-6591

March 7, 1980

Dear Dr. Lettau:

On the occasion of your retirement, I am writing this letter with an utmost sense of personal appreciation and humility.

On a bitter cold morning in early February 1959, I first visited your second floor office in the old Science Hall. It was a rather frightening occasion for a graduate student without a basic background in meteorology to report to a world renowned scholar as an assistant.

Through your kind guidance, I was able to complete my graduate study at Wisconsin. You may still remember what I said to you on the Commencement Day, "You gave me the degree, I could never have earned it without you." If I have done any scientific contribution subsequently or will do so in the future, it is my effort to respond to your trust and expectation.

I not only learned the scientific methodology from you, but I also learned from you the way to teach the next generation of scientists. It is a painfully laborious way, but it is the noble heritage of the academic community.

You may also remember that in our wedding in the winter of 1959 you agreed to give away the bride for us, which we appreciate even now. It has been twenty years since our marriage, and Felicia, whom you might still remember is entering college this year. We have one more girl and one boy now.

Susan, the children and I wish you and Mrs. Lettau all the best for the prosperous years to come. We also sincerely hope that you and Mrs. Lettau can have a chance to visit us in Missouri.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest C. Kung

NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

P. O. Box 3000 • Boulder, Colorado 80307

Telephone: (303) 494-5151 • TWX: 910-940-3245 • Telex: 45 694 • FTS: 322-5151

5 May 1980

Professor Heinz H. Lettau  
Department of Meteorology  
The University of Wisconsin  
Meteorology and Space Science Building  
1225 West Dayton Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Professor Lettau:

My first association with the Meteorology Department at the University of Wisconsin came as an NSF Undergraduate Research Assistant during the summer of 1959. My summer of traveling about Canada measuring lake temperatures convinced me that meteorology was more to my liking than electrical engineering. As a result, I applied for a graduate assistantship and became a member of your cadre of "Army" students in the fall of 1960.

Up until this time, I knew almost nothing about you, or about meteorology. I had heard from other students that you were a good teacher--well organized, thorough, knowledgeable and original--and they were right. Your 7.62 x 12.70 cm note cards were legend in cramming so much knowledge in such a small area. This was a pioneering effort in high-density information storage. Your lectures seemed to always be planned to end when the bell rang, and you followed your course outline very closely.

Although your examinations were not difficult, you expected us to get everything right. Furthermore, if one paid very close attention in the review session preceding the examination, every question on the exam seemed to be covered. I remember several times your asking me with great concern how I got a particular question wrong. Always I had to guiltily admit that I had made a stupid mistake and should have known better.

We always appreciated the individual review sessions that you gave each of us before our oral examinations. It gave us the assurance that if things got tough during the oral examination, you would be ready to ask us a question that you knew we could answer from our review session.

Besides being an educational experience, your classes were enjoyable. We liked to listen to your accent, and we were forced to pay close attention to what you were saying to make sure that we didn't miss any of your subtle jokes that you slipped into the lecture.

5 May 1980

In our research work, you were quite definite about suggesting suitable topics for thesis work, but very free about the details in carrying out the research. You were always very adept at keeping us from straying too far afield or tackling too difficult a problem, and mixing about the right amount of encouragement to keep us going when we were discouraged with some judicious prodding if we were lagging a bit.

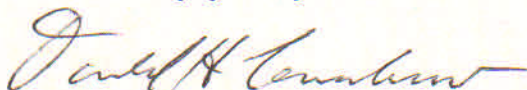
While working on my master's degree, trying to measure surface temperature from the Cessna 310 aircraft with little initial success, I recall your pointing out that someone had succeeded in measuring the temperature of the moon  $4.6 \times 10^3$  m away from the earth, while we still couldn't measure the temperature of the earth only a few tens of meters above the surface.

When we showed you our written research results, we could always count on a rapid and thorough critique, with many suggestions for improvements, both in scientific content and language. Your command of English is amazing for someone growing up with another tongue. Your report, Research Problems in Micrometeorology, is a pleasure to read not only as a farsighted guide to important scientific problems, but also for its use of English.

Up till now, I have recalled and discussed mostly professional interactions. Yet, more strongly impressed in my memory are the things that were not strictly professional, and yet were, perhaps, even more important to me in the succeeding years. Your dedicated and enthusiastic approach to science set an example for all of us. Your willingness to help and your sincere interest in how well we were doing in our work encouraged us to do better. Your fairness and kindness inspired us. Your sense of humor enriched us.

I hope that your activities in the future continue to give you enjoyment and satisfaction.

Sincerely yours,



Donald H. Lenschow  
Mesoscale Research Section

DHL:dh



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards  
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711

May 16, 1980

Dear Dr. Lettau:

I am happy to join in what must be a large but select group of former students and colleagues in offering my best wishes for this coming phase in your life. I know that your interests and enthusiasm will make this state as interesting, enjoyable and productive as your passage through your previous stages of life.

I would also like to thank you for the example you have offered both as teacher and professional. While your professional contributions have always been held in high regard and have been deservedly recognized by various official honors, I most appreciate your emphasis on the aesthetics of our field. This example of technical excellence and humane appreciation has helped me not only in my own teaching but in what work I have been able to do to help preserve and improve our environment.

I offer these thoughts and best wishes equally to Mrs. Lettau. I know that you both will prosper in the coming years.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ken".

Kenneth P. MacKay, Jr.  
Visiting Scientist  
Source Receptor Analysis Branch

May 5, 1980

To Heinz Lettau

I welcomed Eberhard Wahl's request for letters as an opportunity to express the gratitude and appreciation which I have always felt. Thanks are due not only for your contribution to my professional development, but even more so for your personal support along the road in that development. It is that latter for which your students will really remember you.

One of my first encounters with this personal concern is also one of my fondest memories. One day when I was a sophomore in micro (which was only permitted as an audit because of course I couldn't keep up with all those "older" boys) the class moved to another building. Finally arriving a bit late, I found you pacing the hall looking for "the girl", worried she didn't know about the room change. Despite the teasing this provoked from those "other" chauvinists already in the classroom, I really appreciated this protective support then and throughout my studies. It alone kept me going through the difficult times and, later, helped give me courage to stand up before those strangers in Bonn, speaking that strange tongue, at my first seminar there. Having you and Kate there those few months was really a pleasure. Of course, you had also encouraged that move "ueber den grossen Teich", a move which has had profound effects on my career.

Enough of that - you've probably asked, considering my defection to African "history" under the tutorship of a micrometeorologist, what you taught me during those last years. I do hope you haven't written me off your list of "microclimatologists" and "friends of climatonomy", as I am still (to use your phrase) spreading the gospel as well as studying it. Those class notes from 403, 503, 862 and 906 still hold a prominent place on the bookshelf; those lectures certainly produced an awareness of and curiosity about "the atmosphere's first mile". But you had more important lessons to teach. These include remembering each student as a person and as an individual; giving students a free hand, not a rigid program; being the silent force behind their achievements and taking even less credit than actually due; encouraging their questioning of and disagreement with your own work; and demonstrating the security and self-confidence necessary to accept criticism. It is in these respects that I hope you have truly served me as a mentor.

With all best wishes for happiness and further accomplishment in this new stage of your life,

Very sincerely yours,



Sharon Nicholson

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY | AT RALEIGH

SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES  
Box 5068 ZIP 27650  
PHONE 737-2212

May 7, 1980

Professor Heinz H. Lettau  
Department of Meteorology  
1225 West Dayton St.  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Dr. Lettau:

Both Mary Ellen and I would like to convey our warmest wishes for your future years and future plans. This is a time of change and looking ahead for you, and we trust that happiness will be yours as you meet these golden years.

I deeply appreciate all of the time and effort you spent as my teacher and advisor during my years as your student. Thank you especially for making possible my year in the Dry Valleys and for arranging funding for me to pursue my doctorate. Your patient persistence and steady encouragement have always been inspirational.

Sincerely yours,



Al Riordan  
Assistant Professor of Meteorology

AJR/cb

# DEPARTAMENTO DE GEOFISICA

FAC. CIENCIAS FISICAS Y MATEMATICAS  
UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE - SEDE OCCIDENTE

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Teléfonos: 68790-82071  
66563

Santiago, Chile, May 1980

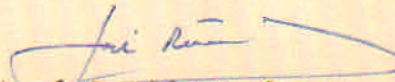
Professor  
Heinz H. Lettau  
Department of Meteorology  
University of Wisconsin, Madison.  
U.S.A.

Dear Professor Lettau:

It is a difficult enterprise to try to summarize in a short letter written in a foreign language the multiple feelings of appreciation, gratitude and admiration to you as my former advisor and major professor at the University of Wisconsin.

Since I am certain that you will receive beautiful letters from your former students, let me sacrifice the literary figures in benefit of the scientific objectivity. As a foreign student and member of the Friends of Climatology I feel that the most remarkable aspects of your personality as scientific advisor were your infinite patience to explain over and over again simple and complicated subjects, your unrestricted respect to student opinions no matter how wrong they were and the wide generosity to apply the benefit of the doubt philosophy.

Thanks for everything !

  
José Rutllant Costa

May 8, 1980

Professor Heinz Lettau  
Department of Meteorology  
University of Wisconsin

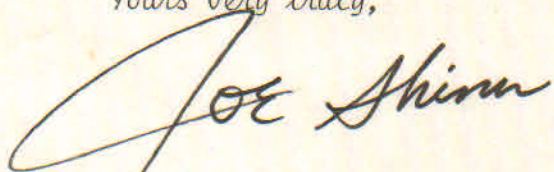
Dear Professor Lettau,

I would like to contribute my expression of thanks for the inspiration and guidance which I received while your student. For me, your style of teaching and research was perfect. It was not only the rigor and creativity of your work I admired. I am indebted to your personified style of teaching and the professionalism you bestowed upon the graduate training. For example, I was astounded when you kept track of your students' performance on each exam question, and then gave us the opportunity to discuss each exam in your office. I appreciated too your willingness to allow students on their own just until they needed supervision.

My association with the Meteorology Department began in 1962 and I remember "Chuck" Stearns managing the experimental site on Lake Mendota. The advanced students were Warren Johnson, Arlin Super, and Harry Hamilton working on Army-sponsored projects. Also, I knew Don Lenschow, John Turner, Walt Dabberdt, and many others. I have very pleasant memories of your Professorship in the Department from that era. When I left in 1967, I became associated with Bill Ohmstede and the forest meteorology projects that yet remained in the old tradition of Fort Huachuca sponsorship. You will recall that my in-residence research was (somewhat unusually) supported by the Botany Department (Dr. Orie Loucks) and reviewed by both yourself and Professor Champ Tanner.

It is with a special feeling of admiration and gratitude that I wish to express my congratulations to you for a successful teaching and research career at the University which really laid the foundation for our science.

Yours very truly,



Joseph H. Shinn, Ph.D.  
Deputy Section Leader  
Atmospheric and Terrestrial Studies  
Environmental Sciences Division  
Lawrence Livermore Laboratory

JHS:kce



April 30, 1980

Dr. H. H. Lettau  
Professor of Meteorology  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Dr. Lettau:

Throughout this past year I have had lingering thoughts about my days spent under your guidance at the University of Wisconsin. While reflecting on my 'progress' since leaving UW in 1962, I have often said that I must write a note to you to say thank you for the direction and inspiration given me. Now, without having written earlier, I understand that you are being designated Professor Emeritus and accordingly honored on May 24, 1980. This note is to say congratulations for a job well done, for your many contributions to the understanding of meteorological processes and to give thanks for your help.

I have been teaching at Oregon State University since 1962 in the Department of Civil Engineering where I am presently ranked as a professor. I feel whatever success I am enjoying now is directly attributable to the student contact I had with you and your staff. Your academic and research program helped me understand fluid mechanics as a discipline but also the rewards of applications involving crossfield or interdisciplinary problems.

Through your support I was lucky to be involved in interdisciplinary research before it was labeled as a catch word. I relish the interactions I had with you and your colleagues: Jim Villemonte, Vern Suomi, Champ Tanner, Bob Bird, Parent Schwerdtfeger and others, where they had discipline interests there was also camaraderie of 'doing science' and understanding flow processes. From the milieu of cross discipline contacts and studies at Wisconsin, I have attempted at OSU to carry on the 'cause' and have engaged in several successful interdisciplinary studies with colleagues in mechanical and chemical engineering, oceanography, biology and medicine. I hope I've contributed to solving some important problems and hope from these efforts we are making the world a better place in which to live.

You have been my mentor. I respect you personally and professionally. I only hope I can accomplish a few percent of what you have been able to do as an individual, scholar, teacher and mentor.

My best wishes are sent to you and your family. I look forward to seeing you at the H. H. Lettau recognition banquet on May 24, 1980.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry S. Slotta".

Larry S. Slotta, PhD, PE  
Professor of Civil Engineering

ceb



April 7, 1980

Professor H. H. Lettau  
Department of Meteorology  
University of Wisconsin  
1225 West Dayton Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Professor Lettau:

During preparations for, and the field phase of, the GARP Atlantic Tropical Experiment (1974), I had frequent occasion to work closely with the scientific staff of several Soviet research vessels, and especially the ACADEMICIAN KOROLOV. My "business" visits to these ships earned for me, I should say, the respect due a colleague, a co-participant in a large undertaking of value and perhaps historic significance. This state of affairs continued without any marked change until, one day in a casual conversation, I remarked that Professor Lettau had been my major professor at graduate school. "YOU had Professor Lettau as your major professor?" the Captain's cabin chorused. The tone and subsequent conversation conveyed the thought that I must be among the most fortunate of students. (I agreed.) Clearly, in their eyes, my stock had rocketed. This increased stature remained undiminished throughout the Experiment.

I did not require the KOROLOV's Captain and Chief Scientist to tell me what I had gained from the University of Wisconsin and from you as an advisor and teacher. That was clear in my mind, well before GATE.

I do not belittle what I learned in Madison of meteorology. Its value is self-evident, since I have been active in this field in the years since 1965. What I value most, is a new sense of how to attack problems. The need to probe through a scientific challenge to determine, in advance of formal research, what are its salient elements, so that subsequent data collection becomes the verification of an hypothesis, rather than an assorted input to a grab-bag of possible answers to questions.

Most valuable too, is the concept of breaking problems into elements, where each may then become tractable. And the thought of computer models that, before asking them for pronouncements concerning the future, we should test to see if they can describe the past. If the Student has not fully utilized all of this doctrine, the Teacher should not be blamed. The lessons were clearly articulated.



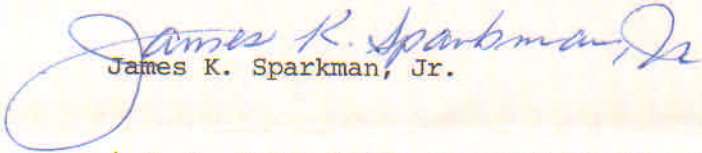
**10TH ANNIVERSARY 1970-1980**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

A young agency with a historic  
tradition of service to the Nation

I hope that your years after retirement will, as I fully expect, continue to add to your standing in the field of meteorology. Surely Dr. Munn's comment\* is worth your careful consideration. But whatever the future, I count myself as one who already has benefitted most bountifully through my association with you.

With warmest regards and best wishes,

James K. Sparkman, Jr.  
James K. Sparkman, Jr.

\* R. E. Munn, 1966: Descriptive Micrometeorology. See Preface, Page vii.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF METEOROLOGY

*Meteorology and Space Science Building*

*1225 West Dayton Street*

*Madison, Wisconsin 53706*

May 9, 1980

Dear Professor Lettau:

My first acquaintance with you occurred when Professor Suomi handed out a blue document on "Isotropic and Non-isotropic Turbulence". The class never got beyond the cover. The second event occurred when you were to visit Professor Suomi's impressive installation in the cornfield. The trailer was a disgrace. Pete Kuhn and I decided to paint the trailer prior to your arrival in the hopes that Suomi would calm down enough to be rational during your visit. As I recall, Suomi's research assistants were not available.

In 1959 I decided that the surface layer was of great importance to mankind, so I started working for you on the Army grant. Those were very enjoyable years because the experiments that were tried and either failed or succeeded were interesting. The bushel baskets and Christmas trees were unique and as you know, will be continued - hopefully learning from the past experimental mistakes. The idea of the surface modification experiment is, I believe, uniquely yours.

During that time, I learned the surface roughness was a difficult parameter to determine. The expedition to Peru (1964) and Davis, California (1967) resulted in the need to determine both surface roughness and displacement height for the wind and temperature profile. This led to several papers and the problem is not solved yet, especially for gusty winds.

The Peru expedition provided an opportunity to collect a unique set of micro-meteorological data which provided the material for my Ph.D. thesis, which I had been avoiding for some time. One of the memories of that process was to hand you some material which you would read very well. Then you would run across some impossible statement - say "Whew" and turn around in your chair and ask "How can you say this?" The other items I will never forget are my mixing up of then and then, and your patient explaining of the relationships between Deacon numbers and Richardson numbers.

The occurrence of the event for which this letter is written is not significant to me as the association with you will continue well beyond this day. The work that I have been doing and will do in the future has largely been influenced by the close association with you for more than twenty years.

Sincerely,

Chuck

1505 Tompy  
Miles City, MT 59301

April 28, 1980

Professor Lettau  
Department of Meteorology  
Meteorology & Space Science Building  
1225 W. Dayton Street  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Professor Lettau:

I wish to take the opportunity of your retirement from a long and very distinguished career to make some personal remarks to you. They are long overdue.

I will leave a review of your career to others more knowledgeable and capable. My purpose here is to thank you for what you have done for me personally. I owe you a great debt that cannot be repaid. My awareness of just how great continues to increase with time. In the period from 1960-1965 while I was one of your graduate students, I realized that you were a very patient and helpful teacher and advisor, and felt fortunate to have you as a major professor. And yet I took too much for granted for after all, I thought, you were only doing your job, though admittedly well. It was only after teaching others myself for some years that I came to realize how much extra effort you expended upon your students beyond that merely required.

I well recall the kind and patient but firm manner in which you took me through my thesis and other writings over and over and yet over again while I slowly learned to write in a manner suitable for science. (Incidentally, I learned that we were always near the final version when you begin to revise your own earlier revisions off "my" writing). Although you were a very busy man, you always found the time to give me the help I needed.

I remember fondly the field work we did on Lake Mendota under your supervision. We developed the laboratory in the cottage, and the tower in the lake which formed the base for the bushel-basket and Christmas tree experiments. The learning I gained there under you and Chuck Stearns has served me well. I continue to be active in field work as the director of the High Plains Experiment (HIPLEX) for the Water and Power Resources Service (formerly Bureau of Reclamation). In the summer of 1981 I will be a field co-director for the Cooperative Convective Precipitation Experiment (CCOPE) to be carried out by my agency, NCAR, and others. My ability to serve in these roles is, to a considerable extent, based on my experiences as your student at Lake Mendota.

And so, Professor Lettau, I humbly thank you for caring and taking the time to help me so much. May God bless you abundantly in your retirement.

With deep respect,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arlin B. Super". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Arlin B. Super

# THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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UNIVERSITY PARK, PENNSYLVANIA 16802

College of Earth and Mineral Sciences  
Department of Meteorology

Area Code 814  
865-0478  
865-0479

April 23, 1980

Professor Heinz Lettau  
Department of Meteorology  
1225 West Dayton Street  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Heinz:

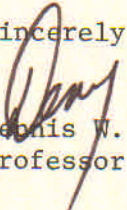
In the course of a university education, each of us is challenged, in varying ways and to differing degrees, by about fifty members of the faculty. Initially, the scope of one's challenges may be as simple as the boundaries of a single course. In retrospect, those courses and the faculty involved therein quickly sink into obscurity. But as one academically matures, particularly in the course of graduate study, a very few outstanding faculty can subtly inspire one so compellingly that it subsequently changes one's whole professional Weltansicht and direction.

Firstly, I had the good fortune to be introduced by such a member of the faculty, yourself, to the many wonders and challenges of "physical" meteorology. The privilege of several years of your astute and kindly guidance followed. Since, it has always been a matter of pride for me to be able to say "Heinz Lettau war meiner Doktorvater". But it is also only now as a faculty member of some years' experience that I really understand the value of the "Lettau approach": in teaching, the beauty of simplicity in organization and presentation; and in research, the benefits of subtly guiding an independent effort.

On this occasion of your so-called retirement, I want to convey, again, to you both my appreciation and esteem. Congratulations on your own and the accomplishments of your many students.

Good health and continued success.

Sincerely yours,

  
Dennis W. Thomson  
Professor

DWT:dc



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 2308

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

TELEPHONE : 68 0401

EXT.: .....

May 10 1980

Dear Professor Lettau,

It's a pleasure to write and express my deep appreciation for your example, help and guidance during the time I was a graduate student in the Department. I'm sorry I can't be at the banquet to thank you in person ; I seriously considered attending but time and distance were a little too great.

Memories of Madison are with me often. It was for me a time of rich experience and, overall, of happiness. Of course, in the memories, there is a large micrometeorological element ; amongst others, Christmas trees, bushell baskets and a pink jeep on the ice and an instrumented concrete slab surrounded by summer pasture and corn. I'll always count it a great privilege to have been associated with you and Chuck in those pioneering days of the early 1960's.

May I say now at last that, as one of your graduate students, I always greatly admired your qualities as a teacher ? All of us, I'm sure, saw in you the combination of human qualities - humility, gentleness, tolerance - with the ability to tackle and solve research problems in elegant and imaginative ways. Your example will always be in my mind ; successful attainment is of course another matter.

I am sure your intellectual activities won't really be interrupted by nominal retirement. Certainly, I hope and expect to see you when I'm next in the United States (probably 1983). Meanwhile, I send (to Mrs Lettau also) my very best wishes for a happy and fruitful retirement.

Sincerely,

*John Turner*  
J.C.Turner.

April 26, 1980

Heinz H. Lettau  
Professor Emeritus  
Department of Meteorology  
Meteorology and Space Science Building  
1225 West Dayton Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Dr. Lettau:

I wish to extend my best wishes and warmest regards to both you and Kate on the occasion of your retirement. Regretfully, I will not be able to attend the festive ceremonies, but I would like to share some thoughts and memories of my years at Wisconsin with you.

I remember the first day I met you in 1965. Marie Riggs directed me to your Science Hall "attic" office at the end of the hall. You appeared to be a formidable individual sitting at your desk, but I quickly realized how wrong first impressions can be! Your intellect, warmth, and sincerity were immediately obvious. There was even a touch of shyness which was quite disarming.

I seem to recall that your role in my life, during the first year I spent at U.W., was closer to an adopted "Papa" than that of a teacher or scientist! After bumbling around for nine months, trying to develop a field research program, I became very frustrated. I was about to throw in the towel when you sat me down and wisely pointed out that research does not always mean obtaining original data! After that, it was on to Lake Hefner and the "Chicken Coop"! Your encouragement and understanding were never more appreciated, Dr. Lettau.

In the many years I spent at U.W., I met many students in the Department of Meteorology. I can honestly say that you have always had the deepest and most genuine respect from the students that I knew. That respect was certainly not limited to your professional capabilities, but it extended to you as a person. Despite your active schedule, you were always readily accessible when assistance was needed. Moreover, whatever frustration you may have had, at times, with your students was well disguised! Your even temperament, limitless patience, and constant guidance were so much appreciated by us all. Your tutelage was an immensely rewarding academic experience for me. Indeed, I am proud to have been one of your students, Dr. Lettau.

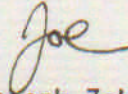
I have some very special memories of the mellow evenings of "Gemütlichkeit" that you and Kate hosted for us in your home; you are both warm and gracious friends. It is, also, a joy to see the professional partnership and personal companionship that you both share and enjoy so much together!



April 26, 1980

I know that your "retirement" will not signal the end of your professional endeavors. Your many contributions to meteorology from "vorticity-transfer" to "climatology" will, I am sure, be augmented during the next phase of your career! May I wish you and Kate the best of good health and happiness in the many stimulating years, still, to come.

With warmest regards and fondest memories,



Joseph Zabransky, Jr.

