

Geoffrey G. Eichholz

Geoffrey G. Eichholz, PhD, died in Atlanta, GA, on Jan. 8, 2018, at the age of 97. His long time companion and partner, Robert James Moon, confirmed his death from complications of a stroke.

Dr. Eichholz was an educator, scientist, and scholar whose distinguished career led to the establishment of the School of Nuclear Engineering and Health Physics at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. As a young man, Geoffrey fled Germany in 1939 at the direction of his parents to escape the tyranny of Nazi oppression.



Geoffrey Gunther Eichholz was born June 29, 1920, in Hamburg, Germany to Max Eichholz and Adele "Daisy" Elias Eichholz. His father was a lawyer, a member of the Hamburg City Parliament and a vocal opponent to the Nazi regime and party resulting in his persecution, multiple arrests, and eventual death in the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1943.

Geoffrey was educated at Johanneum Gymnasium Hamburg and attended Berlin Technical University until November 1938, when the Nazi party expelled him during Kristallnacht. Fortunately, he avoided arrest during those difficult days of Jewish persecution as he witnessed destruction and burning of synagogues and other atrocities. In early 1939, Geoffrey was awarded a Refugee Scholarship from Harvard University which enabled him to secure a transit visa. In March 1939, he relocated from Germany to England and was reunited with his mother in February 1940.

Between 1939 and 1947, Geoffrey continued his college education at Bristol University and the University of Leeds. In the war years and afterwards, he interacted with notable scientists as a student and research associate. He served in the Admiralty Signal Establishment working with microwaves and microguides as part of the war effort.

Upon successful completion of course requirements, passing his oral examination and publication of his thesis on magnetic resonances at microwave frequencies, Geoffrey completed his Doctorate of Philosophy at the University of Leeds in September 1947. Later that year, he was offered the position of assistant professor at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

Upon acceptance, Geoffrey completed a long trip to Vancouver involving five days at sea, followed by six days on a train. Geoffrey worked in Canada as an educator and scientist until 1963 when he was recruited by the Georgia Institute of Technology as a professor in the newly established nuclear engineering program.

Dr. Eichholz was involved for 25 years at multiple levels of the Georgia Tech education ladder. He taught, researched, wrote, and served in leadership roles and was a long time committee member in both Master and Doctoral programs. During his tenure, he was integrally involved in the development of curriculum for the nuclear engineering program as well as the health/medical physics field. In addition to being an educator, Dr. Eichholz was involved in many scientific research projects at Georgia Tech and he authored or coauthored numerous scientific publications that included textbooks, reviews, articles, and journals. In 1975, Geoffrey was named Regents' Professor of Nuclear Engineering. He retired in 1988 and has been a member of the Georgia Tech retirees organization, the Silver Jackets. In 2005, Georgia Tech established the Geoffrey G. Eichholz Faculty Teaching Award in his honor. He was a fellow in the American Nuclear Society and Health Physics Society.

In addition to his partner, Robert Moon, Geoffrey is survived by two nieces, Mrs. Julie Burke and Ms. Deirdre Hamilton, nephew Mark Hamilton, all of Vancouver, BC, Canada.

A Memorial Tribute is to be held for Dr. Eichholz on Saturday, April 14, 2018, 2:00 to 4:00 PM, at The Historic Academy of Medicine, 875 West Peachtree Street, NW., Atlanta, GA 30309.

Remembrances to the Georgia Tech Foundation, marked for the Geoffrey Eichholz Faculty Teaching Fund and mailed to the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, Attn. Development Office, 801 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, GA 30332-0405.

This obituary was drawn from one [published](#) in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Feb. 11, 2018 and from Institute records. For more information see a [Wikipedia article](#) and an interview in Georgia Tech's [Living History](#) collection.