Professor Forrest Cope taught at Sinclair Community College for 36 years, from 1969 to 2005. Professor Forrest Cope began his career at Sinclair in 1969 in a refurbished and repainted coal room in the basement of the YMCA. His first assignment was teaching manual drafting, the very heart and soul of Sinclair's training for engineering technicians. Those early days were filled with slide rules and nerd packs. He has given up his slide rule but not his nerd pack.

After one year the program moved to the third floor of what is now Building 9 and he watched the construction of Buildings 1 through 7 – and since then all of the buildings that comprise our campus. His lectures were constantly laced with pictures of the new construction and scenes and stories from the past.

During his 36 years of full time employment Forrest continued to teach the manual pencil on paper drafting and moved into the twenty-first century by embracing computer aided drafting (CAD). He recognized another student need, namely skills in land surveying, and developed and taught courses in this field. Here again, technology rapidly changed and he guided the school and students through purchase and use of the ever more sophisticated equipment.

Professor Cope filled the role of department chair for five years and served many terms on the Faculty Senate including two terms as president. But he will tell anyone that the most fun is the students and the greatest pleasure is when a student says “Oh, I get it!” His dedication to the students is unquestioned. The greatest compliment that could be paid by a fellow faculty member was, when observing Forrest in his last class on the last day of his career, he said: “Forrest put the same effort into helping the students today as he did in all of his past thirty-six years.”

The fire in his heart for teaching has not burned out. He continues to return each quarter to teach part time and remains our most popular instructor. Graduates come by to visit their
old haunts and ask about old instructors. They may ask about one person or another but all ask about and fondly recall Forrest Cope. He will tell you the Sinclair Family has allowed him to have a great career but the truth is, the Sinclair Family has been blessed to have Forrest Cope spend his career with us.