MEMORIAL STATEMENTS

Cornell University Faculty
2018-2019

Office of the Dean of Faculty
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Preface

The University Faculty has always followed the practice of including within the faculty records a memorial resolution on the death of one of its members. The faculty modified this custom that was begun in the earliest days of Cornell University in 1938 as follows:

Upon the death of a member of the University Faculty, the President or Dean of Faculty shall formally notify the Faculty at the next meeting and those present shall rise in respect for the memory of the deceased member. The Provost shall then appoint a committee to prepare an appropriate memorial statement. Such statements shall not be presented in the form of resolutions, as in the past, but shall be annually collected, edited, and printed by the University in a memorial booklet, which shall be sent to members of the Faculty, to the families of the deceased members, and shall be filed with University records.

This booklet, prepared by the Office of the Dean of the University Faculty, contains articles in memory of those twenty-eight University Faculty members whose deaths were reported in the period from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The names of the committee members who prepared the statements are given at the end of each article.
Thomas J. Cade

January 10, 1928 – February 6, 2019

Thomas Joseph Cade was professor in the Section of Ecology and Systematics at Cornell, and a renowned research director and conservation leader at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, from 1967 through 1984. He died on February 6, 2019 at the age of 91. He was best known for his pioneering work in the captive-breeding, wild releasing, and eventual recovery of the Peregrine Falcon in North America, and his establishment of The Peregrine Fund, a globally focused not-for-profit conservation institute now based in Boise, Idaho.

Cade was born on January 10, 1928, in San Angelo, Texas. His father, Ernest, was a lawyer, and his mother, Ethel (Bomar) Cade, was a homemaker. Cade became interested in falconry after reading a National Geographic article about it in the 1930s. Cade recalled during an interview in 2008 that his interest accelerated at age 15, when a Peregrine Falcon zoomed overhead while he and a friend were hiking at the San Dimas Reservoir in Southern California. “It whistled over our heads” before snatching an American Coot off the water. “It sounded like an artillery shell passing over us.”
Cade served in the U. S. Army in 1946 and 1947, and graduated from the University of Alaska in 1951. At UCLA, he earned his M.A. in 1955, and his Ph.D. in 1958. He then moved to the University of California at Berkeley for an NSF-funded postdoctoral fellowship, after which he joined the faculty of Syracuse University. In 1952, immediately after college, Cade had married Renetta Mae Bennewater, and the couple remained closely bonded for the rest of Cade’s life.

In 1967, Cade was recruited to join the faculty at Cornell University, during the period when raptor populations across the United States were plummeting as a result of widespread use of the pesticide DDT. Among the terms of his move to Ithaca, Cornell had agreed to construct a raptor-breeding barn to accommodate his expanding efforts to breed Peregrine Falcons in captivity. Cade’s “Hawk Barn” was located on the grounds of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, where Cade would serve as research director in addition to his faculty appointment in Cornell’s Section of Ecology and Systematics, which later became today’s Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Cade was convinced that once the threats of DDT and related organochlorine pesticides could be eliminated, peregrines could be reintroduced successfully across their former range. However, getting his captive falcons to pair and produce viable eggs proved elusive until a colleague of Cade’s, Heinz K. Meng at the State University of New York at New Paltz, finally succeeded in breeding a pair of Peregrine Falcons in 1971. Meng lent the birds to Cade, and by 1973 that pair, together with two other pairs, had produced 20 young falcons. Cade’s historic captive-breeding program was launched.

Even before DDT was banned in the United States in 1972, Cade began rallying falconers, conservation activists, business leaders, philanthropists, and even city governments to invest in hands-on efforts to restore Peregrine Falcon populations across North America, one pair at a time. In 1970, Cade launched a nonprofit
organization called The Peregrine Fund, together with his friends and supporters Frank Bond, Robert Berry, and James Weaver. Based at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Cade was the organization’s founding chairman even as he continued his teaching and research obligations at Cornell.

Cade’s vision for success of the Peregrine Falcon recovery effort centered on large cities, where tall buildings provided manmade versions of the tall cliffs that Peregrines require for successful breeding throughout their worldwide range. Cities also provided crucial food sources in the form of abundant domestic pigeons, concentrations of migratory birds, and countless other urban creatures. Through two decades of work, Cade and his colleagues placed more than 1,600 peregrine falcons all over the eastern U.S. By 1991, 10 adult pairs were nesting in New York City, in places that included a ledge outside New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center and the tower of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. By 1999, the continent-wide restoration effort in concert with the DDT ban had become so successful that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed Peregrine Falcon from the Endangered Species list.

During his years at Cornell, Cade was an influential instructor in a large undergraduate course, *The Vertebrates*, which he helped to develop soon after his arrival in Ithaca. In the mid-1980s, Cade left Cornell in order to move his extensive breeding operation and The Peregrine Fund to the newly built World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho. Cade, as an emeritus professor at Cornell University, finished his academic career at Boise State University, retiring in 1993.

The Peregrine Fund remains a vital organization dedicated to worldwide raptor conservation and public education. The World Center for Birds of Prey remains an equally important attraction in Boise that offers educational programs and viewing opportunities for the public. The Center is also home to the Archives of Falconry, a sport that was immensely important to Tom throughout his life. Tom authored and coauthored many articles and books, including *The Falcons of the World* and *Return of the Peregrine*. 
Cade was the recipient of numerous conservation and falconry awards, including the prestigious Elliot Coues Award from the American Ornithologists’ Union (1984) and the Arthur A. Allen Award from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (1989). Throughout his career, he was an outspoken advocate for all birds of prey, for science-based solutions in conservation biology, and for tenacious, hands-on conservation actions that produced results. In his later years, Cade was also a crusader for the wholesale removal of lead from all recreational uses, given its well-documented threats to the health of all wildlife as well as to humans. In 2015, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, through the generosity of the Bobolink Foundation, established the Tom J. Cade Fund for Youth Education to support youth programs in learning about birds.

Tom’s no-nonsense character and strong conservation convictions were accompanied by an extremely warm personality and a trademark, freely afforded smile. He is survived by his wife and close companion of 67 years, Renetta Cade, whose support of Tom’s passions, adventures, misadventures, and living-room falcons he openly cherished. He is also survived by five children; Marla Cade (Tom Bussoletti), Brian Cade (Amy), Cheryl Albaugh, Tom Cade, and Drew Cade (Becky); eight grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Written by John W. Fitzpatrick and Willy E. Bemis
Raymond T. Fox
August 31, 1922 – March 31, 2019

Raymond T. Fox., professor emeritus of floriculture and ornamental horticulture and renowned for his elaborate campus floral displays and floriculture expertise, died March 31 in Ithaca, New York. He was 96.

Ray was born and raised in Corning, New York and graduated from Corning Free Academy in 1939. He matriculated at Cornell in 1940 but in 1942, enlisted in the US Army Engineers and was trained as a cartographer (T5) in the 648 Phototropic Engineers. He was stationed in Australia, and later Papua, New Guinea. During this time Ray made high quality maps from aerial photographs for the higher levels of command in the Pacific theatre. He was a talented artist and in this way, he used his gift in service to his country.

After World War II, Ray went to Cornell University where he received his bachelor’s degree (Cornell class of ’47). It was there that he met his future wife, Vera Hakanson (Cornell class of ’48), He continued his education at Cornell and received his M.S. in 1952, and finally his Ph.D. in Agriculture & Life Sciences in 1956. Ray
began his Cornell career as an instructor in the Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture, the same year he graduated, 1947. He subsequently earned his master’s and doctorate, also at Cornell, and was promoted to full professor in 1979, serving until his retirement in 1987.

Dr. Fox’s academic pursuits focused on teaching and outreach. He taught popular courses in floral design and retail flower store management. “He bled Cornell red and trained generations of florists,” said Bill Miller, professor of Horticulture and director of Cornell’s Flower Bulb Research Program. Dr. Fox was legendary for tirelessly organizing and leading brigades of volunteers to set up floral displays at campus events, even after his retirement.

In his address at the university’s 129th Commencement in 1997, then-university president Hunter R. Rawlings III paid him tribute: “[This] Commencement represents the 50th year that Professor Fox, with help from an enthusiastic band of volunteers, has coordinated the floral arrangements for Commencement Weekend. For 50 years, his has been truly a labor of love.”

Equally spectacular were his holiday decorations at Sage Chapel, which often included elaborate, tree-like poinsettia arrangements.

“He was a superb floral designer – both in composition of a single piece as well as grand displays,” said Professor Emeritus Tom Weiler, former chair of the Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture. Roy was a key figure at the now-defunct New York Flower Show and the iconic spring flower display at Macy’s department store in New York City.

“To appreciate Fox’s contributions requires an understanding of how the floriculture industry has changed since its heyday”, Weiler said.

“In the 1950s and 1960s, you never saw ‘in lieu of flowers’ on funeral announcements,” he said. “Elaborate floral arrangements were essential at most every social occasion from weddings and
funerals to dances and other public functions. “The emphasis was on locally produced flowers,” Weiler said. “Cut flowers were a much larger segment of New York’s greenhouse production, and Ray was the center of Cornell’s support of retail florists.”

Ray was a sought after speaker for florist organizations, garden clubs and county Cornell Cooperative Extension audiences. He authored or co-authored many popular consumer publications, including “The Selection, Care, and Use of Plants in the Home” and “Techniques for Propagation of Plants for Interior Decoration.” He also devoted time to community service, developing horticulture therapy programs at local senior centers, leading international garden tours and holding leadership positions in the Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden Club.

Ray and Vera were married on June 30, 1951 and remained in Ithaca where they became fully involved in Cornell University teaching and flower decoration businesses. They were sought after for wedding planning and decorations, presidential inaugurations, the Lake Placid Olympics, and the wedding of Vera's niece Karen (Hakanson) Schreiber. They eventually conducted the business in their home where a shop is still completely furnished with full flower decorating capability. The outside of their home is testament to their passion in decorating using floral and landscape motifs. Ray has a special gift at his home which commemorates 50 years of floral decorations for Cornell graduation ceremonies, that he oversaw and in which he personally participated.

Ray retired from Cornell in 1987. In his letter to then department chair Carl Gortzig, he wrote, “It is naturally with great regret that I send this letter, since the department has been “home” to me, both as a student and as a faculty member, since 1940. But I feel it is also right to leave the way open to younger people who are attracted to our field and who need a starting point.”

As time passed, Ray and Vera travelled during summers, taking tour groups to exotic locations often booking "tramp steamers" to get to their location. They went to northern Europe and Southeast Asia.
Their travels provided them with prolific numbers of photographic slides for educational slide shows which were done on campus for many years.

Ray will continue to enrich the lives of young Cornell horticulture students for many years to come. An endowment in his name is being established due to a generous gift from his estate. Ray would have been delighted to know that he is making it a little easier for young people “who need a starting point” in the field of floriculture.

Sadly, Ray was predeceased by his wife Vera (Hakanson) Fox, of 58 years in 2009. He is survived by eight nieces and nephews on his side of the family and five nieces and nephews on his wife's side of the family. He has 16 or more grand nieces and nephews. He loved family and was always available to help with weddings, holidays, and birthdays. He also has his special friends Fran and Joe Dannelley, who have made his last few decades his "Golden Years". His family owes them a huge debt of gratitude.

Written by Steve Reiners
Edgar Gasteiger, professor emeritus of physical biology, died February 9, 2019 in Ithaca, New York. He was 99.

Gasteiger studied neural science and electrophysiology, with notable work on the neurophysiology of the spinal cord. He played a key role in developing the Section of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell in the 1960s, reorganized and improved premedical advising in the 1970s, and helped introduce the use of computing systems to the College of Veterinary Medicine.

But those who knew him believe his most valuable contributions came as a teacher and member of the Cornell community.

“He would have appreciated being remembered as more than just a professional scientist and professor, and rather as somebody who also cared about humanity, world peace and justice, something that ‘pure science’ might frequently lack nowadays, but which to his understanding was an essential part of university education and research,” said Birgit Albowitz, Ph.D. ‘87, a scientific consultant at
the Ministry of Science and Education in the state of Lower Saxony, Germany, Gasteiger’s last graduate student before he retired.

Born November 25, 1919, in Meadville, Pennsylvania, Gasteiger earned a Bachelor’s Degree (1942) from Allegheny College, a master’s (1943) from the University of Illinois, and a Ph.D. in biophysics (1956) from the University of Minnesota. In 1951, he joined the faculty at Harvard Medical School, while also serving as a research associate in surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital.

In 1957, he was hired as an assistant professor of physiology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. He served there until 1961, when he joined Cornell’s faculty as a professor of physical biology at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Gasteiger was elected emeritus in 1987.

Cornell hired Gasteiger to fill a gap in research and teaching in the neural sciences and systems physiology, according to the late Cyril Comar, former head of the physical biology department, in a 1971 letter of support for Gasteiger. To fill those needs, Gasteiger developed and taught the courses Mammalian Neurophysiology and Functional Organization of the Nervous System.

Due to his background as a biophysicist, he brought systems analysis, electronic design and electrophysiology, and new principles and techniques of online computing, to the Department of Physical Biology and the veterinary college. His graduate students were the first to use interactive computing and make the conversion from analog to digital at Cornell. These efforts eventually led to the development of a computing facility that served the veterinary college and underpinned the thesis research for five of his doctoral students.

Along with studies on the nervous systems of mammals, Gasteiger was in the news for refuting controversial and widely discussed findings suggesting that plants had emotions. Previous research had asserted that plants responded to ‘psychic’ threats – shrimp being killed nearby – by altering electric outputs in their leaves. Gasteiger
and his students repeated the experiment and debunked the results. The findings were published in Science in 1975, and served as the only university research to disprove the theory that plants respond to such ‘psychic’ stimuli with electric outputs from their leaves. “We need many more such studies showing that some public ideas are not true,” Albowitz said.

Along with publishing and presenting scores of papers, Gasteiger was an adviser and teacher who had a lasting impact on his students.

“He put a lot of time and effort into his teaching, particularly the undergraduate classes,” said colleague Ellis Loew, professor of physiology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences. “He recognized that he was not just faculty at the veterinary college, but also a citizen of the university at large.”

Gasteiger played an active role as a committee member to revise Cornell biological sciences and create the Section of Neurobiology and Behavior in the then-new Division of Biology in 1964. He was chairman of the Faculty Health Careers Advisory Committee from 1973-78, and in 1973 was appointed chairman of the Health Careers Office, which provided premedical advice and made career recommendations to hundreds of students. His advice to students and personal efforts were credited with greatly increasing the number of students who gained admission to health career schools after graduating.

“I would have to say that his dedication to the undergraduate programs was his greatest contribution,” Loew said.

He was predeceased by his wife of 49 years, Charlotte Gasteiger, and a son, Daniel. He is survived by three sons, five grandchildren and his partner, Anna Merson.

Written by Krishna Ramanujan
First published in the Cornell Chronicle on February 26, 2019
Professor Emerita Lois Spier Gray passed away on September 20, 2018, in New York City, only a few weeks before her 95th birthday. Lois continued going into the ILR School’s Outreach office on 34th Street and mentoring faculty in NYC and Deans in Ithaca until shortly before her death.

Lois joined the ILR School Extension faculty in 1947, when she was appointed by Dean Irving Ives to direct the first Extension office located in Buffalo, New York. In 1956, she moved to New York City to direct the Metropolitan District Office and, in 1976, became associate dean and director of extension. She was among the first faculty members hired by the new ILR School and was, at her death, its longest serving faculty member. She was one of the founders of the field of labor education and continued to be both a scholar and labor educator throughout her career.

Lois’s work was known worldwide, and she helped numerous countries start their own labor education programs, including Chile, Jamaica, and Barbados, as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto
Rico. Additionally, she served as a consultant to universities as diverse as the University of Haifa and Penn State University.

During her tenure at ILR, Lois was an innovative and supportive leader, encouraging the development of new and exciting programs. Examples of new programming introduced under her sponsorship were “training trainers” workshops for industry and unions, the Institute for Women and Work, the Latino Leadership Program, international worker exchanges, the Northeast Regional Summer School for Union Women, off-campus credit and certificate courses for workers, the Program for Employment and Workplace Systems, and the Cornell-Baruch Master’s Program in New York City.

Lois continued doing research and publishing throughout her career. Her publications dealt with labor market trends, women and minorities in the workforce, training and adult education, labor-management relations in the entertainment industry, and women in union leadership. Another focus of her work was union structure, governance, and administration. Her wide-ranging work resulted in publications such as "A Socioeconomic Profile of Puerto Rican New Yorkers" for U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics and *Under the Stars: Essays on Labor Relations in Arts and Entertainment*, and articles in academic journals including the *Industrial Relations Review*, *Monthly Labor Review*, and *Arbitration Journal*, as well as chapters in books too numerous to mention.

Lois understood what it meant for Cornell to be the land grant university of New York State and the accompanying definition of public service. She was appointed by three governors to chair the New York State Apprenticeship and Training Council and served on the New York State Manpower Training Council and Displaced Homemakers Taskforce. She also served on the boards of directors of various non-profit organizations, ranging from the Regional Plan Association to Non-Traditional Employment for Women to the Workers Defense League.

In recognition of her significant contributions, Lois was the recipient of many honors and awards from academic and civic organizations.
over the years, including the New York Hispanic Labor Committee, the New York State Labor History Association, the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health, and the New York State AFL-CIO. She receive the Alice H. Cook and Constance F. Cook Award for her efforts on behalf of women at Cornell. Both the Labor and Employment Relations Association and the United Association for Labor Education gave Lois their Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Lois was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and spent her childhood in Edmond, Oklahoma, where she completed high school. She received her bachelor’s degree at Park College in Missouri, majoring in Economics, also the subject of her M.A. from the University of Buffalo and Ph.D. at Columbia University. She was married to Ed Gray (deceased), who had been the Regional Director and Member of the International Executive Board of the UAW.

*Written by Ileen A. DeVault, Esta Bigler, Lou Jean Fleron, and Rosemary Batt*
Professor Leopold Gruenfeld, a member of the ILR School faculty from 1962-1998 and emeritus professor, died at Cayuga Medical Center in Ithaca on July 24, 2017. He was 90 years old.

Leo was born in Berlin, Germany in 1927. In response to the rise of the Nazi Party, his family moved to China, and later to the United States, settling in Chicago, Illinois. Beginning in 1948, he spent several years working in the Production Control Unit at Revere Camera Company, and did a two year stint in the U.S. Army Infantry, before pursuing an undergraduate degree at Roosevelt University in Chicago. There, he became interested in psychological research, receiving his baccalaureate in social psychology in 1956. He then applied to the graduate program in psychology at Purdue University, receiving both his Master’s degree in industrial organizational psychology (1957), and Ph.D. degree (1960) in the same field, with minors in statistics and social psychology.

He served as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana from 1958-1962. Two
years after completing his Ph.D., he joined the Department of Organizational Behavior in the ILR School, and played key roles in the School for the next 35 years. He served as the Director of research for the school from 1972-1975, and as the OB Department Chair from 1979-1981. He also served as ILR’s director of the Associate Degree Program (Adult Education Program) for a year.

Over time, he grew increasingly interested in Freudian psychology and was a founder (1984) of the International Society for the Study of Psychoanalysis in Organizations, holding a position as a member of the board of directors for many years. In line with his growing interest in personality studies, he also took a position as a Visiting Research Scientist at the Tavistock Institute in London in 1984. From 1990 until his retirement, he served as a consulting editor for the Journal of Applied Behavioral Science. Throughout his career, he periodically worked as a consultant for a variety of corporations.

Leo’s research and teaching were primarily focused on three main topics: personality, small group processes and leadership. He published over 30 journal articles in these areas, many co-authored with graduate students, along with a variety of book chapters and funded reports for major research foundations.

He was a dedicated teacher, whose classes attracted hundreds of students and, as his colleagues can attest, there were regular queues of students waiting to talk to him during his office hours. His influence on many students is represented in comments from a former ILR undergraduate, who went on to obtain a Ph.D. in Psychology at the University of Illinois and is now on the faculty at London Business School: “Put simply, he had a profound impact on my experience of Cornell, my intellectual interests and the direction of my post-Cornell life…Given my academic interests, he suggested I consider a Ph.D. in Psychology. Of course, given Leo’s candid and gruff manner, he also offered that I was unlikely to be admitted as an ILR undergrad. I took the encouragement part to heart and switched course, dropped my LSAT studies and bought a GRE prep book.” She also makes note of his distinctive classroom manner. “As a junior, I took my first OB elective with Leo and was, by turns,
fascinated and provoked and, sometimes, offended…Leo not only enjoyed his topic and enjoyed sharing it, but also took some pleasure in provoking and teasing the kids in the room.”

Leo retired from the ILR School in 1998 and became an emeritus faculty member in 1999. He is survived by his wife, Irit Gruenfeld, who resides in both Ithaca and Tel Aviv, and two daughters, Deborah Gruenfeld of Palo Alto California, and Dina Gruenfeld of Portland Oregon.

*Written by Pamela S. Tolbert and Samuel B. Bacharach*
David Henderson passed away on December 20, 2018 in Wilmington, Delaware, after being struck by a vehicle the previous day. He was 79 years old.

David was born in Walla Walla, Washington to Reverend William H. Henderson and Kathleen Wilson Henderson. After several moves in his youth, he graduated from Ames High School in Iowa in 1957. He earned degrees in Physics, Philosophy and Mathematics from Swarthmore College in 1961. David added Mathematics as a late major at the suggestion of a professor who pointed out to him that his true passion was geometry. David’s first mathematics research paper on the geometry of Venn diagrams with more than four classes (an unsolved problem until then) evolved from a college course on the philosophy of logic during his senior year at Swarthmore. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin in 1964 under the direction of R.H. Bing. His thesis, titled “Extensions of Dehn’s Lemma and the loop theorem”, was closely related to his discovery of an error in a widely publicized “proof” of the Poincaré Conjecture, one of the great 20th
century problems in geometry, finally solved in the early 2000s. He spent two postdoctoral years at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. During this time David produced a notable example in dimension theory - an infinite-dimensional compact metrizable space with the property that every proper closed subset has dimension zero or infinity. In 1965, David solved a famous problem known in the Soviet Union as “Problema Tumarkina” and in Poland as “Problem Mazurkiewicza” – he constructed an example of an infinite-dimensional continuum (compact connected metric space) with no positive-dimensional sub-continua (or sub-compacta). He was asked to present this result in a special session of the 1966 International Congress of Mathematicians in Moscow.

In fall of 1966, David Henderson joined the Cornell Math Department. Here he became interested in infinite-dimensional topology as it relates to analysis and shifted his focus to infinite-dimensional vector spaces and the manifolds modeled on them. David published 37 research papers and the books *Differential Geometry, a Geometric Introduction* and *Experiencing Geometry – Euclidean and Non-Euclidean with history* (3rd edition with Daina Taimina). At the time of his death he was working on 4th edition. David had typeset all his and Daina’s books, something he really enjoyed doing. David retired from Cornell in 2012 after teaching here 46 years.

In the 1970s, David’s interests turned to Math Education. He joined the field of Graduate Education and over the next four decades he played a central role in supervising some 40 theses. He also directed the Teacher Education program for secondary school teachers. His steadfast efforts in this area over the decades were recognized by Ithaca High School Math teachers who placed a plaque in the Math Department with David’s photo and the inscription “The IHS Math Department honors the memory of Cornell Professor David Henderson. He inspired us and influenced what we teach and how we teach it. We are deeply grateful.”

With Leonard Silver he started a Calculus sequence with exam tutorials in which students worked at their own pace and took exams
when they felt they were ready. While this experiment was short-lived, it resulted in the creation of the Math Support Center (MSC) in 1979. The MSC, staffed by undergraduate tutors, is a place where students can drop in to get assistance in basic math classes. It continues to function today and is a very popular. Over the years, David developed many courses, the calculus tutorial class, courses aimed at math majors, some at students interested in Math Education, and some at those in the Biological and Social Sciences. He also developed Math Explorations, a course accessible to all students. David thought geometrically, often bringing visual aids to class such as a globe or surface of negative curvature. He continued his work in Math Education (or as he called it, Educational Mathematics) well into his retirement, often speaking at and organizing conferences.

In 2005, he accepted an invitation to join the core curriculum development team of the Algebra Project. This initiative helps ensure that all students learn the mathematics they need to enter college and not require remedial courses. In 2011, David joined a project to develop and research coherent curricula for K-5 mathematics and science. He wrote the geometry curriculum for this project. In 2016, he joined a research project “Function Learning Progressions,” affiliated with both the Algebra Project and the nonprofit Educational Testing Service.

David took his mission of education to far flung places, taking extended visits to Moscow and Warsaw in the 1970s, Birzeit University in Palestine in 1980 and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem where he organized joint seminars for Jewish and Palestinian mathematicians. In 1995, one year after the first free elections, he gave multiple workshops at mathematical meetings across South Africa. He participated in two International Commission of Mathematics Instruction Studies in 1995 (Italy) and 1998 (Singapore). In 2000, he was a Fulbright Scholar in the University of Latvia in Riga, Latvia, and visited Tartu University, Estonia.

Since his childhood, David loved nature and tried to be outdoors as
much as he could. His children fondly remember family camping trips and long car trips across United States and in Europe. David had excellent carpentry skills, he loved building things himself and always had some ongoing project at home. He loved music, playing piano and travel. Despite physical limitations due to his health, he travelled to Brazil and to Latvia at the age of 79 and was planning a trip to Morocco in 2019. He is survived by his siblings William (Bill) Henderson, Stephen Henderson and Marjorie Ogilvie; his wife Daina Taimina, his children Keith Henderson, Rebecca Wynne, Lelde Taimina-Tzou and Linda Taimina and four grandchildren Lisa (Linden) and Abigail Henderson, Erin and Liam Wynne.

Written by Ravi Ramakrishna (chair), Robert Connelly, Peter Kahn, and Daina Taimina
Donald Frank Holcomb died, in Ithaca, New York, on August 9, 2018. He was a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He also served as a NATO senior visiting fellow in Oslo, Norway in 1962; as a Guggenheim Fellow at the University of Kent, United Kingdom in 1968-69; and as a Science Research Council visiting fellow at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, in 1978. He was director of the Laboratory of Atomic and Solid State Physics from 1964-1968, and chair of the Department of Physics from 1969-1974 and 1982-1986. He served as a faculty-elected member of the Cornell Board of Trustees during 1976-1981. He was president of the American Association of Physics Teachers in 1987-88, and received its Oersted Medal in 1996 for “notable contributions to the teaching of physics”.

Don’s physics research involved spin resonance phenomena, metal-insulator transitions in disordered systems, and non-stoichiometric transition metal oxides. He trained 16 Ph.D. students, several postdoctoral associates, and had productive collaborations with colleagues in Norway, Scotland, USSR, and South Africa. He was an active leader in physics education, and proponent of physics education research. He was instrumental in setting the pedagogical agenda for key
courses at Cornell, and was part of a national debate about best practices in physics education. With co-author Philip Morrison, he wrote a textbook for non-science students entitled “My Father’s Watch: Aspects of the Physical World.”

His service to the university was commendable: In addition to his leadership roles, he was a notable presence at University Faculty meetings during very trying times in the 1960s and 1970s. Don had a talent for identifying and concisely summarizing the pertinent points in complex issues, in a way that brought opposing factions to a common understanding.

Don was born in Chesterton, Indiana. He grew up in Wood River, Illinois, attended DePauw University, and served two years in the US Navy. He subsequently earned a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign on the subject of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance in Alkali Metals. He came to Cornell in 1954 as an instructor in physics. He became an assistant professor in 1956, associate professor in 1958, and a full professor in 1962. He retired, and became an emeritus professor in 1995.

Don was passionate about the outdoors, with a particular fondness for cross-country skiing. He was an ordained elder and choir member of the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca. He had a clear style, sporting distinctive string ties. For many years, he was involved in a notorious car pool with fellow physicists Bob Silsbee and Bob Cotts, where they drove an automobile which was largely held together by ingenuity and wishes. He made real human connections both in the Physics Department, and in the larger community.

Don was a loving husband and father. He married Barbara Page in 1950, and had three children, Douglas, Jane, and Nancy. Barbara passed away in 1998. He was close with his children, his six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Written by Erich Mueller, John Reppy, and James Sethna
Harry Kesten, Ph.D. ’58, the Goldwin Smith Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, died March 29, 2019 in Ithaca at the age of 87. His wife, Doraline, passed three years earlier. He is survived by his son Michael Kesten ’90.

Through his pioneering work on key models of Statistical Mechanics including Percolation Theory, and his novel solutions to highly significant problems, Harry Kesten shaped and transformed entire areas of Mathematics. He is recognized worldwide as one of the greatest contributors to Probability Theory during the second half of the twentieth century. Harry’s work was mostly theoretical in nature but he always maintained a keen interest for the applications of probability theory to the real world and studied problems arising from other sciences including physics, population growth and biology.

Harry was born in Duisburg, Germany, in 1931. He moved to Holland with his parents in 1933 and, somehow, survived the Second World War. In 1956, he was studying at the University of Amsterdam and working half-time as a research assistant for Professor D. Van Dantzig. As he was finishing his undergraduate degree, he wrote to the world
famous mathematician Mark Kac to enquire if he could possibly receive a graduate fellowship to study probability theory at Cornell, perhaps for a year. At the time, Harry was considered a Polish subject (even though he had never been in Poland) and carried a passport of the international refugee organization. A fellowship was arranged and Harry joined the mathematics graduate program at Cornell that summer.

During the year 1957-58, Harry held the Erastus Brooks Fellowship in Mathematics and, at the end of his second academic year at Cornell, he defended a thesis in which he created a new research area, random walks on groups. This remains a very active area of scholarship around the world today. It is an understatement to say that Harry impressed his Cornell professors during the two years of his graduate studies.

Upon earning his Ph.D., he married Doraline (they had met earlier, in Amsterdam), and took a one-year instructorship at Princeton. For the next year, he accepted a position at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Indeed, Harry had long thought about emigrating to Israel. The couple had barely received their furniture and unpacked in Jerusalem when Harry received a letter from R. Walker, the chair of Mathematics at Cornell, indicating the department’s strong desire to bring Harry back at the earliest possible time.

After two fruitful years at the Hebrew University, Harry accepted a visiting assistant professor position at Cornell and returned in the fall of 1961. In May 1962, he was promoted to the rank of associate professor. Despite being sought out by other institutions, he stayed at Cornell for his entire career.

The story of Probability Theory at Cornell, from Mark Kac’ arrival in 1939 to the recent deaths of Eugene Dynkin and Harry Kesten, is one of extraordinary excellence and achievements. The year 1961-62 was pivotal with the departure of Marc Kac and the arrival of Harry Kesten and Frank Spitzer who would form the backbone of the Probability Group for thirty years. Harry was promoted to the rank of full professor in 1965 and became the Goldwin Smith Professor of Mathematics in 1999. He retired in 2002 and remained very active until he was weakened by health issues. He enjoyed working with younger colleagues and they enjoyed working with him.
Harry has been described as one of the greatest problem solvers in Probability Theory and his technical power and ability to bulldoze seemingly insurmountable difficulties is legendary among those who have worked closely with him. But his work has also provided essential building blocks for further studies. Some of the most active areas of current research in probability have been shaped by his contributions.

The theory of random walk on groups, the subject of Harry’s thesis, is a singular point in his body of work. Even though Harry’s two main papers on this subject are, today, among his most cited, it took one or two decades before others started to build upon Harry’s ideas on this subject. The problem of recurrence (classifying those groups on which a random walk returns to its starting point infinitely often with probability 1), a problem known as Kesten’s problem, was only solved in full generality by N. Varopoulos in 1985. During the years he spent in Jerusalem, Harry collaborated with Hillel Furstenberg on products of random matrices, a related subject whose applications are ubiquitous. He also tackled a variety of hard problems that impressed those who came into contact with him. The legendary mathematician Paul Erdös wrote to the department in 1962 “he is, in fact, one of the best young mathematicians I know.”

At Cornell, Harry and Frank Spitzer embarked on a long lasting collaboration and friendship that produced eight articles including several landmark works, in particular around the theory of random walks on abelian groups. Meanwhile, both became involved in rather different ways in studying models related to Physics and Statistical Mechanics. Spitzer developed the subject of particle systems whereas Harry tried his hands at some of the simplest and hardest models for random phenomena studied by physicists. He worked on self-avoiding random walks, branching processes (with Stigum, and Ney and Spitzer), growth models such as diffusion limited aggregation, first passage percolation, random walk in a random environment (with Kozlov and Spitzer) and, last but not least, percolation theory.

Here, percolation refers to an idealized model aimed at understanding the phenomenon of a substance percolating through a porous medium. Examples of real life interest vary from the making of your morning coffee to the confinement of nuclear waste and brine percolation.
through sea ice (salinity is an important measurable factor from which
the thickness of the ice sheet and other key properties can be inferred).
A simple description of the model goes as follows. Consider the square
lattice in dimension two or higher. Now, imagine that each edge of this
lattice is a conducting channel that is either left open with probability
$p$, or removed with probability $1 - p$, independently. If $p = 0$, all
dges are removed and the lattice becomes a set of isolated nodes. If
$p = 1$, all edges are open and it is possible to start at the origin and
percolate to infinity. One question is to decide, for a given $p$, if
percolation to infinity can occur. In fact, there is a critical value $p_c$ so
that for $p < p_c$ there is no percolation and for $p > p_c$ percolation does
occur. Computing the critical value $p_c$, in a given dimension, is a
difficult challenge. Harry’s 1980 landmark paper on the subject is titled
“The critical probability of bond percolation on the square lattice
equals $\frac{1}{2}$. ” It solves the problem in dimension 2 while the values of
$p_c$ in dimension 3 or higher remain unknown to this day. Harry’s book
“Percolation theory for mathematicians” published in 1982 laid out the
foundation of the mathematical theory of percolation models. His work
on critical exponents and other deep aspects of percolation theory
remains extremely significant and influential in today’s research.

Through his work and his collaborations around the world, Harry has
touched many a mathematician’s career. He supervised the work of 18
graduate students including one at the Hebrew University, fourteen
from the Cornell Mathematics Department, and one each in Operation
Research, Electrical Engineering, and the Center of Applied
Mathematics.

The International Congress of Mathematicians has been organized
every four years since 1896 and being invited to speak at the Congress
once in one’s career is one of the most coveted honors among
mathematicians. Harry was invited on three occasions to speak about
his work. In 1970, in Nice, France he spoke on “Hitting of sets by
processes with independent increments.” In 1983, in Warsaw, Poland
he spoke on percolation. In 2002, in Beijing, China he gave one of
twenty plenary lectures, speaking on “Some Highlights of Percolation.”
He also spoke at the 2012 Congress, in Hyderabad, India on the work
of Stanislav Smirnov who was awarded the Fields Medal for his work
on percolation models and conformal invariance.
Harry’s work and achievements earned him many honors. He held a Sloan Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship, he delivered the Hedrick Lecture (Mathematical Association of America) and the Rietz and Wald Lectures (Institute of Mathematical Statistics). He was a recipient of the Brouwer Medal from the Royal Dutch Mathematical Society (1981), the George Pólya Prize from the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics (1994), and the Leroy P. Steele Prize for lifetime achievement from the American Mathematical Society (2001). He was a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, an inaugural Fellow of the American Mathematical Society, a Correspondent Member of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences (1980), a Member of the National Academy of Sciences (1983), and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1999).

In Ithaca, Harry rode his bicycle over the hilly landscape. A member of the Ithaca swim club, he swam regularly, always with a gentle constant rhythm. He loved really long walks. A fearless, powerful mathematician, he was also discreet and modest. He followed his Jewish faith. He spoke publicly on behalf of mathematicians around the world who are oppressed. In the mathematics department, at Cornell, and around the world, he was a beloved and much admired colleague.

Written by Laurent Saloff-Coste (chair) and Len Gross
Donald J. Lisk

May 12, 1930 – April 27, 2019

Donald J. Lisk, professor emeritus of soil chemistry and toxicology and a champion of graduate education, died April 27, 2019. He was 88.

Don grew up in Buffalo, New York, surrounded by many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Later in life, he would recall many fond memories of those early years. He earned his B.A. in Chemistry at the University of Buffalo in 1952. He completed his M.S. ('54) and Ph.D. ('56) in Soil Chemistry at Cornell University. In 1956, Don became the Director of Cornell's Pesticide Residue Lab (later the Toxic Chemicals Laboratory), a position he would hold until his retirement.

Don and his research team specialized in such areas as the analysis of pesticides (DDT and others) in soils, plants and animals; toxic effects in occupationaLly-exposed populations; and, the dietary inhibition of cancer. One study in the early 1970's examined the use of flame retardants in children's pajamas. When all the goldfish in large tanks died after the fabric was added to the water, red flags
went up in the industry. In Don's words, it also "proved that goldfish should never wear kids' pajamas."

Don was an early proponent of foods as “nutraceuticals” including the value of crops like garlic, onions, and other foods high in selenium. “He was particularly interested in the relationship among horticultural practices, pesticide use and cancer incidence, having strong collaborations with the Roswell Park Cancer Center in Buffalo,” said Marvin Pritts, professor of horticulture.

Don’s departmental affiliations shifted from entomology to food science, and finally, to the Department of Vegetable Crops. He retired as a professor emeritus in 1995 from the Department of Fruit and Vegetable Science. Retirement did not slow him down. A post-retirement rehire agreement allowed him to continue to lead the Toxic Chemicals Laboratory, and he worked as a faculty member in the fruit and vegetable science department until 1999. From 2002 through 2004, he conducted research with colleagues in the Department of Horticulture, which is now an integral Section of the School of Integrative Plant Science.

During his lengthy career at Cornell, Don authored approximately 500 journal publications detailing his research. He also acted as a graduate advisor and informal mentor to many students over the years. “Although Don was primarily a researcher, he was committed to graduate students and, upon his retirement, left a substantial amount of unrestricted funds to the Department of Horticulture to support graduate education,” said Marvin Pritts. “Don was always willing to take time to learn about what others were doing and share exciting findings from his own work.”

Along with advising and mentoring many students over his career, Don was a reviewer for the National Institutes of Health, the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Library of Medicine. He collaborated with Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo and served as a consultant to review panels for the National Academy of Sciences, the Exxon Research and Engineering Co.,
and General Electric Co. Don served on multiple editorial boards for scientific journals, as well.

Following his retirement, Don enjoyed extensive travel in the United States, Canada, Europe, Central America, Australia, and New Zealand, with his wife and friends. He volunteered weekly with Loaves & Fishes of Tompkins County, and was an usher and greeter at Holy Cross Church in Freeville, as well as a member of their Buildings and Grounds committee. During retirement, he also rekindled a childhood hobby of word working, building and giving away over 1,000 birdhouses.

From an early age, Don loved singing, whistling and listening to music. As a young boy, while helping his stepfather build their house, he became determined to build his own house one day. Shortly after his marriage to Nan in 1959, he began building their home in Freeville, New York where they would eventually raise their four children. During his working years, he took daily walks around the Cornell Botanic Gardens. Don also liked to garden, attend lectures, theatre, and musical performances. Most of all, Don enjoyed making others laugh. He wrote and recited countless humorous poems about friends, memorable events, trips taken, and colleagues retiring, all in his signature rhyming style.

Don is survived by his wife of 59 years, Nanette (Riester) Lisk of Freeville, New York; daughters Sue Lisk of Silver Spring, Maryland; Marion (Bryan) French of Conesus, New York; Eileen Lisk (David Long) of Saint Petersburg, Florida; son Tom (Robin) Lisk of Mukilteo, Washington; and grandsons Jacob French, Noah French and Bryan Mendives.

Written by Steve Reiners
David Phillip Mankin
June 16, 1957 – April 24, 2019

Classics Professor David Mankin, known to generations of Cornell students as the teacher of the inimitable "Greek Mythology" course (Classics 2604), passed away April 24 at his home after a serious but brief illness. He was 61. “Dave,” as he was universally known, came to Cornell as a postdoctoral fellow in 1985, having received a B.A. at Harvard and a Ph.D. at the University of Virginia with an innovative dissertation comparing the classical Latin Epodes of Horace with the archaic Greek iambic poetry of Archilochus. In 1988, he was appointed assistant professor, and associate professor in 1994. Dave took early retirement, as associate professor emeritus.

Dave’s writings on Latin literature resulted in two major commentaries in the Cambridge University Press series: a pathbreaking contribution on a little-studied text, Horace's Epodes, of which a reviewer more inclined to be critical (experto credite) wrote “the annotation is rich, well-informed, and does not hesitate to cover very different sectors (prosody, metrics, anthropology for example); this is the first time that so much information is found assembled in a commentary on the Epodes.” "(G. Liberman, Revue
de philologie 1995 176). The second was on the concluding book of Cicero's *De Oratore*, where his challenge was to digest and focus a massive four-author commentary and several monographs into an accessible single-volume guide to the Latin text. *The Journal of Roman Studies* 2012 (K. Tempest. 377-8) called it "essential reading," and a rival commentator wrote, "I doubt if I could improve on his comments … on Cicero's many new and original approaches to *ornatus* [rhetorical ornamentation], our commentator excels…Everywhere Mankin provides what is needed in both explanation and criticism" (E. Fantham, *Mnemosyne* 2012 830-1).

In the fall of 1988, he began teaching his famous Greek Mythology class, which was cross listed with Comparative Literature. It was not intended to be a large course (it had no sections or TA's): insisted on using only original sources, on varying the material and introducing current scholarship, in hopes that some of the students would pursue it further. But his lectures, mixing Hesiod and the *Odyssey* with cartoons and popular movies, and his personal style (sunglasses, Red Sox cap, high top sneakers) quickly made it hugely popular. He won the Clark Teaching Award in 1991, and an enthusiastic following of those who could get into the course (usually seniors, it was always oversubscribed) until his retirement. He revived it one final time for the trustee – counsel annual meeting "back to the classroom" that same year.

Dave served throughout the ‘90s as the Classics Department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies and began a career of mentoring undergraduate classics students in independent studies, senior theses, and graduate students in dissertations, and teaching a wide variety of courses on Latin poetry. They remember him with special warmth:

“Dave Mankin was my adviser, teacher, advocate, critic, sage, and friend.” James Harberson ’95

“Dave was my lifelong mentor since my summer college experience when I was a junior in high school” Robert Berstein ’97
“Professor David Mankin was a scholar of the first rank, and an even greater human. I recall nearly my entire Cornell experience as one extended tutorial with Professor Mankin...Dave was both an authority and a resolutely encouraging teacher. Dave guided us all to our best selves, with plenty of mischief and humor along the way. His capacity for compassion exceeded his erudition, which he wore lightly and effortlessly.” Michael McDonough '96

“Dave Mankin is one of the single most generous people and one of the most inspiring undergraduate teachers I have ever met. And I think he would prefer me to say those two things in that order.” Lauren Ginsberg '03

“He was also the loyal champion of so many like me. Even when I left academia, he supported my decisions and we stayed in touch. What a blessing to have such a generous spirit.” Elizabeth Franzino ‘90

“I always think of Dave when I am dealing with a struggling student. I always recall his kindness, clemency and willingness to help all of his students. I always think of primum non nocere, that his first duty toward his students and advisees was to do no harm and provide the support emotional and educational that was needed. I try to carry this with me every day as a teacher and I have found that it is not necessarily an easy thing to do.” Molly LaPorte '99

Local friends of Dave gathered to remember him at Indian Creek Farm in Ithaca on his birthday. On September 20, 2019 Lauren Ginsberg ‘03, now an associate professor of Classics at the University of Cincinnati, delivered a public lecture, “Nostalgia, Ruins, Lament: Listening to Captive Women in the Hercules on Mt. Oeta” to the Classics department, for family, friends, and former students, in Dave’s memory.

Written by Jeffrey Rusten and Michael Fontaine
Richard McNeil, professor emeritus in the Department of Natural Resources, died September 25, 2018 in Ithaca, at age 85.

McNeil was known for international conservation, bringing perspectives from the social sciences into the study and management of wildlife, and broadening the Department of Natural Resources curriculum by advocating for environmental sciences and ethics courses.

“Dick had a significant impact on thousands of students and helped set the trajectory of the Department of Natural Resources,” said Jim Lassoie, professor of natural resources.

McNeil received his bachelor’s (1954) and master’s degrees (1957) from Michigan State University, and his doctorate (1963) from the University of Michigan in fish, game and wildlife management, with a dissertation on farmer perceptions of deer damage in Michigan. He joined Cornell’s faculty in 1964 and became emeritus in 1999.
As a faculty member, he made a mark on his field by arguing for the importance of ethics in wildlife management. In 1998, he published an important paper, “Ethics Primer for University Students Intending to Become Natural Resources Managers and Administrators.”

“Dick was a wildlife biologist who realized that policy makers and the public were central to the successful management of wildlife in specific and natural resources in general,” Lassoie said. He added that McNeil was the department’s first totally environmentally-focused faculty member, and helped move the department beyond its historical focus on the management of forests, fish, and wildlife.

Thanks to McNeil and others, “today we are truly an interdisciplinary unit of social as well as biological applied scientists,” Lassoie said.

McNeil also worked to broaden the Department of Natural Resources teaching mission to embrace the interdisciplinary environmental sciences.

Daniel Decker, professor emeritus in the Department of Natural Resources, was a teaching assistant under McNeil in the mid-1970s. Decker noted that McNeil took a keen interest in helping graduate students learn about teaching methods and make them better instructors.

McNeil received the SUNY Chancellor’s Award of Excellence in Teaching in 1994 and the CALS Edgerton Career Teaching Award in 1996.

He was predeceased by his wife, Mary Ann, and is survived by a daughter and son.

Written by Krishna Ramanujan
First published in the Cornell Chronicle on October 31, 2018
Tapan Mitra, Goldwin Smith Professor of Economics, passed away in Ithaca on February 3, 2019. A prolific researcher, he was a leading mathematical economist of his generation: duly acknowledged for his high standards of scholarship, a rare analytical power, and a fascinating range. He joined the Cornell faculty in 1981 and made a lasting impact on the academic program of the field of economics as a teacher, mentor, administrator and benefactor.

Professor Mitra was born on July 18, 1948 in Kolkata, India. He earned a B.A. degree with first class honors in Economics standing first in the university from Presidency College, Kolkata, in 1968. He joined the Delhi School of Economics and completed his M.A. in Economics with a first in first class. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Rochester in 1973. Before coming to Cornell, he taught at the University of Rochester, the University of Illinois, Chicago, and the State University of New York, Stony Brook. He held visiting appointments at the London School of Economics and Political Science (1982), the University of
Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (1986), and the University of Pennsylvania (1987).

Professor Mitra made definitive contributions to the literature on efficiency and equity of intertemporal allocation of resources. His ability to grasp the basic structure of an economic model and to construct and restructure long and intricate chains of reasoning enabled him to move seemingly effortlessly from one research topic to another including, among others, the role of prices in achieving social goals in a decentralized economy; the complex and chaotic nature of evolution of an economy; renewable and exhaustible resources, their sustainability and extinction; choice of techniques in development planning; forestry management; and representation of preferences over time. He had the talent to explore challenging issues that he identified as fundamental, irrespective of whether or not these were topical or popular. With his rigor and precision, he was able to redefine the frontiers of the topics that he touched, often through clear and thoughtful examples and counterexamples.

Professor Mitra served on the editorial boards of several journals, including *Economic Theory* and *International Journal of Economic Theory* at their inception.

He held an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship from 1981-83. He was elected a Fellow of the Econometric Society in 1997 and a Fellow of The Society for The Advancement of Economic Theory in 2017.

Professor Mitra was a gifted teacher and mentor at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. For years, he taught some of the "core" courses on microeconomics and mathematical methods in the graduate program, and the basic microeconomics course for undergraduate majors. He was particularly appreciated for his thorough and impeccable organization of the material, his clarity of presentation, and a high level of scholarship. Several eminent Cornell graduate students continued fruitful collaboration with him and sought his advice and guidance throughout their careers. To celebrate his sixtieth birthday, his colleagues and collaborators around the world participated in a conference at Cornell in July.
2008. The proceedings of the conference were published in 2010 as a special issue of *International Journal of Economic Theory* on growth, sustainability and equilibria. Despite failing health, he remained active in several projects till the end. The gathering at Cornell in 2018 to mark his seventieth birthday was a testament to his life-long passion for exploration.

Professor Mitra served as the chair of the Department of Economics over the periods 1993-1998 and 1999-2002. He also served as the director of graduate studies in the field of economics for the years 2005-2010. His love for the department was underscored towards the end of his career by his generous endowment of the Tapan Mitra prizes for graduate and undergraduate students. The endowment, in his words, was a "concrete expression of my continuing attachment to this great institution of learning."

He was attached to his students and colleagues, and his departure is a great loss to Cornell and to the economic theory community.

*Written by Mukul Majumdar (chair), Kaushik Basu, and Larry Blume*
Robert A. Plane, a professor emeritus of chemistry who served as the university’s eighth provost during the tumultuous late 1960s and early 1970s, later becoming an innovative Finger Lakes vintner, died August 6, 2018 at his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was 90.

He also served as president of Clarkson University and Wells College, co-authored a widely used collegiate chemistry textbook, and directed the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, now Cornell AgriTech, in Geneva, New York.

Plane had been on sabbatical leave from Cornell at the University at California, Berkeley, during turbulent times on the Cornell campus that included the Willard Straight Hall occupation in April 1969 and the resignation of President James Perkins.

When Plane returned to campus, he served on the presidential search committee and was sent to ask, then provost, Dale R. Corson to assume the presidency. Corson agreed to become the university’s
president in summer 1969, on the condition that Plane become provost. Plane agreed, and the Cornell Board of Trustees voted for him to become provost in September.

“I backed into the job,” he recalled. As provost, he helped Corson negotiate a critical era in the university’s history, marked by student protests for civil rights and against the Vietnam War.

In November 1972, Plane stepped down from his provost duties to meet personal, publishing and research deadlines.

Plane served as Clarkson University’s 12th president from 1974-1985; at the time, the second-longest presidency in its history. After leaving Clarkson, Plane returned to Cornell to lead the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva from 1986 to 1990. He was president of Wells College from 1991 to 1995.

Plane and Michell J. Sienko, Cornell professor of chemistry, published the seminal collegiate textbook chemistry in 1957, which became the world’s most widely used college chemistry book. His other books were Experimental Chemistry, in 1958; Physical Inorganic Chemistry, 1963; Elements of Inorganic Chemistry, 1965; and Chemistry: Principles and Properties, 1966.

Plane and his wife, Mary, purchased waterfront Cayuga Lake farmland in Ovid, New York, in 1964 and opened Plane’s Cayuga Vineyard in 1972. In hope of drawing visitors and prompting wine sales, the Planes worked with other wineries to establish the Cayuga Wine Trail – the first of its kind in the U.S. – in 1983. The Plane’s vineyard is now Cayuga Ridge Estate and the Thirsty Owl Wine Co.

Robert Allen Plane was born September 30, 1927, in Evansville, Indiana. He attended Evansville College (now the University of Evansville), graduating with a bachelor’s degree, magna cum laude, in 1948. Plane earned his Ph.D. in 1951 from the University of Chicago and worked for Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee.
In 1952, Plane joined Cornell as an instructor in chemistry. He received tenure in 1958 and became a full professor in 1962.

Plane is also survived by his wife of 55 years, Mary, four children and his sister.

Written by Blaine Friedlander
First published in the Cornell Chronicle on August 15, 2018
Dr. Rosario Provvidenti, or Rosie as he was known to his friends and colleagues, was born in Gela, Sicily in 1921 and passed away on February 1, 2019 at the age of 97. Dr Provvidenti’s early life was not easy, among other problems he survived childhood malaria. Later, he was to survive ulcers and removal of much of his stomach, bladder and prostate cancer, and a tumor above his brain.

In 1942, he received a bachelor’s degree in agricultural sciences at the University of Catania, which is on the island of Sicily. In 1947, he received a doctorate in microbiology from the University of Palermo, Sicily. During the intervening years he served as an officer in the Italian army and before World War II ended he became a lieutenant in the intelligence branch of the British army. While commanding a convoy of British trucks he endured multiple dive-bombing attacks by the Luftwaffe, in which 90% of the drivers were killed.

After receiving his doctorate, Dr. Provvidenti served as an assistant professor of plant pathology at the Agricultural Technical Institute
in Siracusa, Sicily from 1947-1950. He then immigrated to the United States and worked for Polytron Corporation in White Plains, New York from 1950-1954. In 1954, he joined Cornell University in a staff position with the title of Experimentalist in the Department of Plant Pathology at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, New York, commonly known as the “Geneva Experiment Station” and more recently named Cornell Agri-Tech. He proved to be an excellent researcher and was promoted to research associate. In 1972, he was permitted to lead his own research project, something highly unusual for a research associate but well deserved because of his success as a researcher. His productive and excellent research subsequently led to his being promoted to senior research associate. His rise on the academic ladder continued and in a very rare move he was promoted from senior research associate to professor. He continued to excel in this capacity and in 1987 he was awarded the title of Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of Plant Pathology, of which there were only ten in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the time. Following retirement in 1991 he was awarded the title of Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology.

Dr. Provvidenti became recognized as one of the world’s foremost authorities on diseases of vegetable crops caused by viruses. Before the advent of modern serological and molecular techniques to identify viruses, Dr. Provvidenti learned to recognize different viruses using plant bioassay methods. This consisted of inoculating different cultivars (varieties) and species of plants in the greenhouse with unknown viruses and comparing the symptoms that developed and the host-range observed to those caused by known specific viruses. He then went on to search for resistance to these viruses by inoculating many cultivars or close wild relatives of the vegetable being studied with a specific strain (variant) of the virus. This was followed by determining the genetics of resistance. A total of 70 resistance genes were identified and characterized as dominant or recessive in these crops: bean (12 genes), bottle gourd (6), chicory (4), Chinese cabbage (4), cowpea (2), cucumber (3), eggplant (1), lettuce (2), luffa (2), melon (2), pea (13), squash (8), soybean (1), spinach (2), spiny cucumber (3), tomato (2), and watermelon (3).
Provvidenti was always eager to make the sources of resistance he discovered available to researchers, geneticists and plant breeders throughout the world where they often were used to develop varieties of vegetable crops with resistance to specific virus diseases. Among these were virus-resistant cultivars of bean, gourd, cabbage, cucumber, lettuce, pea, squash, spinach, tomato, melons and watermelons.

In addition to his research on viral diseases, early in his career at Cornell he also participated in research on diseases of vegetable crops caused by fungi. In 1969, Dr. Provvidenti coauthored a very significant finding for the first time that a fungal pathogen \( \text{(Sphaerotheca fuliginea, causing the powdery mildew disease on cucurbits)} \) had become resistant to a benzimidazole fungicide (benomyl).

The key characteristics of Dr. Provvidenti’s success was his keen observation of plants; his tireless search for new bioassay plants to identify viruses; and his endless inoculation of plants with different strains of viruses to discover new sources of genes for resistance. He was a hands-on researcher who carried out his work both in the greenhouse and the field, and was always available to provide information to agricultural extension workers and others in New York and elsewhere. All who knew him appreciated his great enthusiasm and dedication for his work, whether by just talking with him or following him at a fast pace as he led them to the greenhouse to see his latest discovery or showed them his field trials.

Dr. Provvidenti’s knowledge and unique expertise were increasingly sought by plant pathologists and plant breeders in the United States and other countries. This included consulting with companies producing vegetable seeds in the United States, Japan, Taiwan and other countries. His first international assignment was in 1978, where he spent six months in the Greek sector of Cyprus identifying viruses infecting vegetable and ornamental crops. In 1980, he participated as an invited speaker at the first international symposium on Chinese cabbage, which was held in Japan. In addition, he presented a series of lectures in China and South Korea.
on resistance to virus diseases of vegetable, most of which were translated into Chinese. During his travels Dr. Provvidenti collected wild and domesticated seeds of many vegetable crops, including collections made in Turkey, Greece and other countries. These seeds were deposited in USDA germplasm conservation facilities in the United States for future evaluation for genes conferring resistance to virus diseases. Beginning in 1983, Dr. Provvidenti and a Cornell plant breeder made several trips to Egypt that were funded by the US Agency for International Development to consult with Egyptians on viral diseases of vegetables.

Among Dr. Provvidenti’s accolades are the Award of Merit from the Northeastern Division of the American Phytopathological Society in 1985 and his selection as a Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society in 1986. Dr. Provvidenti also received the “Meritorious Service Award” from the Bean Improvement Cooperative in 1991 and the “Certificate of Recognition” from the American Society of Horticultural Sciences at the Cucurbitaceae meeting in 1998. Documentation for these awards was based on the impact of his research and outreach as well as to his being author or co-author of more than 200 publications.

Rosie was a great scholar of European history and current affairs, kept up to date in earlier years by reading the New York Times from cover to cover, and later doing the same with the Economist. He was a history buff in general, but especially in the history of Italy as a country, and particularly the cultural diversity of his home island of Sicily.

Dr. Provvidenti’s specific contributions to agricultural science is perhaps topped only by his enthusiasm for plant pathology, his insistence on high standards, his dedication to helping others, and his genuine friendship for all who interacted with him.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Margaret, and he is survived by a son, a daughter and six grandchildren.

Written by James E. Hunter, George S. Abawi, and Herb S. Aldwinckle
Dr. Thomas J. Reimers passed away on January 23, 2019 at the Ithaca Hospicare Residence with his friends at his bedside. Tom chose to write his own obituary, which is presented below followed by comments by some of us who knew him.

“Thomas J. Reimers, professor emeritus of endocrinology at Cornell University, was born on June 26, 1945, in West Point, Nebraska, and grew up on the family farm near there. A distinguished scholar in animal endocrinology, Dr. Reimers joined the Cornell faculty in 1978 and retired in 1999. He served as director of the Endocrinology Laboratory in the Diagnostic Laboratory at the College of Veterinary Medicine. He was also director of the Office of Research and Development Services in the college. His research efforts centered on thyroid, adrenal, pancreatic, and reproductive function and dysfunction in animals. Dr. Reimers obtained the B.S. degree in 1967 from the University of Nebraska, the M.S. degree in 1969 from the University of Illinois, and the Ph.D. degree in 1974 from the University of Illinois. He was a post-doctoral fellow and a research associate at Colorado State University from 1974 to 1978. In 1998,
he received the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Clinical Chemistry granted by the Division of Animal Clinical Chemistry of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry.

Dr. Reimers had a great love for the outdoors of New York State. He spent much of his time hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, birding, and enjoying wildflowers, snakes, salamanders, wild mushrooms, trees, ferns, and other local flora and fauna. Dr. Reimers helped build and maintain several sections of the Finger Lakes Trail, North Country National Scenic Trail, and Cayuga Trail. He was president of the Cayuga Trails Club, Inc., for six years, the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc., for three years, and the North Country Trail Association, Inc., for three years. He also served as president of the Finger Lakes Land Trust for one year and was on the Land Trust’s board of directors for nine years. He received the Wallace D. Wood Distinguished Service Award in 1998 and the Howard S. Beye Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008 from the Finger Lakes Trail Conference. He was named Conservationist of the Year by the Finger Lakes Land Trust in 2006. Tom received the Richard B. Fischer Award for Environmental Conservation from the Town of Ithaca in 2009. He was also active in his Ithaca neighborhood having served as president of the Eastwood Commons Residents Association for nine years.

Dr. Reimers was predeceased by his parents, Perry and Mildred Reimers and brother Jerry. Survivors include his sister-in-law Cecelia Reimers, nephew Daniel Reimers, nieces Janet Essman and Linda Reimers, and the center of his life, Suzie the cat.

Tom was hired in 1978 to create an endocrinology laboratory in what is now known as the Animal Health Diagnostic Center. As with all Cornell endeavors there were high hopes for Tom and the laboratory; those hopes were met. When Tom retired as director of the Diagnostic Endocrinology Laboratory, in November 1999. He had a staff of six. He must have been skilled at identifying and recruiting talent, because five of those six people are still employed in the laboratory, which now has a staff of 16 and is one of the most important, respected, and busiest veterinary endocrinology
laboratories in the country. At the last laboratory winter holiday party that Tom attended he mentioned how remarkably large the lab had become. Much of that success was due to Tom, thanks to the strong foundation he laid when starting the laboratory from scratch including the development and validation of diagnostic endocrine tests in non-human species, early adaptation of new technology, and computerization of laboratory processes and diagnostic tests. His efforts were the basis for the established quality-assurance program in the Animal Health Diagnostic Center and also have been the foundation for other quality assurance initiatives in the veterinary college. Tom was a giant in the field of veterinary diagnostic endocrinology.

Tom was friendly and popular, but enjoyed solitude in his beloved outdoors. For many years, he owned land in West Danby which he called Tallow Hill. The land and the small cabin he built there served as a kind of oasis for him. He later donated Tallow Hill to the Finger Lakes Land Trust. Tom never married and had no children, and after careful financial calculations he was able to take early retirement at age 54 to be able to spend more time in the natural world. He particularly loved the Finger Lakes region, which he hiked in all kinds of weather, often with a camera with which he took professional-level photographs. His knowledge of the local flora, fauna, and landscape was prodigious, a walk with him was an enjoyable eye- and ear-opening education. He liked teaching young and old about nature; the Earth Day hike he led for years is now designated by Cornell Botanic Gardens as the Tom Reimers Earth Day Hike on the Cayuga Trail. As a member of many trail organizations he played a pivotal role in the development and maintenance of many of the beautiful trails that surround Ithaca, work for which he received numerous honors and awards. The Thayer Nature Preserve in the Town of Ithaca was one of Tom’s favorites; in September of 2019 the Finger Lakes Land Trust dedicated its loop trail in his memory. In many ways, he was Ithaca's Henry David Thoreau.

Tom's interests were narrowly-focused but deep. As is clear, his primary interest was the natural world. A Nebraska native, he read
the Omaha newspaper online each day and kept up with the University of Nebraska's Cornhuskers football team, whose games he had attended as an undergrad. Tom had an extensive library of fact-based books on subjects such as science, nature, history, and politics. He said he had read just one novel in his life, but when he learned that Willa Cather's great novel "My Antonia" is set in early Nebraska he purchased it and that book was next to his chair when he passed away. He avidly followed current events and politics, with views that were decidedly left of center. Tom was an award-winning photographer, primarily of nature. He had a love of cameras and all kinds of gadgets, including electronic gadgets, many of which adorned his house. Another great love was music, particularly classical music, especially opera, with Pavarotti at the top of his list.

The prostate cancer, which ended his life, came by stealth. There had been no symptoms and by the time it was discovered it was widespread. Treatment was futile, and harmed his quality of life, so Tom chose to stop treatment in order to enjoy his remaining time to the best of his ability. The dignity and grace with which he carried himself during his final years were nothing short of remarkable. He was able to live at home until the day before his death, and when he passed away at the Hospicare Residence he was accompanied by the voice of his beloved Pavarotti. In keeping with his environmental ethos, he chose to be buried in the Greensprings Natural Cemetery Preserve, Newfield, New York.

Written by Maurice White, Steve Lamb, Ned Place, and Tom Reimers
Professor Emeritus Leo Renaghan, one of the first academics to introduce modern marketing methods to the hospitality industry, died December 31, 2018 of brain cancer. He was 75.

Renaghan joined the Cornell faculty in 1982 at the School of Hotel Administration. He was promoted to tenured associate professor in 1989, a position he held until his retirement in 2009.

An international hotel consultant, he served on the board of directors of Rezidor Hospitality Inc. – operator of hotel brands including Radisson, Regent and Park Inns – from 1992 to 2006. Renaghan also owned several consulting firms specializing in marketing planning, information technology and strategy development for major hotels, restaurants and service businesses around the world.

“He had an extraordinary talent for being able to apply academic principles to practical problems,” said Sherri Kimes, professor of operations management. “What was particularly wonderful was how that talent translated into his teaching. He made marketing come
alive, and so many of his former students have told me about how he helped them to become the people they are today. Many attribute their success to having Leo as a teacher and mentor.”


Renaghan was also active in the administration of the Hotel School. He served as associate dean for academic affairs from 2001 to 2006, and directed several units, including the Center for Hospitality Research from 1994 to 1998.

“Leo was dedicated to the successful operations of the Hotel School,” said Jack Corgel, professor of real estate. “Twice he stepped up to take on administrative duties when there was a shortage of candidates.”

Alex Susskind, associate dean for academic affairs, said Renaghan had a strong influence on him during his early years at the Hotel School. “When he was associate dean, he taught me that there are always two sides to every story and there is no need to always be right; being fair is more important than being right,” Susskind said.

The author of numerous academic articles, Renaghan was on the editorial review boards of several journals, including the Journal of Foodservice Marketing, Cornell Hotel and Restaurant Administration Quarterly and the Journal of Restaurant Marketing.

Renaghan was born in Somerville, Massachusetts, and spent his childhood summers working in the restaurant industry, washing dishes and cooking in Boston and Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Hotel Management from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 1965. After graduation, he served as a U.S. Army area studies intelligence specialist, spending three years in Munich, Germany. He completed an MBA from Michigan State University in 1970.
Renaghan began his academic career at Pennsylvania State University, where he was an instructor and assistant professor from 1970-76. After a year as an assistant professor, at Northern Arizona University, he returned to Penn State as assistant professor in 1977, earning his Ph.D. in marketing from that institution in 1979. In 1982, he joined the faculty at Cornell.

He is survived by his wife, Laurette Dubé, MPS ’88, Ph.D. ’90, a son and a stepson.

Written by Susan Kelley
First published in the Cornell Chronicle on January 11, 2019
Kristy Richards

July 27, 1968 – March 30, 2019

Dr. Kristy Richards, age 50, was a brilliant physician and scientist, a generous and supportive colleague, an inspirational mentor, and a dear friend that left us much too soon on March 30, 2019. Her light burned bright and touched so many.


Double boarded in both Medical Oncology and Hematology Oncology, she joined the faculty as an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 2007. At UNC, she published widely on her research in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, a subtype of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, that is most common in both
dogs and people. And so was born her trailblazing career as a comparative oncologist and researcher which generated insights that benefited both humans and dogs with these diseases. Her work with human lymphoma delved into the genetics of response and resistance to therapy. Kristy was also an exceptional clinical oncologist and wholehearted physician who served countless patients and their families.

In 2015, Kristy returned to Ithaca, New York where she was hired as an associate professor with a dual appointment in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine in Ithaca and in the Division of Hematology/Medical Oncology at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. The common theme of all of Kristy’s research strategies was to decipher the causes of lymphoma development and progression and to translate those findings into clinical trials for the improved and individualized treatment of lymphoma in the animal or human patient.

At Cornell, Kristy combined her training in genetics, cell biology, genomics, and immunotherapy to discover genes associated with the human and canine forms of lymphoma. She led multiple inter-institutional collaborative clinical trials that explored cutting edge immunotherapies. Cornell recognized her as a radical collaborator, and an innovator. Kristy served as the chair of the Cornell Veterinary Biobank’s governance committee and was the driving force behind its expansion to promote translational research. While maintaining her internationally recognized comparative cancer research program, she still found time to provide exceptional clinical oncology care to her patients at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

Throughout her academic career, Kristy authored 60 original research publication and served the greater research and medical community in a number of ways. She was a board member for the North Carolina chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (2010-2015), and was on the Cancer and Leukemia Group B/Alliance for Clinical Oncology Trials Pharmacogenomics and Population’s Pharmacology Committee and Lymphoma Committee from 2011 and 2008, respectively, until her death. She was an active
member of the American Society of Hematology and the American Association for Cancer Research, a co-leader of the Progressive Assessment of Therapeutics program, and was an academic editor for PLoS One and PeerJ.

Kristy was a visionary leader and her dual appointment in both veterinary and human medical schools provided her with a unique vantage point, where bench research and clinical application collided. This was never more clear than during her 2018 Biden Summit speech to thousands where she described being a researcher, a physician, and then a breast cancer patient. “I learned so much more - even given my background - that I knew before about having cancer, that perspective on the other side of the stethoscope.” Throughout her own fight with cancer, she remained curious, and committed to finding ways to treat patients, including herself.

Kristy’s strong circle of friends dates back to her undergraduate days at Cornell University. Her classmates recognized the superintelligence that defined her, as well as her kindness and compassion, which knew no bounds. These friendships grew and multiplied as Kristy navigated her way through her graduate and medical schooling, fellowship, and faculty positions. She thrived in connecting others both at work and in her personal life. Anyone who met Kristy was drawn in by her passion and magnetic personality. If you were lucky enough to be a part of Kristy’s professional or personal circle, you benefitted immensely from her limitless generosity and mentoring. She truly believed in helping others be their best selves and reach their highest potential.

Kristy’s favorite color, purple, permeated everything from her wardrobe to her home, and even her office chairs. She was a devoted Disney fan, visiting at least one park each year, and managed a hat trick in 2016 by visiting the Disney Parks in Florida, California, and Japan all in the same year. Outside of the laboratory and clinical setting, Kristy had a passion for football; she was a true-blue fan of the Buffalo Bills and was an avid participant in the annual Fantasy Football league. She remained a devoted UNC Tar Heels fan, cheering them on during March Madness, to her final days.
Kristy is survived by her parents, a sister, a brother, nieces, a 
nephew, and many devoted friends who were like family to her. One 
word alone could never be chosen to describe a person like Kristy; 
her friends and colleagues each provided one word to describe 
Kristy, which was weaved together into a DNA helix in memory of 
her love of genetics. She leaves a void that will never be filled, but 
her legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of the many people she 
empowered - at Cornell and throughout the World.

Written by Cynthia Leifer (chair), Marta Castelhano, and Leni Kaplan
Jean Ruth Robinson was born in Rockford, Illinois, on December 9, 1925, the daughter of Albert Eric Anderson and Eleanor Cora Peterson Anderson. She grew up in Rockford, graduating from high school in 1943. That fall she entered Beloit College, where she majored in Economics. She received the Bushnell prize in mathematics in 1945 and served as editor of the yearbook in her senior year. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1946 and graduated summa cum laude in 1947. During summers she worked at a bank in Rockford.

In the fall of 1947, she entered the graduate program in economics at Radcliffe College. She interrupted her graduate program to become an apprentice in banking at Stockholm's Enskilda Bank in Stockholm, Sweden. In the fall of 1949, she was hired as a secretary by National City Bank of New York in London, England, returning to the US in the spring of 1950. She traveled extensively by bicycle in Europe during this period.

In the fall of 1950, she returned to Cambridge to continue her
graduate study receiving her M.A. in Economics in 1951 and her Ph.D. in Economics in 1953. Her dissertation research was on marketing of nonfood products in a study undertaken at the Social Science Research Center in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. Her Ph.D. committee chair was John Kenneth Galbraith. It was published as part of: J. K. Galbraith, R. H. Horton, J. R. Robinson and C. S. Bell Marketing Efficiency in Puerto Rico, Harvard University Press, 1955. In 1953, Jean received a Ford Foundation award to be a teaching intern at Vassar College. The following year she was hired as a lecturer in economics at Wells College, Aurora, New York.

Jean and Kenneth Robinson were married in 1954. At the time, Ken was an associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Cornell University. They had met as graduate students at Harvard. They lived in Aurora for two years and then moved to Ithaca in 1956.

In 1965, Jean became Lecturer and subsequently Senior Lecturer in Family Management in what was to become the Department of Consumer Economics and Housing, College of Home Economics and ultimately the Department of Policy Analysis and Management, College of Human Ecology. In 1981, she became professor and chair of Consumer Economics and Housing. She was chair until 1988. She was associate dean of the College of Human Ecology from 1988 to 1990, and retired as professor emerita in 1990.

Throughout her career Jean focused her efforts on teaching, becoming a master teacher, a mentor to them, and beloved by generations of students. The courses she taught were: Principles of Economics and Personal Finance. She received The Gamma Sigma Delta Innovative Teaching Award in 1988. As department chair, Jean’s object was to clear away administrative and bureaucratic hurdles so that the faculty could do their respective jobs. As associate dean she was committed to fairness for students and faculty as she dealt with serious student-faculty issues. She had a strong ability to “cut to the chase” concerning topics under discussion. It was a pleasure to work with her.
Jean accompanied her husband on his foreign assignments in Australia and Nigeria and found opportunities for volunteer work. While in Nigeria, she assisted in a school for the deaf with children in the third grade. In Berkeley, she helped in a kindergarten class.

Jean served on the Board of Trustees of Cayuga Heights and on the boards of the Citizens Savings Bank and the Friends of the Library. She served on several University committees: The Commencement Committee, Status of Women, Memorials and the Health Career Evaluation Committee. She was Mace Bearer for the University from 1991 to 1995. She was a member of the St. Luke Lutheran Church. Her volunteer work included serving as a tax counselor for senior citizens and low-income households, book sorting for the Friends of the Library Book Sale, and United Way Allocations Committee. She became a life member of the Friends in 2008.

Jean had a passion for knitting, an activity she carried with her into innumerable committee meetings; she was noted for producing wise decisions and beautiful sweaters simultaneously. She continued knitting for family, friends, and charity at Kendal.

She is survived by two sons, James and Alan, two grandsons, and nieces and nephews.

Written by Professor Emeritus Keith Bryant
Richard E. Schuler

November 22, 1937 – February 13, 2019

Richard (“Dick”) Schuler, professor emeritus of Economics and Civil and Environmental Engineering, passed away on February 13, 2019 at the age of 81. He joined the Cornell faculty as an assistant professor in 1972, after completing his Ph.D. in Economics at Brown University. He was active as a researcher, teacher, and administrator in several other Cornell departments, centers, and programs.

At Cornell, his research focused on the micro-planning, management and pricing of infrastructure and utilities, as well as the societal issues of their institutional structure, regional economic impact, and environmental consequences. He published extensively on the changing institutional and regulatory needs for the electric industry, including its deregulation. He also explored basic questions of organizational structure in the information age, using numerical simulation techniques, with colleagues at Cornell and the Santa Fe Institute.

Dick’s initial academic interest was in electrical engineering, which
resulted in his obtaining a B.S. degree (1959) in that field from Yale University. He also received an MBA degree from Lehigh University in 1969. This initial academic background and training in many ways shaped his later research, and teaching career in economics and engineering. Indeed, his initial appointment at Cornell was jointly between the Departments of Economics and Environmental Engineering, and he was responsible for teaching a course on Economics for Engineers. His unique set of skills and knowledge made him a desirable contributor and partner in academic teaching and research projects and programs, as well as in government agencies and regulatory agencies, including as a consultant to various agencies. He had an astounding record of professional activities outside his two home departments at Cornell. For example, he was an adjunct professor in the Johnson Graduate School of Management from 1991-2005, teaching a course on “The Government Environment of Business” annually and on “Emerging Technologies, Business Opportunities and Social Concerns” in 2004 and 2005.

His breadth of activities and leadership roles, both at Cornell and elsewhere, are indeed remarkable. In particular, he assumed a leadership role successively in three interdisciplinary centers at Cornell.

As director of the Cornell Waste Management Institute, and New York State Solid Waste Combustion Institute (1987 to 1993), he was in charge of developing and providing interdisciplinary programs of research, education and community outreach services on solid waste generation and recycling, waste reduction and disposal, the transmission of effluents, risk management, systems analysis, public health impacts, and public decision-making processes.

Between 1992 and 1996 he was a senior fellow and associate director of Cornell’s Center for the Environment, whose programs focused on a sustainable society with particular emphasis on the roles of energy, infrastructure, waste management, urban/rural interfaces, and institutionalizing environmentally sound behavior by business and labor.
From 1995 to 2001, Dick was director of the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs. During his tenure he coordinated and strengthened public-policy-related MPA education and research across all Cornell colleges through a professional two-year MPA program enrolling 55 students (fellows), and he expanded the Institute from one to five senior core faculty members. Among other achievements as Institute Director, he coordinated over 100 faculty members from across the campus who are affiliated with the Institute through the graduate fields of Public Affairs and Public Policy, and who provide diverse policy expertise in specialties such as agricultural and nutrition policy, health administration and social welfare, economic development, international relations, environmental sciences, labor relations and human resources, technology and infrastructure, peace studies and city and regional planning.

Prior to joining the Cornell faculty, Dick spent a year as Senior Fuels and Energy Economist at Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio. From 1959 to 1968 he was employed by the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company in Allentown, Pennsylvania holding various engineering, marketing and administrative positions.

His public policy interests, combined with his engineering and economics background, made him an ideal candidate to become involved with the New York State Public Service Commission. There, while on leaves from Cornell, he held the positions of director, Office of Research, from 1977 to 1978 and of commissioner and deputy chairman from 1981 to 1983.

Academic leaves were also spent as a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Center for Energy and Environmental Studies at Princeton University (fall 1994) and as a visiting scholar, at the Center for Operations Research and Econometrics at the Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium in 1981 and 1988.

Professor Schuler was a founding member of, and served on the
Board of Directors for the New York State Independent System Operators (NYISO), responsible for reliably operating the electric transmission grid in New York State, while overseeing an efficient power market (1998 to 2012). He also was on the board of Aetherworks, Inc., a start-up telecommunications firm (1998-2000), as well as a faculty representative on the Cornell Board of Trustees (1994-1998), where he held several significant committee memberships.

In addition, at Cornell he served on the Executive Committee of the NSF-supported multi-university Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems.

Professor Schuler also worked as a consultant to numerous government agencies and industries on pricing, management and environmental issues, and to the World Bank on energy and infrastructure investment programs for Thailand and the Philippines.

Who was this amazing individual who spoke the language of so many disciplines and diverse academic departments and agencies and who naturally took on effective leadership positions in many of them, and who applied his knowledge and talents to so many different problems and issues?

Richard E. Schuler was born and raised in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where he also met and married Mary, his beloved wife of 56 years, who is a well-known artist. They have three children (Rick, Anne and Judy) and seven grandchildren.

He grew up in a blue-collar environment. While in high school, he excelled in science and math, leading to a four-year fellowship at Yale University, which was the key to entry into a very successful professional career in industry and in academics. And his wife Mary had a significant impact on this development early on. When he met her, she was taking an economics course, at Muhlenberg College, Pennsylvania, at night. He began tutoring her and using her Samuelson book. As Dick used to say, this started his subsequent career in economics.
His cheerful personality and positive outlook on life made him a
welcome addition to any lively conversation and discussion group.
He had a friendly word and smile for everybody. Even his
grandchildren, when asked why they loved their grandpa, answered:
“Because he is always smiling and joking.” And he loved to talk, no
matter what the subject, also because he had a wide range of
intellectual interests and experiences, not to mention well-founded
opinions. He had many friends who considered him “their best
friend.” He was always ready to help his friends with thoughtful
advice when they were facing difficult situations. His humanism and
love shone through in his inter-personal interactions.

One of his good friends, Robert Thomas, professor emeritus of
electrical and computer engineering, recounts the following story
that epitomizes Dick.

We were together at a meeting in Hawaii on issues
associated with electric power systems. We were in a
meeting room at a hotel listening to and participating in
a series of talks. The room had no windows. There
were about 40 eminent researchers in attendance when,
during one of the talks, there was an electric power
outage and the room went completely dark. Cell
phones and computer screens started to light up, but the
current speaker couldn’t go on because his PowerPoint
presentation was no longer available. After a period of
silence and consternation when it was clear the power
wasn’t coming back any time soon, the session chair
was about to suspend the session when a booming
voice from the audience was heard to say, “I’ll
volunteer to do my presentation. I don’t need a
projector.” It was Dick, and the chair agreed. So, in a
dark windowless room, with cell phone and computer
screen the only light, Dick proceeded, without notes or
slides, to give a wonderful 30-minute talk. He received
an ovation when he finished and, as the ovation ended,
the lights came back on. It was truly memorable in part
because there are few people left who can give a good technical talk without projecting slides.

Aside from his beloved extended family, he had two main joys in life, namely swimming and singing. He sang in the Bach Choir in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, when Mary and he first met. He was proud that the Schuler boys sang and carried on that tradition. He would have been thrilled to know that they sang at his memorial mass. During travels with their kids and later with their grandkids he was prone to break out in song, including ones with corny lyrics, which his audience cheerfully joined.

Swimming was probably in his DNA. Dick came from a long line of swimmers who would swim in the Lehigh River, winning competitions and medals. Body surfing in the waves at the beach was probably his favorite sport. Also, even at the age of eighty, he was seen repeatedly jumping off a dock at Lake Winnipesaukee to the delight of his kids and grandkids.

His grandkids also admired the fact that their grandpa was a snappy dresser. Jacket, with a pocket square, and tie were his usual attire, which clearly made him stand out, at least among his engineering colleagues. Yet, this apparent formality was wiped out quickly, as soon as he smiled and offered a cheerful greeting to anybody he met. During faculty discussions, he frequently showed his ability to see and stress the lighter and humorous aspects of an otherwise serious topic.

The large crowd of mourners present at his memorial service was an impressive testament to his unusually wide range of friends and colleagues from all walks of life who admired and cared about him. Dick, in turn, cared deeply for his family, friends and colleagues.

We fondly remember a wonderful human being, a dear friend, and a gifted colleague.

Written by Arnim H. Meyburg (chair), Erik Thorbecke, and John F. Abel
Joseph B. Sieczka

June 11, 1939 – July 29, 2018

Joseph Sieczka, professor emeritus of horticulture and worldwide expert on potatoes, died July 29, 2018 at his home in Mattituck, New York. He was 79 years old.

Hailing from Blasdell, New York, outside Buffalo, New York, Joe received an associate degree in agronomy and soil conservation from the State University of New York at Alfred, in 1960. It was at SUNY Alfred that Joe, the vice president and social director of his fraternity, would often break out in song with his deep baritone voice. Singing and dancing were always a big part of his life, his daughter Liz, reminisced, remembering her dad as someone who could be very serious at times, especially when he spoke in his deep, stern voice. But then, he’d break out in song. “Everybody would laugh, ‘Oh, Dad, not again,’ ” she recalled. “He could go from spouting off scientific data to being goofy.”

After receiving his associate degree, Joe worked briefly at Birdseye in Avon, New York and originally planned to join the U.S. Navy and “see the world.” Those plans changed when he and his friend,
Fred Muehlbauer, stopped at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia to visit some friends working on degrees in agronomy. There they met the department chair who convinced them to stay on for bachelor’s degrees, a degree Joe received in 1963. He immediately came back to New York, joining Cornell Cooperative Extension, as an extension educator, in Steuben County. It was to be the start of a long career with Cornell, lasting almost 40 years.

In 1968, Joe joined the Department of Vegetable Crops as an Extension Specialist, received his M.S. from Cornell in 1973, and became associate professor in 1981. His research and extension program focused on horticultural aspects of potatoes, but also studied numerous other vegetables. In 1980, he became coordinator of the Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center at Riverhead, where he stayed until he retired in 2002.

Though he conducted research on many vegetable crops, Joe focused on potatoes. He evaluated nitrogen rates and spacing for promising clones and newly named varieties to determine optimum cultural practices. He also conducted rate experiments which led to growers reducing phosphorus fertilizers by 50%. He evaluated the effects on yield and quality of other nutrients such as calcium. Due to the concerns of nitrate in the groundwater on New York’s Long Island, Joe conducted nitrogen leaching studies. Evaluation of pre-emergence and post-emergence herbicides and vine desiccants were conducted, including evaluating the effects of vine killers on Colorado potato beetles. Most fumigants were banned from use on Long Island. Research demonstrated that marigolds could control root-lesion nematodes, however it was difficult to seed this crop. Joe evaluated commercial planters for field seeding raw marigold seeds and investigated marigolds as a rotational crop with potatoes and other vegetable crops.

Working with the Cornell potato breeding program, he helped develop twelve new potato varieties, all of which are resistant to golden nematodes, a major international potato pest. As a collaborator in the Golden Nematode Technical Work Group, comprised of extension, university, state and federal players, this
group received the “United States Department of Agriculture Certificate of Merit.”

Joe shared his expertise and efforts in developing new potato varieties with the entire east coast potato community. He participated in the regional project NE-107 (then NE184) with potato researchers from nine eastern states. During this period, he was involved in the release of four varieties from the USDA-Beltsville breeding program and two from the University of Maine. These efforts received the “Northeastern State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors’ Award for Regional Research Excellence” for participation in regional project NE-184, which had the goal of developing new potato clones for environmental and economical sustainability in the Northeast.

He had been an active member of the Potato Association of America (PAA), a professional society for the advancement of knowledge on all aspects of the potato. He served in many capacities, including as President (1993) and was elected an Honorary Life Member (2000), the highest award bestowed by that organization. Joe was co-chair of the local arrangements committees which hosted the PAA annual meetings in Buffalo (2008) and in Ithaca, (1986). He was co-author of two editions of the association’s handbook, “Commercial Potato Production in North America.” Joe was also a co-author of “The Complete Book of Potatoes: What Every Grower and Gardener Needs to Know.”

“Joe was extremely knowledgeable in all things ‘potato’ and had an encyclopedic memory,” said Donald Halseth, professor emeritus of Horticulture. “He knew things about more potato varieties than anyone I have known. During the 1980s, at the PAA summer meetings where variety ID field plots were held, Joe consistently was able to identify more lines than anyone, even when most of the entries were not even grown in the eastern U.S.” Dale Moyer, former potato specialist and agriculture program director for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, mentioned “I always remember Joe telling both new and old staff during harvesting and grading, usually several times a year – ‘treat the potatoes like
“From a personal point of view, I always valued the uncommon amount of ‘common sense’ that Joe showed when I would ask for his advice, which I did very often,” said Elmer Ewing, professor emeritus of Horticulture. “He had sound judgment on important issues and was able to see the broad picture.”

Joe spent substantial time researching other vegetable crops. He investigated broccoli varieties, plant population studies, suitable herbicides and post-harvest handling for the crop’s production and marketing on Long Island. This was an effort to develop an alternative or rotation crop for potato growers. Joe worked on variety selection, fertilizer rates and cultural practice trials on sweet corn, peppers, tomatoes, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, brussel sprouts, kale, cabbage, specialty melons, winter squash, pumpkins and calabaza (tropical pumpkins). Joe conducted nitrogen rate and timing at planting and sidedress studies for sweet corn to determine the most efficient rates and methods for high production and to minimize nitrate impacts to the groundwater. He evaluated the use of Pre-sidedress Soil Nitrate Tests (PSNT) in cabbage and sweet corn production. This was also an effort to minimize nitrate leaching into the groundwater. As herbicides were removed from the market on Long Island, weed management became an issue for the vegetable growers. In the late 90s, Joe evaluated innovative cultivation equipment including the brush hoe and finger tine weeder.

“Joe had an incredible knowledge of potatoes,” said Steve Reiners, chair of Cornell’s Horticulture Section. “But if I saw anything odd in any vegetable crop, he was the first person I called as he could always recall a similar problem and, more importantly, a solution from the past. I miss his incredible knowledge and recall. He was a great mentor for me as he was to countless other extension educators.” “Joe was such a noted expert on potatoes and other vegetable crops that it earned him tremendous respect from the entire agriculture community,” said Mark Bridgen, professor in the School of Integrative Plant Science and the current director of the Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center.
After retirement, Joe would always be eager to make grower visits to discuss production practices, new variety performance, or diagnose production issues. He was very willing to assist extension educators with questions. His nearly forty years of experience was invaluable to growers and extension personnel.

While working as an extension educator in Steuben County, Joe met the extension home economist there, Mary Ann Sabolsky. Mary Ann had grown up in Marianna, Pennsylvania and came to New York after receiving her degree at Mercyhurst College. The two married in 1966. Mary Ann passed away in 2014, after nearly 48 years of marriage. She implored her husband to remain active and continue doing what he loved - singing, dancing and traveling. He made good on that promise. He was a long-standing member and past president of the North Fork Community Theatre and belonged to numerous singing and dancing groups and clubs. Joe even performed at open mic nights, both locally and in The Villages, Florida, singing show tunes primarily.

In addition to performing and travel, Joe’s hobbies included gardening, biking, and swimming, with golf and pickleball added in retirement. He enjoyed working on old cars, including 1937 and 1939 Chevrolet Coupes and a 1955 Cadillac, and was a member and secretary of the Peconic Bay Region Antique Automobile Club of America. “He was very active until the last minute,” said his daughter Liz.

Joe enjoyed traveling both in the U.S. and internationally. He planned to take each of his five grandchildren on trips. In 2018, shortly before his death, he traveled to London and Paris with two of his grandchildren, Jessica and Lucia. Earlier he took another granddaughter, Kimberly, to Poland. Sadly, grandsons James and Alexander missed their opportunity to travel with their grandfather.

Joe was predeceased by his wife Mary Ann in 2014. He is survived by their children, Elizabeth (James Felakos) of Brooklyn, New York, Michael (Heather Cameron) of Bellingham, Washington, and Michelle (David) Scheer of Mattituck, New York; and grandchildren
Kimberly and Jessica Scheer, Lucia Sieczka, and James and Alexander Felakos.

Written by Donald E. Halseth, Dale D. Moyer, and William J. Sanok
Cornell’s Carl Becker long ago observed that a successful professor is “one who thinks otherwise.”

Joel Silbey exemplified Becker’s insight. Born in Brooklyn, New York on August 16, 1933, he became not only a distinguished historian of American political history, but an ardent fan of baseball’s New York Giants. He often recalled how the Giants defeated the favored Dodgers in the memorable 1951 playoffs, and how he had to remain in his house for three days rather than risk being beaten up by neighboring Dodger fans. Thinking otherwise could, contrary to Becker, have unhappy consequences.

But thinking otherwise could also develop a distinguished national and international academic career. Joel graduated from Brooklyn College in 1955, then earned a Master’s degree in 1956 and his Ph.D., in 1963 from the University of Iowa. His pioneering dissertation used quantitative techniques, borrowed from the social sciences, to develop what he termed “the Civil War synthesis.” That synthesis offered a new explanation for both the development of the
post-1828 two-party system and the causes of the American Civil War. After initially teaching at San Francisco State College (now San Francisco State University), the University of Pittsburgh, and the University of Maryland, he began a 36-year career at Cornell in 1966. Joel became an associate professor the next year when his revised dissertation was published as *The Shrine of Party: Congressional Voting Behavior, 1841-1852*. He was named a full professor in 1968 and then given the President White chair in 1986. He became an emeritus professor on his retirement in 2002.

As a fabled undergraduate teacher, Joel usually alternated his two major year-long classes, a survey of 200 years of American political history and an examination of the Civil War and Reconstruction. In 1986, he received the prestigious Clark Distinguished Teaching Award. In an introductory lecture in these courses, he often announced that the students’ final grade depended on their scores on the midterm and final, short papers, and how the New York football Giants were doing in December. During his office hours he reassured the students who took him seriously.

He chaired the Honors Committee for scores of outstanding upper-class students. One was Evan Stewart, now a prominent New York City lawyer who, understanding that Joel’s Olin Library study had become virtually his second home, gave a gift that named the study for Joel. Fittingly, Joel served a term as head of the Cornell Libraries Board. At the graduate level, he chaired the committees for ten doctoral students. One of the undergrads he taught in the mid-1960s and talked to at length in his office was David Maisel, a fellow Brooklynite who wrote for the Cornell *Sun*. In 1995-1996, David established an annual lectureship co-named for Joel that brings noted political leaders, diplomatic officials, and academics to campus.

His teaching was not limited to Ithaca. In the late 1970s, he joined Professor Ted Lowi of Government to establish the Cornell-in-Washington program. As director of the program between 1992 and 1998, Joel helped persuade Cornell’s President and Provost to authorize the purchase of the building that now houses year round
classes and student rooms. He was quietly but justifiably proud when his son, David (a published and highly favorably reviewed historian), became the leader of the Washington program.

Over the years, Joel became a star attraction on the Cornell alumni circuit. He convened the first alumni group that met on an island off the coast of Washington state. Along with Dean Glenn Altschuler, Joel taught hundreds of alumni in classes at the Mohonk Mountain House resort, in New Paltz, New York, that analyzed upcoming congressional or presidential elections. Joel also learned to know many alumni when he met them with his wife, Rosemary, who served with Cornell’s Office of Alumni Affairs and Development. He often enlivened these gatherings by thinking otherwise – by arguing, for example, that third parties were harmful to democracies. Joel served as well as an unofficial adviser to Harold Tanner, chair of the Cornell Board of Trustees, who sought his advice at a 7:00 a.m. breakfast at the Straight whenever Harold was in town.

Joel published eight books and, remarkably, edited or co-edited 16 other single volumes or multi-volume sets. In this work, he employed quantitative along with more traditional methods and sources to specify how the modern U.S. political system had been born and evolved while focusing on the intensifying debates in the pre-Civil War years. His hero for these two developments was not one of the usual suspects, such as Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, or Abraham Lincoln. It was Martin Van Buren, long ignored by historians because of his weak, one-term presidency of 1837-1841. In his biography of Van Buren, Joel transformed this maligned, and ignored, president into one of the first and most astute of the nation’s professional politicians who played a crucial role in establishing the two-party system.

Such thinking otherwise on these crucial issues shaped most of his books, including *A Respectable Minority* (1977), on the too often overlooked role of the Democrats during the Civil War; *The Partisan Imperative* (1985); a magisterial volume, *The American Political Nation, 1828-1893* (1991); and *Party Over Section: The Rough and Ready Presidential Election of 1848* (2009), innovative
and the first study of that important election in forty years. *Storm Over Texas: The Annexation Controversy and the Road to Civil War* (2005) was praised in *The Journal of Southern History* review for being authored by a “distinguished scholar [who] has opened a new promising path to be explored in the causation of the American Civil War.” It was a fitting judgment for a lifetime of outstanding scholarship.

Joel also influenced international analyses of the U.S. political system. During the 1990s, he became a leading figure in an initiative in which distinguished scholars from Russia and the United States convened in Moscow to study and debate American political history in ways that might be useful to post-Communist Russia. Joel edited the volume that emerged from these discussions, *Russian-American Dialogue on the History of American Political Parties* (2000). In his Preface, he emphasized the fresh “transnational perspective” that produced this important volume: “direct, cogent, and sharp…but also with the gloves off.” In 2005, he was awarded the prestigious Harmsworth Visiting Professorship at Oxford University.

Justifiably proud of his influential teaching, path-breaking publications, and sterling reputation among alumni, Joel always affirmed that his first love took precedence. Rosemary and Joel were married 58 years; they were inseparable. He was devoted to their daughter, Victoria (a lawyer), and son, David (a historian of military and U.S. history and Associate Director of Cornell in Washington). Both graduated from Cornell and enjoy marked success in their professions. Joel was devoted as well to his grandchildren Abigail, Thomas, and Madeline, daughter-in-law Mari Silbey, and son-in-law Thomas Hogan. Joel meanwhile looked forward each day to his teaching, which influenced so many students and alumni, and to thinking otherwise about American political institutions in the Olin Library study that now bears his name. His scholarly legacy includes a more nuanced understanding of the Civil War’s causes and crucial new insights into the role of the nation’s two-party political system as a cornerstone of American democracy.

*Written by Walter LaFeber (chair), Glenn Altschuler, and Sandra Greene*
Thomas A. Sokol, professor emeritus of music and Cornell’s former director of choral activities, who taught at Cornell from 1957 to 1995, died April 28, 2019 in Ithaca, New York at the age of 89. “Professor,” as he was called by his students, was responsible for transforming the Glee Club from an independent men’s club, whose repertoire then featured show tunes, college songs, and other popular ditties, into an official ensemble within the Department of Music. Three years after his arrival at Cornell he created the Cornell University Chorus out of the remnants of the Women’s Glee Clubs, and led both the men’s and women’s groups into challenging repertoire performed at a high musical level. The choral program as it exists today owes its foundations to his organizational and musical leadership.

Tom was born in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania on July 28, 1929 to John and Mary Sokol, immigrants from Hungary, and was raised in the small town of Sewickley, Pennsylvania outside Pittsburgh. He studied trumpet from the age of ten and began leading the choir at St. James Catholic Church by the time he was fourteen. After
graduating from high school, he attended Virginia Military Institute on a football scholarship, before transferring to Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia in 1951, where he continued to excel in sports as well as music. He earned an M.A. in musicology and composition in 1953 from George Peabody College (now part of Vanderbilt University) while also directing choirs; after studying conducting at Harvard and Tanglewood, he became assistant conductor for the Harvard Glee Club and Radcliffe Choral Society. While in Cambridge he also occupied acting positions at Newton College of the Sacred Heart, New England Conservatory, and with the Handel and Haydn Society, in addition to co-founding Cambridge Records.

In 1957, Tom was recruited to organize the choral activities at Cornell, which then officially included the University Chorus and the Sage Chapel Choir. Invited by the Musical Clubs Council to also conduct the Glee Club, Tom accepted only with the proviso that doing so would be part of his university duties, a position in which he was supported by President Deane Malott. His new vision for the Glee Club was put on display in December-January 1960-61 when the group became the first American university ensemble to give formal concerts in the Soviet Union; their repertoire included pieces in French, Latin, Italian, English, and Russian (Shostakovich’s “Song of Peace” and the Russian national anthem). After one sold-out concert, the Sovetskaya Cultura newspaper reported that “for the students of Moscow State University, the artistry of their comrades from across the ocean spoke straight to the heart. And this is understandable; congenially to the soul, it is better to sing of peace and work than to prepare for war.” In 1966, the Glee Club was invited by the U.S. State Department to tour Southeast Asia, where over the course of three months they performed in 10 countries and gave 49 formal concerts, not to mention many informal performances.

Another international tour, nine concerts in West Germany in 1970, produced a memorable addition to the Glee Club’s repertoire. Following a recording session at the Frankfurt Radio Network, the network’s music director, Franz Biebl, offered Tom some of his own
choral compositions. Upon its return, the group gave the American premiere of Biebl’s “Ave Maria,” a sumptuous setting for seven-part men’s voices. Not only did the work enter the permanent repertoire of the Glee Club (it was performed during the 2019 Homecoming concert), it was soon adopted by other choirs, mostly notably by the San Francisco-based professional choir Chanticleer, and has become a staple of the twentieth-century choral repertoire.

In his role as director of choral activities at Cornell, Tom oversaw and frequently himself conducted the Cornell Chorale, the Sage Chapel Choir, and the Chamber Singers, as well as the Chorus and the Glee Club. In addition to programming works from the centuries-long repertoire for unaccompanied voices, Tom was committed to giving his students the opportunity to perform major choral works with orchestra. In 1962, the combined Chorus and Glee Club performed Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony with the Philadelphia Orchestra, conducted by Eugene Ormandy, who wrote afterwards to the students: “I want to send you my heartiest congratulations on your superb singing with our orchestra, both at Cornell and in Philadelphia. I do not exaggerate when I say you made choral history…You have an inspiring director in Mr. Sokol.” The collaboration was repeated in 1966, at the opening ceremony for the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, summer home of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Tom collaborated frequently with his colleague and friend, composer Karel Husa, who conducted the Cornell Symphony Orchestra for many years, including Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis, Poulenc’s Gloria, the Berlioz Requiem, Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 (“Resurrection”), Orff’s Carmina Burana, and Husa’s own Apotheosis of This Earth, which Cornell students performed not only on campus, but at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. With outside orchestras Tom prepared his Cornell choirs for major works such as Honneger’s Le Roi David, Handel’s Messiah, the Verdi Requiem, Bach’s Mass in B Minor, and the Monteverdi Vespers.

Tom’s activities as a conductor outside of Cornell included directing the Dessoff Choirs in New York City (1968 to 1972) and the
Buffalo Schola Cantorum. Honors include a Ford Foundation grant in the Humanities and Arts, the National Orchestral Association’s Conducting Award, a Carnegie Fellowship in Teaching, and grants from the New York State Council on the Arts.

In his 38 years at Cornell, Tom led the choral ensembles in animating virtually every major university event: the annual commencement ceremonies; convocation; presidential inaugurations; freshman orientation; homecoming; parents’ weekend; senior week; and countless events for the Board of Trustees. He served as chair of the Department of Music from 1985 to 1992 and mentored several generations of Cornell graduate students in conducting, including prominent composers David Conte (San Francisco Conservatory) and Byron Adams (UC Riverside).

Upon Tom’s retirement in 1995, the united Chorus and Glee Club performed Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis with the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra in Bailey Hall to a standing ovation by an audience that included large numbers of his former students. In 2005, to honor his 75th birthday, Glee Club alumni initiated an endowment in his name whose proceeds go to commissioning new choral works; this legacy continues to nourish the choral repertoire not only at Cornell, but at other institutions as they adopt these works.

Thomas Sokol is survived by his wife Donna, his former wife Nancy, and their five children.


*Written by Rebecca Harris-Warrick*
Robert S. Summers was the William G. McRoberts Professor Emeritus of Research in the Administration of Law at Cornell Law School. Bob was a prolific scholar and teacher in two major separate fields, legal theory and commercial law, an inspiring and dedicated teacher, and a valuable citizen of Cornell Law School and Cornell University for 42 years. Bob enjoyed a worldwide reputation through his books, articles, lectures, visiting professorships, and honors.

Bob graduated from the University of Oregon in 1955, where he was student body president and member of Phi Beta Kappa. Bob then graduated from Harvard Law School in 1959, before practicing law in Oregon for two years. In 1960, Bob began his law-teaching career at Oregon Law School. In 1969, Bob joined the Cornell Law School faculty.

Bob published more than 50 books and 100 articles, including a major treatise (with James J. White) on the Uniform Commercial Code, now in its sixth edition, that has been cited by innumerable
courts over the years. His scholarship also included major works on legal realism, statutory interpretation, and the form and substance of the law. Bob’s work has been translated into eight languages.

Bob spent many sabbaticals in England as a visiting scholar. In 1991, he was appointed the Arthur L. Goodhart Visiting Professor of Legal Science at Cambridge University. Bob was also a visiting professor abroad at the University of Sydney, the University of Vienna, and the University of Warwick, and in the U.S. at Stanford Law School and the University of Michigan.

In 1983, Bob co-founded the Bielefelder Kries, an international research group of scholars from 10 countries that published two books on comparative legal method. In 1993, the Russian government asked Bob to help draft that country’s new civil code. Later, he served as an adviser to the Drafting Commission for the Egyptian Civil Code, and as principal drafter for the Code of Contract Law for Rwanda.

Bob earned many honors over his 50-year academic career. He received honorary degrees from the University of Helsinki in Finland (1990) and the University of Gottingen in Germany (1994). In 1994, he was a Festschrift honoree, the subject of a collection of published essays written by 44 scholars from 12 countries, entitled “Prescriptive Formality and Normative Rationality in Modern Legal Systems.” Bob was also elected a Corresponding Member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. In 2007, Bob was selected as a Brettschneider Cornell-Oxford Scholar, and spent the 2007 spring semester at Oxford University.

Bob’s contributions in the U.S. extended beyond his scholarship and teaching. Among the most notable, he was instrumental in the 1960s in paving the way for the CLEO (Council on Legal Education Opportunity) program, a national organization dedicated to increase the representation of minority and low-income students in law schools.

Generations of Cornell alumni know that Bob loved the Socratic
Method and was an inspiring teacher. Students in his classes appreciated that Bob was a dedicated teacher who cared greatly about the success of his students. He remained in contact with and supported many of his students throughout their careers.

Perhaps even more important than Bob’s remarkable career, he was a wonderful person. Bob was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend, with unbounded enthusiasm for life and learning. He was dedicated to and supportive of his wonderful wife, Dorothy, and his five children and 14 grandchildren. Somehow, Bob also had plenty of love and support as well for his many friends around the world.

Bob’s absence at Cornell Law School has left an unfillable chasm. But we are all very fortunate that Bob was with us at Cornell for most of his outstanding career.

Written by Robert A. Hillman
Leonard D. Topoleski, professor emeritus of vegetable crops and horticulture, died February 8, 2019, at Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pennsylvania. He was 83.

Born in Ashley, Pennsylvania, he graduated from Ashley High School in 1953, where he played on the football team for three years and participated in the debate team and theater group. After earning B.S. (1957) and M.S. (1959) degrees from Penn State University, Len went on to earn his Ph.D. in plant breeding and genetics from Purdue University in 1962. That same year, he joined Cornell’s faculty in the then-Department of Vegetable Crops where he worked until his retirement as professor emeritus in 2001.

Professor Topoleski conducted research on vegetable crops, served as an extension educator and left a legacy as a popular teacher and student adviser. “He was an enthusiastic teacher of our undergraduate beginning horticulture course and, over his career, inspired many students with his love of plants,” said Chris Wien, M.S. ’67, Ph.D. ’71, professor emeritus of Horticulture.
Professor Topoleski’s research involved understanding incompatibility issues that arise when breeding different tomato species. He received training in the use of electron microscopy and became the department expert on using the technique for plant science research. He also researched greenhouse vegetable production, evaluating new growing systems and fertility management, assessing new varieties, and providing basic greenhouse tomato production information to new growers.

“Len’s Ph.D. research in 1962 focused on grafted tomatoes and eggplants,” said Steve Reiners, chair of Cornell’s Horticulture Section. “He was really way ahead of its time as this research area has really taken off in the last few years.”

Although an active researcher, his biggest impact may have been as a teacher. “Professor Topoleski was revered by his students for his hands-on and engaging approach,” said Frank Rossi, professor and extension turfgrass specialist in the School of Integrative Plant Science. “Students would be responsible for growing and studying the growth of plants from seed to harvest each semester, a tradition I know my colleagues and I have attempted to maintain in our coursework today.”

Professor Topoleski’s general horticulture course (Hort 102) exposed hundreds of Cornell undergraduates to the world of fruits, vegetables, and landscape plants for the first time. His vegetable class was very popular, getting a whole new generation excited about horticulture. His teaching style focused on building horticultural skills and youth development through learning-by-doing. He also was an undergraduate adviser for as many as 30 students per year.

Michael Buthe, a class of 1983 Plant Science major valued his relationship with Professor Topoleski. “He was my student advisor during my undergraduate years at Cornell from 1979 to 1983. He was always very supportive of my desire to explore a diverse variety of coursework while ensuring I was on target to meet my
requirements as a Plant Science major. He had a wonderful, calm demeanor, despite his deep voice and burly physique. I greatly appreciated his sound advice and always looked forward to our periodic meetings. He was also very passionate about his research, particularly his focus on tomatoes. He will forever be an important part of my fond memories of Cornell.”

Professor Topoleski also had an active extension program. Serving as the 4-H vegetable crops extension specialist, he trained agents, wrote highly regarded extension publications and guides, and developed new programs. “He was well-known and appreciated by 4-H and home gardeners all over the state,” said Elmer Ewing, professor emeritus of Horticulture. Len’s subject matter resources were the foundation of numerous county and state-wide horticultural programs.

Joann Gruttadaurio, retired senior extension associate in Horticulture remembered Professor Topoleski as one of a team of Extension faculty who set as a priority the education and development of students, youth, teens, and 4-H leaders. “He, along with Ernie Schaufler traveled the state to bring the latest and best resources to hundreds of Extension field staff, volunteers, youth, and the public”, said Gruttadaurio. She added, “Many of us who chose extension education as a career still look fondly on Len as one of our favorite mentors.”

Professor Topoleski had a passion for gardening, collecting antiques, photography, and every aspect of Cornell Athletics. He was a longtime communicant of St. Catherine of Siena Church, Ithaca.

He is survived by his loving wife of nearly 61 years, Janice; children Professor L.D. Timmie-Topoleski (Marci Chasnow, M.D.), Tamara Ann Topoleski, M.D. (Leonard Foffa), and Daniel T. Topoleski; grandchildren Mackenzie (Collin), Eliza, Fraser, Audrey and Delaini; sister Dorothy Johnson; and several nieces and nephews. For those who would like to honor Len in a special way, please consider a contribution to The LAST Foundation Inc., 1266 Shelter
Rock Rd., Orlando, Florida 32835. This foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, was formed in memory of his daughter-in-law, Lisa Ann, and helps local families with medical expenses associated with illness.

Written by Steve Reiners
Carol Edelman Warrior, assistant professor of English in the College of Arts and Sciences, died July 4, 2018 in Montana. She was 56.

Dr. Warrior’s scholarship centered on Native American, First Nations and Alaska Native literatures, indigenous philosophies, worldviews and critical theory. She researched the “fearsome” in indigenous literatures and representation, as well as the formation and assertion of indigenous group identity and sovereignty outside of the treaty context.

“Carol was a bright light in our department and our college. Her brilliance and expertise was only matched by her kindness and generosity,” said Ella Diaz, associate professor of English and Latina/o studies. Gretchen Ritter, the former Harold Tanner Dean of Arts and Sciences, called Dr. Warrior “one of the rising stars of our faculty.”

In 2018, Dr. Warrior was recognized as an inspirational mentor by a Merrill Presidential Scholar. “She managed to strike a rare balance
between generosity and rigor, kindness and tough-mindedness, and I know she made a huge difference in the lives of a number of students,” said Derek Chang, associate professor of history and Asian American studies. “She’ll be missed.”

Dr. Warrior began at Cornell as a postdoctoral fellow in 2016 and became assistant professor in 2017. She taught Introduction to Native American Literature, Native American Poetry of Resistance and Indigenous Literary Criticism and Theory.

Prior to Cornell, Dr. Warrior was an instructor in the departments of English and of American Indian Studies at the University of Washington. In 2008, she was a fellow of the Graduate Opportunities and Minority Achievement Program at the University of Washington.

Born March 19, 1962, Dr. Warrior was enrolled with the Ninilchik Village Tribe and was of Alutiiq (Sugpiaq), Dena’ina Athabascan and A’aniiih (Gros Ventre) descent. She was committed to indigenous community-building and activism and was involved with gathering and processing traditional foods and medicine, visiting indigenous communities for relationship-building and ceremony and helping with urban Native American youth organizations. At Cornell, Dr. Warrior was actively involved in the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program and served as an adviser for indigenous graduate students at Cornell, and as a faculty fellow for Akwe:kon Residential Hall.

“Carol’s approach to life was wholistic in the indigenous way, seeking balance in all things, extending kinship to all the life around her. As such, she had a deep commitment to social justice. It is people like Carol, and they are rare, who are the conscience of the institutions within which they work. Her loss to Cornell, then, goes much deeper than her admirable scholarship, advising and teaching. It is of a profound moral, ethical, and political dimension,” said Eric Cheyfitz, the Ernest I. White Professor of American Studies and Humane Letters and former director of the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program.
In a script for the “What Makes Us Human?” podcast, Dr. Warrior reframed the question as, “What does it mean to be a human being in the world as we know it?” The answer, she wrote, “can be found in indigenous value systems, since concern for all relations in that web of life, and those who will come after us, are paramount, and are foremost in our minds.”

Said Sofia Villenas, associate professor in the Department of Anthropology: “She lived out her scholarship in her relationships with others and the natural world. Carol was all about love, healing, resistance, relationships, and community.”

Dr. Warrior received an M.A. in 2010 and a Ph.D. in 2015 in English language and literature from the University of Washington, and a B.A. in 2008 in English and American Indian studies, magna cum laude, with distinction in English, also from the University of Washington.

She enjoyed hiking and late-night Dungeons and Dragons sessions with her large family. She liked to make clothing, quilts, jewelry, paintings, and ceremonial items. In “A Meditation on Fixity and Flexibility” published in Indigenous Collectives, she described how she became “enamored with the process of glassblowing.” She learned to make paperweights, Christmas tree ornaments, cups, vases and bowls, and how to use color, an exacting process with glass.

Carol Warrior is survived by her husband, Shaawano Chad Uran, and eight children.

Written by Linda Glaser
First published in the Cornell Chronicle on July 10, 2018
Roger Darlington Way

November 7, 1918 – June 2, 2019

Dr. Roger Way, world-renown pomologist and fruit breeder, and emeritus professor of horticultural science, died on June 2, 2019 at the age of 100.

Roger was born November 7, 1918 in Stormstown, Pennsylvania on a fruit and dairy farm that is still run by family. Roger earned both his Bachelor of Science degree (1940) and his Master of Science degree (1942) in Horticulture from Pennsylvania State University.

Roger was a Quaker and he declared conscientious objector status in 1942, after receiving his selective service notice during World War II. Roger spent four years in a Civilian Public Service Camp in Maryland. After the war, he spent two years doing relief work in rural China for the Quaker Organization, American Friends Service Committee. This organization received the Nobel Prize in 1947 in recognition of their activities.

Roger was hired as a research assistant at Cornell in 1949 and quickly was promoted to a research associate. He received his Ph.D.
from Cornell in 1953 and became an assistant professor that same year. Roger was located at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, New York, which is now called Cornell AgriTech. Roger was promoted to associate professor in 1959 and to full professor in 1970. He served as acting department head of the Department of Pomology and Viticulture in 1974 and 1982-1983 and was head of the department in 1983. He retired and was granted professor emeritus status in 1983 as well. Roger continued to work for 16 years after his retirement.


In 1982, Roger received the Wilder Medal from the American Pomological Society in recognition of his work in apple cherry and elderberry breeding. Roger received the Milo Gibson Award in 1986 from the North American Fruit Explorers in recognition of his “many improved fruit varieties.”

Roger received great notoriety for his release of ‘Empire’ and ‘Jonagold’ apples, both for their quality, but also due to their positive impact nationally and internationally. ‘Empire’ ranks #10 in apples produced in the U.S. In the late 1980s, New York growers planted more than 50,000 ‘Empire trees annually. From 1988 to 1990, 27 percent of all apple trees planted in New York were ‘Empire’. From 1996-2004 the annual production of Empire in the U.S. averaged 4.2 M bushels with a fresh market value of 41.1 million dollars. At that time, New York growers produced 50 percent of the total U.S. ‘Empire’ crop.

‘Jonagold’ is one of the major varieties grown worldwide. It ranks
sixth overall in world rankings, with production of 1,078 thousand metric tons. (Note: Production in China is excluded from these figures). ‘Jonagold’ also accounts for nearly 60 percent of apple production in Belgium. Japan was so enamored with Jonagold that they invited Roger and his wife Mary to Japan and presented Roger with a Samurai warrior’s helmet in honor of his introduction of ‘Jonagold’ in Japan.

Roger conducted research of benefit to the industry and gave equal attention to scientific refereed publications and extension articles and bulletins of use to the fruit industry and growers. He studied the role of crabapple trees and blossoms as an efficient means of providing pollen for cross pollination in orchards, and with collaborators he studied the suitability of new selections and varieties for the processing industry. Roger wrote bulletins on pollination, orchard layout and design to maximize fruit set and these bulletin were a valuable resource in teaching and for orchard managers. Roger and Dr. Gilmer proved that key cherry viruses were pollen-transmitted, which was crucial knowledge for growers and nurseries. Roger also documented a lethal gene that impacted apple hybridization decisions, and this was shown by a recent Cornell graduate student (Ben Orcheski) to be due to an inability to produce vitamin K (phylloquinone), and likely linked to genes with favorable effects.

In 1984, Roger was both heralded, and teased in a People Magazine article “A couple hundred of apples a day keep Dr. Roger Way feeling good to the core.” In the game show, Jeopardy’, under a “By-The-Way” category, the $400 clue was “Roger Way tasted 200 of these a day, helping him to develop ‘Empire and Jonagold’ types. Answer: What are apples? A local newspaper article on Roger’s death suggested that maybe the 200 apples a day for 50 years explained Roger’s longevity. Roger was also interviewed for Charles Osgood/CBS news in 1983, where he can be seen biting into multiple apples, discussing research and with a broad smile, asking “everyone loves apples, don’t they?”

Rogers work-ethic, his passion for apples, his knowledge base, and
his attention to detail were well known, as was the fact that his work boots always had a spotless shine and his lunch was transported to work in a black metal lunch pail. He was a natural during grower tours, where his voice was heard above any noise.

Roger’s colleague, Dr. Bruce Reisch said that “Dr. Way earned the respect of both his peers and his industry stakeholders. He was dedicated, motivated and driven to excel, and was also one of the most even-keeled individuals I’ve ever known. He was careful, thoughtful, and methodical. Fellow plant breeders always admired him for the success of the high-quality apples he developed.”

I had the honor of being Roger’s successor and he, and his family, were incredibly generous to me. The Way home was one of the first to welcome my husband and me for dinner. Roger was a world expert and revered by the US industry, especially in New York. Yet, as soon as I started with cherries and then apples, Roger insisted that questions be directed to me. He offered advice to me, but let me learn and gain the respect of the industry. I will be forever grateful for his kindness and his vote of confidence. He took me to meet key industry members the day before I officially started, and I believe he was pleased that I was ready to start, no matter the date.

Roger is survived by his wife, Mary of State College, Pennsylvania, son, Edward and his wife, Sue of Carbondale, Colorado, their daughter, Vanessa of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, son, Charles of San Diego, California, son, Thomas of Auburn, Alabama, and daughter, Shirley of Ithaca, New York. Roger’s legacy lives on through his family and his many contributions to pomology and breeding.

*Written by Susan K. Brown*
James Carrick White, professor emeritus in both Food Science and Hotel Administration, died at his home on Cayuga Lake just short of his 102nd birthday. He was born October 29, 1916 in Scobey, Montana.

His trip from Scobey to Cornell took almost 20 years. Shortly after his birth, his family moved to Moosejaw, Saskatchewan, Canada where his father was a homesteader, and found work in major construction projects. During that time, the family moved a total of 13 times, mostly in western Canada, with Jim attending as many different schools. His secondary education greatly improved in 1930, when the family moved east, landing first in Tully, New York and finally in Canastota, New York, where he finished high school. His Math teacher, a Cornell graduate, helped him apply to the College of Agriculture and he entered in the Fall of 1935.

Professor White received his bachelor's degree in 1939 and Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1944, with a major in Bacteriology and minors in Biochemistry and Dairy Science. During his doctoral
studies, he worked in the laboratory of Cornell chemist and Nobel laureate Dr. James B. Sumner.

With degree in hand, he spent the next two years as director of research for the Borden Cheese Company, where he was responsible for the sanitation program, as well as the development of new products and research in a large number of food processing plants throughout the East and Mid-West. He returned to Cornell in 1946 as an associate professor in the Department of Dairy Industry, with responsibilities in teaching, research, and extension. He became a full professor in 1951.

Dr. White taught courses in Market Milk, Introductory Dairy Chemistry and Food Quality Control, and lectured in the Hotel School, as well as the Colleges of Human Ecology and Veterinary Medicine. In the latter, he team-taught the Food Inspection Course for Veterinarians with Professors Bob Baker and George Wellington (Veterinarian graduates were often drafted to serve as food inspectors in the military.) He published extensively in the fields of dairy and food bacteriology, farm sanitation, milk processing, dairy engineering, and bacteriological control in large quantity cooking and cooling. During the period 1954 to 1965, he also served as Department Extension Leader, managing the department’s outreach activities.

Professor White was active in the American Dairy Science Association, The New York State Association of Milk and Food Sanitarians (now the NYS Association for Food Protection), the International Association of Milk, Food, and Environmental Sanitarians and the Institute of Food Technologists. He was a past president of NYS Association for Food Protection and the recipient of the Emmitt R. Gauhn Award, the association’s highest honor. He was also a representative to the 3-A Sanitary Standards Committee of the US Public Health Service and the National Labeling Committee of the American Dairy Science Association.

After 27 years at the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, Jim joined the Hotel School as a full professor with tenure. There he
taught Food Safety and Sanitation. The sanitation course he presented was more science based than previously presented. It was a required three credit course for all students, consisting of two lectures and a two-hour lab each week. In addition to basic microbiology, each student was required to complete a special project. There were some strange and revealing results, proving that toilet seats were often cleaner than drinking fountains and that Jalapeno peppers did not kill bacteria! “Some students complained about the difficulty of the course, but most enjoyed the subject,” according to co-instructor Bonnie Richmond.

During his time at the Hotel School, he also served as assistant dean for Academics. Emeritus Dean John Clark remembers Professor White as a caring and supportive colleague. “Jim showed wonderful capabilities in dealing with the needs of both graduates and undergraduate students, as well as faculty, staff and alumni. All felt he had their best interests at heart and that his advice and counsel were excellent.”

His tenure in both colleges afforded an opportunity for several academically related sabbaticals. The first, in 1955, was to Colorado with the Denver Department of Health, where his mission was to evaluate the quality of milk and make recommendations to improve the flavor and shelf-life of the milk supply. That led to his next sabbatical in 1962 to Minneapolis, Minnesota where he was a visiting professor of Public Health, studying the costs of inspecting dairy farms and milk processing facilities. He also served as a delegate to the International Dairy Conference, held in Munich, Germany during the summer of 1966.

His final dairy related leave came in 1969-70, when he went to New Zealand at the request of their Department of Agriculture. He made an extensive survey of the New Zealand industry, which resulted in many changes and improvements to their milk collection system.

1979 was the year of his sabbatical from the Hotel School. The Brazilian Government invited him to help start a school for hoteliers in Sao Paulo. He provided the curriculum, and locals with a better
grasp of Portuguese were hired to carry out the program. His last overseas mission came after recently retired Dean Beck asked him to come to Paris, France to help start a hotel school there. Jim stayed three months and returned to Ithaca to start a new phase of his life.

Upon full retirement, Jim continued his active career, working in the area of climate change and acid rain, organizing the programs and editing and publishing 16 conference proceedings on the subject. Much of his international travel was dedicated to attending and presenting at meetings all over the world. He also had time to share his leadership skills with a variety of organizations. He served as chair of the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council, founding chair of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, scientific advisor and director of the Center for Environmental Information in Rochester, New York and founding president of the Mariposa DR Foundation in the Dominican Republic. He also found time to be commodore of the Ithaca Yacht Club! During his retirement, he spent his winters in Fort Myers, Florida, where he was an avid tennis player, playing his last game at age 99.

In 2016, on the occasion of his 100th birthday, he was honored with a celebration at the Ithaca Yacht Club attended by over 100 family, friends and colleagues from around the United States and beyond. After the ceremony, he drove to Florida for the winter.

He was especially proud of the fact that he shook the hand of 11 of the 14 Cornell presidents (!) - beginning with President Livingston Farrand and ending with current President Martha Pollack.

His final year (2018) was just as active as any of his most productive in the past. From his winter home in Fort Myers, he made a visit to Cuba via Key West and the Truman White House, returning to Cayuga Lake in April. His last International trip was to a climate meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Unfortunately, he had a fall at the ferry station on the way to Prince Edward Island, which led to eight days in the hospital with a mild head injury, which then turned into pneumonia. After improvement, he was able to return to Ithaca. Full recovery was not to be, and Jim died on October 2nd at his beloved
lake front home.

A “Celebration of Life” was held at the Ithaca Yacht Club on June 9, 2019. Four generations of the White / Babcock family attended, along with friends, neighbors and colleagues to share in a life well lived!

Jim was married on September 7, 1941 to Ruth Babcock White (died in 1998). They had three children, James C. White, Jr. (Sonya), Deborah (Ray) Pavelka (died in 2010) and Waldo (Loretta) White. He is also survived by his loving grandchildren: Betsy (James) Hanks, Victoria (Wilson) Spears, James C. White III, Amy Pavelka and Ashley White (Chris) Georgakis, in addition to the much-loved great grandchildren Jacob, Katherine, Hadley, Cora and Jack.

Written by David K. Bandler; with assistance from Robert Gravani and Elizabeth Thorndike
Professor Emeritus Madison J. Wright passed away on April 27, 2019 in Ithaca, New York. Madison was born on April 9, 1924 in Washington, DC, the son of Elvira and Carlton Wright (Admiral of WWII fame). His undergraduate work was in chemistry at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill from 1942-44 and 46-47. He served as an electronics technician in the Naval Reserve from 1944-46. He received his doctorate in agronomy and botany from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 1952. He was appointed assistant professor of forage crops (production and management of crops to feed livestock) at UWM and held that position until 1959. He then became associate professor of agronomy at Cornell University, specializing in research and teaching of forage crops. Professor Wright was promoted to full professor in 1968. He was chairman of the Department of Agronomy at Cornell from 1970 to 1975. Before becoming department chairman, he worked with colleagues in the college to develop experimental field trip courses around the United States and then in foreign countries. This program helped establish Cornell’s prominence in international agriculture. Subsequent field courses in international agriculture development...
are still being taught today. While department chair, Professor Wright used aerial tours for new faculty from other parts of the world to help them become familiar with the diversity of agriculture in New York State. He also fostered very productive research exchanges with other countries of which the seed science program with Poland was exceptional.

After his term as department chair, Professor Wright focused on international agriculture and taught the Cornell course on tropical crops. He also became the extension and research leader for Cornell in oilseed crops, focusing on soybean. Professor Wright is credited with the reintroduction of soybean to New York agriculture. At the start of that work, soybean was a minor crop in New York State, but based on his work, soybean is now a crop of major importance here. His reflections on this and other aspects of his career can be viewed in the joint presentation with Professor Tom Scott at ecommons.cornell.edu.

Always a servant citizen of the groups to which he belonged, Professor Wright received several recognitions for his contributions to the college, the university, and New York State agriculture. In 1976, he was elected as a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy, its highest honor. In 1990, he received the Career Service Award of the Northeast Branch of the American Society of Agronomy. Professor Wright had retired in 1989.

His extra-professional contributions include 16 years as a county representative to the Central New York Resource Conservation and Development project. He also served for several years on his local Environmental Management Council and worked as a volunteer with the Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Service. Professor Wright had 40 years of membership and active service with the First Congregational Church of Ithaca. He also helped to start the “Information Outposts” to provide travel directions to students and parents as they arrived in Ithaca at the start of Cornell’s fall term. As a resident of Kendal at Ithaca, he was active in the Ithaca Woodshop Committee and was declared to be their “Screw-Master General Emeritus” in 2018.
Professor Wright is survived by his wife Mary, four children (David, Martha, Bill, and Sarah) and five grandchildren. He will be remembered as a catalyst in innovation and as a model gentleman.

Written by Gary W. Fick, William J. Cox, and Ralph L. Obendorf