MEMORIAL STATEMENTS

Cornell University Faculty
2019-2020

Office of the Dean of Faculty
Ithaca, New York
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-five University Faculty members whose deaths were reported in the period from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. The names of the committee members who prepared the statements are given at the end of each article.
Professor Richard J. Archer was born on June 8, 1948 and died September 14, 2019 following a battle with cancer. He graduated with a dual degree in mathematics and economics from Boston College in 1970 and a master’s degree in theatre technology from the University of Missouri at Kansas City in 1974. Dick was often reserved and never self-promoting, and, as a result, many people didn’t realize the extent of Dick’s knowledge. But those of us who knew him well relished his capacious mind, rich with brilliance and insights, and his generosity of spirit.

Dick made himself available to colleagues and students alike. When he spoke, his comments were succinct and to the heart of the matter. People listened and learned from Dick’s ability to see the root causes. He had a mathematician’s penchant for exactness, coupled with an artist’s desire to entertain all the possible permutations given the available data. Dick never imposed, but frequently asked questions, and his questions, more often than not, made you understand the problem from a new perspective.

Dick was so succinct, that unless you knew him for a while, you
might not realize that he was a “talker” who could entertain you at length telling engaging stories from a lifetime of making theatre with practitioners at the top of the profession. He was a modest but inveterate “people person.” Whether it was continuing to be a mentor to former students after they graduated, or assisting a cancer stricken colleague, helping to make his home accessible, Dick’s capacity to always use his knowledge and skills for the best, most original outcomes, was unmatched.

“The theatre was a life pursuit for Dick, not just a job. He was quietly excellent for 40 years.”, said former student Joey Moro, one of many students who were mentored and nurtured by Professor Archer during his four-decade long career at Cornell. Dick was consistently rated as one of the nation’s top technical directors, and the hundreds of people he worked with and for — including the likes of Tom Hanks, Sarah Caldwell, Graciela Daniele, Ruby Dee, Jane Lynch, John Lithgow, Agnes de Mille and Olympia Dukakis — make up a veritable Who’s Who of the American Theatre for the past 50 years.

While Professor Archer served as technical director for nearly 200 productions at Cornell, he spent summers as technical director for some of the nation’s finest regional theatres, performing his brand of magic for over 130 productions at the Indiana Repertory Theatre, Opera Company of Boston, Missouri Repertory Theatre, and the Great Lakes Theatre Festival. The sets that he engineered appeared on stages from these locations and were frequently transferred without significant alterations to New York and Broadway: to the Public Theatre and The Roundabout Theatre, as well as The Royal Theatre.

In 1986, Dick began working with long-time friends, Jennifer Shea — who had also known Dick from her work in Cornell’s theatre department — and MJ Herson, creating and producing special events for companies and universities. Herson called Professor Archer “our secret ingredient. He took our creative/production team’s big, bold abstract ideas and realized them into powerful and exciting theatre experiences. Together we won three C.A.S.E.
National Circle of Excellence Awards for multi-billion-dollar campaign events at Princeton University, Cornell University, and Texas A&M. Other Clients included Harvard University, Yale University, Duke University, as well as HBO, Swiss Air, and the inaugural events at the Bass Performance Hall starring Carol Burnett and Van Cliburn.”

Another of Dick’s students, and later collaborator with Herson Productions, was Jason Ardizzone-West, now a production and set designer who has worked with Blue Man Group, Julliard Theatre, and The Public Theatre. Most recently, Jason was production designer for Jesus Christ Superstar which was broadcast live on NBC. Jason, who had known Dick for 30 years, met him when Jason was an architecture student at Cornell. Jason recalls the first day, sitting at the lunch table in the scene shop with Dick and others, “feeling for the first time at Cornell like I was home. When I met Dick, I started to remember who I was and what I was meant to do. Dick’s outward disposition could be gruff and slightly scary to people who didn’t know or understand his special kind of genius and warmth. Dick would often say ‘I don’t know’ or ‘I don’t care’ (with an emphasis on the “I”), but what he was really saying was, ‘I actually know a lot about what you’re asking me, I’m excited about it, and I will share it with you if you’re interested in it too’. And boy was I interested!”

Ardizzone-West recalls Dick as a “brilliant technical director with a depth of knowledge and interest about theatre that was vast and generous. Always a true mentor to me in school, Dick was always there for me when we started working together at Herson Group and when I switched careers from Architecture to Set Design. Dick Archer was and is a Jedi Master of technical theatre.”

Another former student, as well as a collaborator at times with Herson Group, Sarah Lambert, studied at Cornell when the main theatre for Department productions was in Willard Straight Hall. “The scene shop was a little room backstage. Most Cornell students didn’t arrive with a lot of carpentry skills, so Dick basically built every set all by himself. Typically, he would be covered in sawdust
and always ready with a memorable comment or two.” Dick was joined in scenery construction by Bill Ashdown, who became a lifelong friend.

Dick was a master persuader, not by dictating a solution, but by gently (and slyly) opening up the possibility that colleagues might want to think more completely about their choices. Sarah Lambert points out that “one of Dick’s best lines was simply – ‘you can build it that way if you want to…’ “This,” says Lambert, “being a not so subtle hint that you should rethink your plan, because it was never going to work. Dick taught his students that it didn’t matter how good a design idea might be in theory, if it couldn’t actually be built – on time and on budget – then it wasn’t a good idea after all.”

Ardizzone-West recalls his favorite example of Dick’s way of giving his advice: “He was constantly sharing his wisdom and knowledge with me, but my favorite example by far is his response to my question about how to get a really beautiful tree made that could also magically bloom onstage. His answer: ‘Only God and Disney can make a tree… however…’ (and then he gave me a whole list of potential fabricators)”.

Professor Archer was instrumental in seeing the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts completed. As Joey Moro recalls: “He shaped the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts building as it is today by completing a mid-construction redesign in order to fit within a suddenly dwindled budget and to save the project.”

Professor Richard Archer’s death leaves a void in the lives of many in the American theatre community. Perhaps Sarah Lambert says it best: “The show will go on, as the saying goes – and life will go on – but it won’t be the same. Not without Dick here. So yes, you can build it that way if you want to… But it won’t ever be as good as how Dick would have built it.”

Professor Archer is survived by his wife, Noreen, daughters Laura and Lisa, and son Chris, as well as his two brothers.
Written by Bruce Levitt, David Feldshuh, and Warren Cross
David M. Bates, professor emeritus, and plant evolutionary biologist renowned for his studies for the taxonomy, evolution and importance of economically important plants died on December 11, 2019. David showed an interest in plant taxonomy and evolution as an undergraduate working as an assistant taxonomist at Longwood Gardens in 1958 before obtaining his B.S. from Cornell University in 1959. He then attended the University of California, Los Angeles as a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow and received his Ph.D. there in 1962. Upon graduation he became a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the British Museum (Natural History) and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. After completing his postdoctoral studies, Dr. Bates joined the L.H. Bailey Hortorium, Division of Biological Sciences, at Cornell University as an assistant professor. As an associate professor (1969), then full professor (1975), he served as director of the L.H. Bailey Hortorium from 1969 until 1983 and, in addition, was acting chair from September 1989 until December 31, 1989. He was a professor in the L.H. Bailey Hortorium until the year 2000 and then, after structural changes to the Division of Biological Sciences, a professor in the Department of Plant Biology and finally professor emeritus in the
David Bates had a broad understanding of plant systematics and evolution and made important contributions to the systematics and economic importance of several significant groups of angiosperms (flowering plants) including those in the Order Malvales, the Cucurbitaceae (the cucumber family), and the palms. Bates’ early research focused on the biology of the Malvaceae (the cotton family), largely emphasizing cytological, breeding and field-based ecological studies. Subsequently, his interests extended to the economic value of plants, ethnobotany, including indigenous drug use and discovery, forensic botany, and ultimately, international agriculture.

His combined interests in systematics and economically important plants—a hallmark of the L. H. Bailey Hortorium tradition, led to the production, with Hortorium colleagues and associates, of Hortus Third, a remarkably influential, well known, and still widely used dictionary of plants cultivated in the United States and Canada. He also published prolifically in appropriate scientific journals that reflected his broad expertise and interests. His wide-ranging interests were also manifest in his teaching responsibilities and graduate student mentoring. Through the years the course Ethnobiology was offered in several iterations at both the undergraduate and graduate student levels. Other courses offered by Professor Bates included Biosystematics and Evolution of Crop Plants, the Healing Forest, and Traditional Agriculture in Developing Countries. He was the major or minor advisor of over 40 graduate students many of whom now hold significant academic or other professional positions.

In the 1980’s and beyond, his research expanded to focus on the processes and patterns of biotic utilization as expressions of human cultural and technological evolution and he enjoyed collaborations with his colleagues (now Senior Associate Dean Max Pfeffer, and Professor David Brown), as his interests expanded. Accordingly, he joined the graduate fields of Conservation and Sustainable Development and Natural Resources. To test ideas about the
determinants of use, he became involved with two international development projects. One was concerned with the future of Los Haitesis National Park in the Dominican Republic; the other with conservation farming in the uplands of the Philippines. Both sites provided exemplars of the selective relationships between human societies and their environments.

Throughout his academic career, Professor Bates was active in professional societies, serving terms as President of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists, the Society for Economic Botany, and the Association of Systematic Collections. In addition, he served as a member or chairperson of many Cornell and numerous external committees. He was also a member of numerous editorial boards including, for example, the Journal of Food, Agriculture and the Environment, Annals of Tropical Research, and Phytomorphology.

David was a gregarious, charming, and articulate individual who thrived on social interactions. He is survived by his wife Jane (an accomplished tennis player and impossibly elegant hostess), his children Jonathan D. Bates, a rangeland scientist with the USDA-ARS in Oregon, and Leslie Bates Randall, a botanist, botanical illustrator and landscape designer at the San Diego Zoo, and their children.

Written by Bill Crepet, Karl Niklas, and Edward Cobb

Photo by Edward Cobb

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Cornell University’s Jacob Gould Schurman professor emeritus of Theatre, Film & Dance and German Studies, David Bathrick (April 17, 1936–April 30, 2020) was an exemplary and influential citizen of the College of Arts & Sciences, the university committees and communities he served—at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and, for the lion’s share of his career, at Cornell—and the world. An outstanding scholar with a multidisciplinary range, he chaired his two home departments at Cornell, German Studies and Theatre, Film & Dance (as Performing & Media Arts was previously configured) with verve and eminent good judgment. He was an inspiring, beloved teacher of undergraduate and graduate students, and a generous mentor to faculty, deans, and a provost. He also co-taught a popular weekend theater course in New York City to appreciative Cornell Adult University participants, who admired his vast knowledge of German and American history and his exceptional ability to make insights from cultural theory accessible to audiences from all walks of life.

Disdaining all pretense, except for the acting that belongs on stage or screen, David had a disarming passion for robust debate, good
storytelling, social justice, and the boxing ring. The Public Broadcasting System’s television documentary *The Fight* benefited from his deep knowledge about the racialized politics of 1930s boxing in the United States and Nazi Germany, for example, as he commented on historic matches between Joe Louis, the first Black heavyweight champion of the world since Jack Johnson, and Max Schmeling, who had been Hitler’s favorite to win.

“Expect the unexpected,” a colleague once wrote appreciatively of David. This imperative applies to his biography and scholarship alike. Raised in the New England town that inspired a cinematic indictment of American anti-Semitism in 1947 (*Gentlemen’s Agreement*), he was a football linebacker for Dartmouth College and a Marine Corps reservist at different times, discovering divided Germany as a young student in the 1950s and becoming a dedicated anti-Vietnam War activist in the 1960s.

As a doctoral student of German language and literature at the University of Chicago, he was awarded a research fellowship to spend 1967-68 in Berlin, Germany, where he focused on the theater archives and living legacy of Bertolt Brecht, Germany’s most influential and controversial playwright of the 20th century. Living with his young family in West Berlin, David crossed the Iron Curtain into East Berlin daily to pursue documents and performances related to Brecht’s non-dogmatic approach to aesthetics and politics. David’s ability to traverse otherwise unsurpassable divides—in thought and space—became a signature feature of his scholarship and made him a leading expert on 20th-century German cultures of anti-fascist and anti-dictatorial dissidence. His feisty inclination to consider all perspectives rigorously and above all to think outside the box confounded the intelligence agencies of both communist and capitalist governments. In an ironic twist, East Germany’s surveillance police dubbed David “Diabolo” in secret files, presumably signaling the western “devil” they saw in him but invoking a popular juggling device with the misspelling instead.

David received his Ph.D. in 1970 and rapidly became a maverick
giant in international German Studies, in arenas ranging from theater, film, and literature to theories of culture, society, and media. He was repeatedly at the forefront in breaking down Cold War barriers to scholarly exchange and critical thought, both personally and intellectually. Especially drawn to analyzing radical cultures of spectatorship—in theater, film, sport, and the public sphere—he was a major figure of Brecht Studies and renowned internationally for his book *The Powers of Speech*. This study analyzed the complex “polysemy” of oppositional writing in East German culture during and after the Cold War, including in the avant-garde oeuvre of Heiner Müller, Germany’s most important (and surprisingly postmodern) Marxist playwright since Brecht. Illuminating revolutionary aesthetics in relation to state power, this book garnered a distinguished professional book prize from the German Studies Association. Other specializations included German cinema of both the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich, as well as German-Jewish Studies and Holocaust memory since the defeat of European fascism in 1945. Always probing the blind spots of academic perspective, David at one point contemplated a book project on the thorny role of love stories in Nazi cinema.

A keystone of David’s overarching influence on interdisciplinary German Studies is the vital role he played in co-founding *New German Critique* in 1973 and co-editing this scholarly journal as long as he was able. One of the most widely read journals in the field since its heady inception, at the nearby Milwaukee campus of the University of Wisconsin, amidst New Left fervor of the 1970s, *New German Critique* has been a major conduit for introducing Anglophone audiences to the Frankfurt School of German cultural and progressive political theory known as Critical Theory, which interrogated modern critical thought and aesthetics in response to capitalism, fascism, genocide, exile, migration, and the ongoing transformations of mass media, art forms, and social life. David and *New German Critique* also played indispensable roles in establishing the innovative field of GDR Studies in the US, a field that explores the culture, art, and politics of the communist side of divided Germany. The journal also featured feminist approaches to German culture early on. All three arenas—German Critical Theory,
GDR Studies, and feminist German Studies—were seen as highly controversial at the time.

Realizing that the UN did not recognize East and West Germany as full member countries until 1973, and that feminist literary theory was only beginning to be discussed in the 1970s, one appreciates the visionary quality of David’s intellectual commitments, in both his research and the journal he helped sustain for nearly 50 years. When he left his Madison professorship in 1987, which he had held since 1970, to accept a senior position at Cornell, the College of Arts & Sciences was honored to recruit him for the remainder of his career and to welcome the journal operations he brought with him. The Department of German Studies remains honored to maintain its affiliation with *New German Critique* as the journal continues to address the desiderata of German Studies in the 21st century.

David made many contributions to the overall development of German Studies, especially when this field of literary studies first expanded its focus to include studies of German culture more broadly. His clarion calls for the Modern Language Association and the American Association of Teachers of German to redefine the field in progressive ways helped create many new opportunities for younger generations of teachers and scholars and contributed to a sea change in the field. Generations of graduate students were drawn to work with David for his activist orientation to texts and performances, for his high standards coupled with supportive availability, and for his warmth and humanity. Many student projects intersected with David’s specializations in 20th-century German Studies. Others ranged farther afield, including for example studies of British playwright Harold Pinter, images of America in contemporary Chinese drama, and theater work with inmates in American prisons. Brechtian theory and practice form a red thread running through many of the dissertations and careers David mentored, as did the graduate student involvement he invited in the professional curation of *New German Critique*.

David’s capacious interests took him well beyond German Studies. From 1995-2002 he chaired the Department of Theatre, Film &
Dance (now Performing & Media Arts), where he was always cheerfully available to talk in any setting and even performing on stage. Beloved and respected at every level, he offered generous mentorship, stories of activism and survival, and sage counsel on changing the institution while staying happy within it. His legendary collection of VHS tapes of otherwise unavailable films was an invaluable resource. Combined with his radically egalitarian ethos, his deep knowledge, passion, and enthusiasm helped show students as well as colleagues what kinds of persons they wanted to be and nurtured new generations of scholars in the cross-disciplinary fields of theater, performance, cinema, and media studies.

From 2004 on, David also played an essential role in creating a unique online resource based in Cornell University Library and expanded with the library’s ongoing support. Widely acclaimed and openly accessible to a global public, “Alexander Kluge: Cultural History in Dialogue” is one of Cornell’s most innovative projects in the digital humanities. Devoted to Kluge as a multi-medial polymath and critical theorist in dialogue with German cultural history, this bilingual digital archive features films, texts, and interviews by Kluge with other major postwar artists and thinkers such as Heiner Müller, Hans Magnus Enzensberger, Anselm Kiefer, Oskar Negt, and Miriam Hansen. Continuing to grow and seeding new research in many fields, this project also benefits from affiliations with the University of Bremen, Princeton University, and Kluge himself.

David, who retired from Cornell’s teaching faculty in 2007, will remain sorely missed by students, colleagues, family, and friends around the globe. We remember him as a distinguished scholar, brilliant interlocutor, and extraordinary human being who, even when he was being provocative, was also loving, generous, funny, and warm. His legacy lives on.

Written by Leslie A. Adelson (chair), Glenn Altschuler, Sabine Haenni, Peter Hohendahl, Nick Salvato, and Kizer Walker

Photo by Robert Barker
Helen T. M. Bayer was born November 28, 1921. She was a valued colleague and friend who died on December 8, 2019 at the age of 98. She joined the Department of Child Development and Family Relationships in the College of Home Economics (the forerunner to what is now the Department of Human Development in the College of Human Ecology) in 1955, the year she completed her Ph.D. in that same department. Her B.A. was from the University of Buffalo. She was promoted to full professor in 1965. Helen retired in 1989 and was elected to emeritus status that same year.

Helen served as Department Extension Leader from 1960-1970 and was project director of the Head Start Regional Training Office from 1965-1977, which conducted professional development for Head Start staff in upstate New York. She authored or co-authored a range of guides and bibliographies for professionals and parents and co-produced two instructional films. She taught and did research in the area of parental-child-rearing behaviors. She was a member of various professional organizations such as the Eastern Sociological Society and the National Council of Family Relations, and the American Home Economics Association. In recognition of her
contributions, Helen was elected as a fellow in the American Sociological Association. She was also a member of Pi Lambda Theta, Omicron Nu and Phi Upsilon Omicron honorary societies.

During her long tenure as a faculty member Helen bridged several major transitions in the evolution of the college now called Human Ecology. When the College morphed from Home Economics to Human Ecology in 1969, to highlight its interdisciplinary exploration of the human experience, Helen played an important role within the newly-formed Department of Human Development and Family Studies in helping alumnae, students and county extension colleagues understand the historical roots of the expanded mission. This historical perspective served her well in the role of Department Extension Leader, which she held from 1960 through 1970.

A second transition for the college during the 1960s was from a largely state-wide to a more national presence in its commitment to the Land Grant mission. One of the Great Society programs embraced by the College was Head Start, established by the Johnson Administration in 1965. Helen recognized the potential in Head Start for improving the lives of low-income New York families and their children, and chose to invest a significant portion of her career on bolstering program quality through the professional development of Head Start staff, serving as project director of the Upstate Head Start Regional Training Office from 1965-1977.

Closely allied to Helen’s work with Head Start was her interest in and contributions to the understanding of parenting education. In that arena she authored or co-authored a range of teaching guides and bibliographies for Extension professionals and parents and co-produced two instructional films.

During the 1980s, Helen led the outreach arm of the Department of Human Development through a third transition, from its more limited focus on childhood and adolescence to a life-course perspective and educational programming related to aging populations. Helen was an early supporter of Cooperative Extension
outreach to aging populations. She was a valued mentor and friend to many colleagues, and her strong ties to County extension agents served as a conduit for younger faculty.

Throughout her long career with the College of Human Ecology Helen Bayer was a steadying, gentling presence in the Department of Human Development, constantly in search of a positive, constructive way forward for the department, the college, and Cornell University.

Written by Stephen J. Ceci, Moncrieff M. Cochran, Karl A. Pillemer, and Stephen F. Hamilton
A scholar of French language and literature alike, celebrated Professor Emeritus Jacques Bereaud, romance studies, died on October 22. He was 81 years old.

An influential pedagogue and academic, Bereaud served as a professor for nearly four decades at Cornell until 2002. During those 36 years, he helped helm the romance studies division forward as the department chair and cultivated a passion for French dialect amongst students.

Born in Northern France, Bereaud grew up in the wake of World War II — where he learned to read from the safety of his own home — when schools were few and far between, according to his son, Francois Bereaud.

But once French schools reopened their doors, Bereaud’s academic prowess shown through uncapped, as he went on to achieve some of the highest levels of education, including a doctorate from the University of Lille.
Amidst graduate studies, Bereaud spent five years teaching English in the French school system, a pursuit that ultimately inspired him to join Cornell’s faculty, where he focused on pedagogy and elevating students “to achieve their own academic goals,” Francois Bereaud told The Sun.

In addition to operating a Cornell study abroad program in Paris, Bereaud co-authored the textbook “Appréciaitons Du Français Moderne,” an anthology showcasing prominent selections of contemporary French prose in 1972, according to the University archives.

Bereaud also served as an advisor to the French Speaking Club in an effort to further foster “French language and culture,” according to a Sun report from September 1985.

Beyond his work, Bereaud also undertook the restoration of an 1818 home in Danby, New York where he taught himself electrical work, plumbing and many other facets of home improvement all in a strenuous effort to renovate the home.

A globe-trotting academic, Bereaud immersed himself in travel both as a professor and well into his retirement. He returned to France often to visit family but also enjoyed exploring the U.S. and tropical destinations, with the French-speaking Caribbean island of Guadeloupe a favorite.

“Above all, Jacques’ true passion was family and friends. He was devoted to his wife, children, grandchildren, and extended family. He was proud to see his sons grow into adulthood and establish their own careers and families,” his son shared in an email to The Sun.

“He loved to talk to his grandchildren, nephews, and nieces, sharing many of his stories and learning about their interests. He never turned down a game of cards or a chance to chat with a neighbor,” he continued.
Bereaud is survived by his wife Helene, sons, Francois and Philip, daughters-in-law Joanna and Yvonne, and seven grandchildren, as well as sisters Marie-Therese and Catherine.

Written by Louis Chuang

Originally printed in The Cornell Daily Sun on November 25, 2019
Antonie William Charles Blackler (plus four other middle names which were often bonus questions on exams) was a consummate urbane Englishman, but he didn’t start out that way. He was born to Leslie Guy and Florence Harris Blackler on October 19, 1931, in Portsmouth, England. His mother recognized his intelligence and defended his studying rather than curtailing his education as other members of the family advised. He owed her a lot for his later success in life.

Tonie was not one to discuss his youth, which was filled with strife and heartache, including twice being bombed out of his home during World War II. Tonie dedicated himself to his studies and immersed himself in the sciences, earning enviable scholarships to University College London, from where he obtained his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Zoology and Embryology. After obtaining his doctorate in 1956, he taught at Queen’s University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, and then joined the research lab of Michail Fischberg at Oxford University where he specialized in honing the technique of nuclear transplantation.
When the lab moved to Geneva, Switzerland, Tonie followed and, from 1961 to 1964, he taught and continued his research at the Station de Zoologie Expérimentale at Malagnou. He loved the beauty of Geneva, Lac Leman and the surrounding hills as well as the vibrance of the multinational and multicultural city. The chocolates and cheeses were also big parts of his life there, as were the many lifelong friends he made.

Desiring a change in the focus of his research, Tonie accepted an invitation from Dr. William Wimsatt, professor of Histology, to visit Cornell University. Ithaca, Cayuga Lake and the surrounding hills, as well as a deepening friendship with Bill, convinced Tonie to leave Geneva. He came to the United States at the end of 1964 (on the HMS Queen Mary, along with a new young musical group called The Beatles) to serve as professor of Zoology in the College of Arts and Sciences.

His research continued in developmental genetics and nuclear transplantation which served as one of the building blocks for future stem cell research. His work was also instrumental in the preservation of endangered species of frogs through interspecies transplantation.

“Tonie was known for groundbreaking fundamental work on the origin of sex cells in vertebrates. His experiments with South African Clawed Toads (Xenopus laevis) yielded important insights into the development and reproduction of amphibian embryos, with implications for other animals and humans. His work focused on the female germline – the cells that make eggs. His experiments transplanting cells from one embryo to another showed that the germline is derived from special cells set aside in the early embryo. He also transplanted germline cells from one species to another, which led to results that showed that an embryo’s mitochondria are derived entirely from its mother. In addition, he conducted interspecies transplantation experiments with the goal of finding a host species into which the germline of an endangered frog species could be transplanted, to propagate or restore the species.”
“Tonie Blackler did extremely important – foundational – work in developmental biology, on the function of germline, the cells that make eggs or sperm, dating back to the 1950s,” said Dr. Mariana Wolfner, the Goldwin Smith Professor of Molecular Biology and Genetics in the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S). “He was a very modest, self-effacing person, very wise, and had a deep and broad knowledge of biology.”

Nationally, Tonie served at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Washington, D.C., as Program Director of Developmental Biology from 1974-75 and Director of the Division of Physiology, Cell and Molecular Biology from 1981-82. His aim was always to support the research of young scientists and further the advancement of research in his field.

He was a member of the Society for Developmental Biology (SDB), the International Society for Developmental Biology (ISDB), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and the Swiss Zoological Society.

At Cornell, Tonie served as chair of his department in the Division of Biological Sciences, then called Molecular Biology and Genetics, from 1993 to 1999.

“I knew Antonie Blackler as a distinguished teacher in developmental biology and in introductory biology for freshmen,” said Thomas Fox, professor of molecular biology and genetics. “He was collegial, thoughtful and urbane in everything he did.”

“Our faculty expressed an affection for him that went beyond his responsibilities as chair; he remembered so many details about our lives and work, and could inject humor into almost any situation,” said Eric Alani, professor of Molecular Biology and Genetics.

Indeed, Dr. Wolfner noted that Tonie had posted a Mark Twain quote on his office door:

“Eat a frog first thing in the morning and nothing worse will
happen to you the rest of the day.”

In 2001, Tonie retired from Cornell in Ithaca only to become course director for the nascent Pre-Med Biology program at the Weill-Cornell Medical School (WCMC-Q) in Doha, Qatar, from 2002 to 2005. Even after he retired the second time in 2005 on his return from Doha, Tonie’s love of science never wavered. Until the COVID pandemic, Tonie continued to attend seminars at Cornell, taking copious notes; his favorite reading material remained scientific scholarly journals.

Tonie was humble when it came to his many achievements. He did not brag; he did not make others feel small even though his impressive intellect allowed him to identify by genus and species the majority of all plant and animal matter with which he came in contact, much to the chagrin of his children. Upon his passing, the outpouring of love from Tonie’s former students and colleagues is testament to his teaching skills and passion for learning.

“Tonie taught me that no matter how learned we become, we can always learn from others; and no matter how much others know, we may always have something new to teach them. It was a lesson I never forgot. It's a humility and a humanity you do not find in excess in Ivy League faculty.” Dr. Michelle Famula

In addition to science, Tonie loved his family, classical music (particular to Brahms, Beethoven, Bruckner and Mahler), gardening, Jaguars, and devouring historical texts of varied subjects. He treasured correspondence from friends and former students. He liked Branston pickles and a strong cup of tea. The art form of creating a perfect Negroni became a routine in his retirement.

Growing up with Tonie in the middle of 25 acres of trees, meant loving the outdoors, whether it was walking the many trails with his family or building his own ‘Hemlock Trail’ with his son. He also became well-known for maple sugaring in the winters, traipsing through the woods to gather sap and boiling it down to
syrup on his very own ‘stove’ created from discarded water heaters and washtubs, spoiling friends and family forever on ‘the good stuff’ produced with Bill Wimsatt as ‘SAPS, Inc.’

Tonie’s many varied interests included his love of a good jigsaw puzzle - he could spend hours laboring over the right fit for a snowy fence or a wooded scene or a picture of Marilyn Monroe. He was a fan of Portsmouth FC and took an avid interest in British football (soccer, that is) management and achievement. He appreciated great performances – celebrating the great acting and dancing of Vera Ellen or Audrey Hepburn, Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, while also listening to Julie London, June Christy, or Jo Stafford.

Tonie had the driest wit that would surprise you at the most unexpected times, delivered with the flourish of a British accent. His sense of humor and comedic timing were manifest.

Although Tonie never sought to be the center of attention, many a lively conversation was quietly broken up by a sentence or two from him – a brief pause, and then uproarious laughter ensued all around from his lethal wit. It was a gift to hear him speak: the thoughtfulness of the content; the selected word choice from his mammoth vocabulary; his accent that made every word ‘sound better’; the smirk on his face and the sparkling grey eyes when he knew he was about to make others laugh. His prose was exceptional and unique, the vocabulary and sentence structure beautiful without being unreachable for the recipient.

He could also be silly. He regularly poked good-natured fun at unimaginative rock songs or television diddies. He passed along his love of rewriting lyrics, or inventing original scores with fetching titles such as “Oh Where, Oh Where, is Your Uncle Sid?” or that he insisted on proclaiming “Kiki!” after every sneeze. His knowledge of the songs and stories of Spike Jonze peppered his repertoire with sometimes questionable taste but always laughter and fun.
Tonie Blackler was kind to friends and strangers, offering help to with a flat tire at the side of the road on a snowy night, or ruminating about a friend in need, or worrying about societal woes for the betterment of all. In late 2019, after living in the States for 55 years, being an Alien Resident in the US was no longer enough. He became a naturalized US citizen for the sole purpose of being able to vote against the kind of hateful divisiveness that destroyed his childhood home during WWII.

Tonie is survived by his wife of 50 years, Shelley ’67, their children, Mia ‘93 and Joshua ‘01, their respective spouses (Mark and Sandra ‘02), and his grandchildren (Colin and Grace).

While our hearts are raw and shattered with Tonie’s sudden and tragic departure, he is with us with every rustle of the leaves in the wind, his garden of plants to which we need to learn how to tend, the sunset when seen from Tonie’s ‘beer o’clock’ deck, and the hearts of all those many people who loved him. We miss him so very much.

Written by Shelley Blackler
John Ronald Brake, emeritus professor of Applied Economics and Management, passed away on August 6, 2019 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was 87 years old.

John was born January 22, 1932 in Stanton, Michigan, the son of D. Hale Brake and Marjorie Valentine Brake. While growing up in Stanton, John worked on the family farm, developing an interest in the business of farming, which carried into his later professional career. An avid sports enthusiast, he was stricken with polio at the age of fourteen and spent nearly a year recovering at a Lansing, Michigan hospital. Although he regained the ability to walk without assistance, he would never run again and began following sports from the sidelines as Sports Reporter for the local paper, developing his writing skills. He graduated Valedictorian from Stanton High School in 1951.

John attended Michigan State University where he received his B.S. degree in agricultural education and his M.S. degree in agricultural economics. He went on to receive his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from North Carolina State University in 1959. He then
accepted a position as an assistant professor in agricultural economics at Michigan State University in 1959. He left Michigan State University as a full professor in 1981, when he accepted the William I. Myers Professorship in Agricultural Finance at Cornell University, one of the first endowed professorships in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at Cornell University and the first focused on agricultural finance in the country. He retired from Cornell University in 1996.

One of the constants in John’s professional career was his abiding interest in agriculture and his concerns for the wellbeing of farmers and farm families. He not only was a farmer himself, managing the family farm in Michigan for many years until 1980, but John taught farm management and agricultural finance, both at Michigan State University and Cornell University. His classes were well received by students and he trained many students who are now working in the finance industry around the world. His years of service spanned the full spectrum of teaching, research, and extension/public service.

John was an internationally recognized expert in agricultural finance. He co-authored the chapter on Agricultural Finance and Capital Markets in the multiple volume work, *A Survey of Agricultural Economics Literature*, which was published in 1977 under the oversight of the American Agricultural Economics Association. When the United States Department of Agriculture, in a budget cutting process, decided to cease their publication of the scholarly journal, *Agricultural Finance Review*, John brought the journal to Cornell University in 1983 and served as the editor or co-editor until his retirement. His national reputation led to nomination for president of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and service on the Foundation Board of that organization.

John exhibited tremendous leadership during the U.S. farm financial crisis in the 1980’s, serving on various national commissions and task forces on farm financial stress. He established the FarmNet Program at Cornell to assist financial and mentally struggling farmers in New York. That program is still actively assisting farmers
in the year 2019. He also established the Farming Alternatives Program to assist farmers who wanted to make a transition out of farming.

Over the course of his career he published numerous journal articles, papers and books. Additionally, he served as an advisor and consultant to the CEO of Farm Credit Administration and various entities of the Farm Credit System and gave dozens of speeches and numerous workshops for family farmers. He took sabbaticals to work with the Brookings Institute in Washington, DC, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the University of Guelph, and Purdue University. His work took him to Argentina, South America, South Korea and the Philippines.

John married his high school sweetheart, Betty Jane Neitzel in 1952, who predeceased John earlier in 2019. During their 66 years together, they raised four daughters, instilling their own values for integrity, hard work, compassion, and pursuing higher education.

*Written by Loren W. Tauer (chair), Wayne A. Knoblauch, and Eddy L. LaDue*
Dr. John Murray Elliot, professor emeritus of Animal Science, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University, died Tuesday, November 26, 2019, in Ithaca, New York. He was born November 6, 1927, in Howick, Quebec.

Following his graduation from McGill University (B.S., 1949), he studied for a master's degree at the University of Vermont (M.S., 1951), where he met his wife, Jane Preston. They were married in Burlington, Vermont in 1951. From 1950 to 1960 he was a member of the faculty at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. In 1956 he was selected as a Danforth Teacher and took a leave of absence to complete his graduate work at Cornell, receiving his Ph.D. in animal nutrition with minors in animal physiology and biochemistry in 1958.

In 1960, Dr. Elliot was invited to join the faculty at Cornell University as an assistant professor. He did so with the understanding that his primary responsibility would be that of teaching an introductory course in animal science and that he would have the opportunity to engage in research of his choice. For some
20 years, Dr. Elliot enjoyed this stimulating combination of responsibilities, often commenting that he had the best position in the world. Each fall semester he taught the large introductory Animal Science course. In addition, for many years he taught parts of a dairy production course and a course in the Veterinary School for students who lacked a background in animal science. Throughout his teaching career Dr. Elliot carried a heavy advising load and was actively involved in committees and other activities related to the encouragement of better teaching. In all, he influenced the lives of some 4000 undergraduates in his classes and subsequently served as faculty advisor to more than 230 of them. He was awarded national recognition for outstanding teaching by the American Dairy Science Association.

Dr. Elliot’s research interests related broadly to the glucose economy of the dairy cow and were stimulated by his fascination with the unresolved etiologies of two important metabolic problems, ketosis and milk fat depression. The prominent role of propionate as a precursor for glucose production represented one dimension of his research focus. Realizing that vitamin B12 played an essential role as a coenzyme component for propionate metabolism, this pathway became a second focus. Using novel whole-animal experimental approaches, his research characterized the role that propionate and vitamin B12 played in the endocrine regulation of energy supply, hepatic rates of gluconeogenesis, and milk fat synthesis. Among his many scientific publications and lectures was a keynote presentation on “Propionate metabolism and vitamin B12” for the International Symposium on Ruminant Physiology in Clermont-Ferrand, France.

As a result of his productivity in teaching and research responsibilities, Dr. Elliot was promoted to associate professor with tenure (7/1/65), and later to professor (7/1/71). He served as acting department chair 8/15/81-1/31/82, and, subsequently, as chair from 1983 until his retirement in 1991. He was recognized for "Distinguished Administration" by Gamma Sigma Delta and then, on 8/30/1991, he was appointed professor emeritus.

During retirement, Dr. Elliot remained active around Morrison Hall
(Animal Science) and as an emeritus professor, Dr. Elliot compiled information and wrote a history of the department: “Animal Science at Cornell University 1963-2000, Observations and Reflections of an Insider” that was published in 2001. This book provides details of faculty appointments and retirements as well as accounts of the changing academic landscape through the tenures of one department head and five department chairs. Appendices include the organization of the department, enrollment numbers in courses and curricular organization.

During his career, Dr. Elliot was a member of several professional organizations including the American Society of Animal Science, the American Institute of Nutrition, and the American Dairy Science Association, where for the latter he served as president of the Eastern Division, and later, nationally, as chairman of the Production Division. Dr. Elliot was named a Fellow of the American Dairy Science Association. He was elected to Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Sigma Delta, Alpha Zeta and AGFU (Honorary Society for the New York agriculture community).

Dr. Elliot and his wife attended the First Congregational Church and were very active around their community. He was a member of the Cayuga Heights Volunteer Fire Company and his friendship with several of the firemen lasted into retirement. Together they helped one another with home and community projects. Dr. Elliot was also a good friend to many of his neighbors. He was a talented amateur do-it-yourselfer and in the neighborhood he was "Mr. Fixit" for many years.

A particularly important activity in retirement was City Club of Ithaca, where he served successively as scribe, vice-president and president. He derived great pleasure out of his interactions with friends and colleagues at the weekly meetings and he especially liked the various programs that were presented.

After retirement, Dr. Elliot took up golf for the first time and for more than 20 years enjoyed the camaraderie of his golfing buddies, who often were among the first in the morning to arrive at the
Cornell golf course. They usually played the back nine. Later he continued his interest in golf during February and March in Florida, where he had cultivated golfing friends from many parts of the country.

On the personal side, Dr. Elliot was a committed optimist in his outlook on life and the human condition. For example, when he visited his wife in an assisted living facility, he would remark on anything positive that happened...maybe she said a few words...or smiled...or got up and walked a little. He always looked for those moments in every visit and he had an uncommon ability to move beyond disappointment and loss.

Remembrance from colleagues and friends: Beyond his rigorous research capabilities and his world-class scientific accomplishments, Dr. Elliot was a genuinely authentic person. The sincerity of his friendship and the help that he offered to his colleagues and students was always initiated with his characteristic and slightly mischievous smile. The science was serious, but the comradery was always light-hearted and relaxed...sometimes whimsical. He was curious, asking questions and then immersed in your response. He was a man of character, admired and respected by all who knew him.

Written by W. Ron Butler, Dale E. Bauman, Thomas R. Overton, and Michael L. Thonney
David I. Grossvogel

June 19, 1925 – June 14, 2020

Influential scholar, writer and editor David I. Grossvogel, the Goldwin Smith Professor of Comparative Literature and Romance Studies Emeritus and member of the Cornell faculty since 1960, died June 14 in Chicago. He was 94.

As a scholar, Grossvogel’s writing ranged from academic volumes on modern literature to film criticism and analysis to popular culture studies. He was a prolific author and critic throughout his retirement, writing novels, books about film and other topics, and articles for The New York Times Book Review and Film Quarterly.

Grossvogel founded Diacritics, the journal of contemporary criticism and theory published at Cornell, in 1971, and served as its editor until 1976. Credited with bringing continental theory to the United States, the eclectic journal offered reviews and criticism, surveying critical approaches to literature and experimental modes of creation.

Notably, Diacritics published interviews with leading figures such as Claude Levi-Strauss and Jacques Derrida, and translations of works...
by Hélène Cixous, Derrida, Umberto Eco and Michel Foucault, among others.

“David was a lively, often acerbic presence in Romance studies for many years,” said Jonathan Culler, the Class of 1916 professor of English and Comparative Literature. “As founder and first editor of the journal Diacritics, which went on to become one of the major journals of literary and cultural theory, his contributions to the literary field went well beyond his many books.”

Grossvogel was a well-known drama critic, listed in Who’s Who in American Theater. His areas of specialization included world drama, modern French literature and modern Western literature.

He wrote criticism, fiction and plays in French and English, including plays about Colette and Paul Robeson. His first two novels, “Le Journal de Charles Swann” (2009) and “Mariage New-Yorkais” (2011), were published in France.

Reflecting his expertise in world cinema, he organized a Cornell symposium and retrospective devoted to Italian director Michelangelo Antonioni in 1982, which the director attended as an A.D. White Professor-at-Large.

Grossvogel joined Cornell’s Department of Romance Studies in 1960 as an associate professor of French literature, was named a full professor in 1964, and in 1969 became the first faculty member appointed to the Goldwin Smith Professorship. He chaired the department from 1970-75, and he also served as director of graduate studies and of a graduate program in Paris. He retired and was elected an emeritus professor in 2000.

“David Grossvogel was an extraordinarily forceful teacher and wide-ranging scholar,” said Philip Lewis, professor of Romance studies emeritus. “While serving as department chair, he proposed to his colleagues the idea of publishing a journal that would bring the work of European thinkers to the attention of American academics.
“Diacritics transformed the departmental agenda and contributed decisively to the development of literary studies at Cornell,” Lewis said. “As a prolific scholar, David was a pioneering advocate for and strong practitioner in the field of film studies. In retirement, he was amazingly productive and original, achieving positive recognition from critics in France for remarkable novels composed in their language.”

Grossvogel was born June 19, 1925. He received a bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1949; studied in France at the University of Grenoble on a Fulbright fellowship in 1949-50; and earned his master’s degree in 1951 and doctorate in 1954, both from Columbia University. He taught at Columbia until 1956, then at Harvard University from 1956-60.

Grossvogel’s works include “Limits of the Novel: Evolutions of a Form from Chaucer to Robbe-Grillet” (Cornell University Press, 1968); and, as co-editor, “Divided We Stand: Reflections on the Crisis at Cornell” (1970) with Cushing Strout, the late Ernest I. White Professor of American Studies and Humane Letters, Emeritus.


Among his professional honors, Grossvogel received the Clark Research Award from Harvard University; a second Fulbright
fellowship for postdoctoral work in Paris; a Guggenheim fellowship; and a research fellowship from the Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies at Oxford University.

Written by Daniel Aloi

Originally printed in the Cornell Chronicle on June 22, 2020
James A. Henderson, Jr., the Frank B. Ingersoll Professor of Law, Emeritus, at Cornell Law School, died July 2, 2019. He was 81 years old. James earned a B.A. in English from Princeton, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and an LL.M. from Harvard Law School. Jim began his long teaching career at Boston University School of Law in 1964. He taught there for 20 years before coming to Cornell Law School, where he taught for another 29 years before taking emeritus status. During his career, Jim also taught at the University of Colorado School of Law, the University of Virginia Law School, and Brooklyn Law School.

Jim was a prolific scholar whose work spanned over five decades. His law school textbooks included *The Torts Process* (9 editions), *Products Liability: Problems and Processes* (8 editions), and *Torts: Case and Materials* (4 editions). He also authored over eighty scholarly law review articles. Jim earned a reputation as a top-rate torts scholar, leading the American Law Institute to appoint him, along with his longtime friend and collaborator Aaron Twerski, as co-reporters of the *Restatement of Torts (Third): Products Liability* and co-advisors to the *Restatement of Torts (Third).* Jim and Aaron
also served as co-Special Masters in the World Trade Center Disaster Site Litigation, which administered the 9/11 first responders fund. He testified many times in front of Congress and state legislatures. Jim continued to produce scholarship after obtaining emeritus status; his most recent article came out in the *Florida Law Review* in January of 2019.

Jim was one of the most cited and respected torts scholars in the world. It is no exaggeration to say that his ideas completely restructured the very foundations of products liability law. His contributions have been widely recognized with numerous awards. He was the recipient of the R. Ammi Cutter Distinguished Award from the American Law Institute (1997). He also received the Robert B. McKay Law Professor Award (2011) from the American Bar Association for professors who have shown advancement to justice, scholarship, and the legal profession, demonstrated by contributions in the field of tort, trial practice, or insurance law. Given his life-long commitment to the understanding of tort law, his most cherished award was certainly the William L. Prosser Award for Outstanding Contributions to Tort Scholarship, which the Torts Section of the American Association of Law Schools bestowed on him in 2014.

Jim lived his life with great passion. Among his many adventures, Jim once played an instrumental role in saving a passenger plane from crashing when a mentally ill passenger attacked the pilot. His diverse experiences and keen mind produced an incisive wit that one sees sprinkled through his casebooks and his scholarship. That scholarship also mirrored his own complex mix of fatalism and personal responsibility which now forever marks the world’s understanding of products liability. And of course, he loved teaching. Despite the impressive body of scholarship he amassed, he always asserted that he owed his primary professional responsibility to his students.

Jim is survived by his wife, Marcia, and his son, James D. Henderson, and daughter, Katherine Henderson Helber, and their families. He also leaves behind many friends, colleagues, and
former students, whose lives he touched, and who are better for having had the privilege of knowing him and learning from his insights.

Written by Jeffrey J. Rachlinski
On the night of December 16-17, 1944, Sargent James McConkey of the United States Army Infantry sat in a bombed-out farmhouse in the Ardennes Forest of northeast France, typing a feature for his division newspaper. The subject was a profile of Field Marshal von Rundstedt, German commander on the Western Front. Having finished the article Sargent McConkey went to bed in his sleeping bag, unaware that a major offensive by the German army was unfolding around him. Panzer forces and infantry, moving toward their objective, the port of Antwerp, in hopes of dividing the Allied forces, British to the north, Americans to the south, advanced so rapidly in a surprise attack in the dark that when Sargent McConkey awoke the next morning he and his unit were miles behind the German lines. The so-called Battle of the Bulge lasted about a week, and when the skies cleared the Allied Air Forces destroyed the enemy on the ground. Sargent McConkey survived, but was seriously wounded on April 13, 1945, when the jeep he was driving in Germany hit an explosive device. He returned to consciousness on the road as a hausfrau tenderly cared for him.

James Rodney McConkey was born September 2, 1921, in
Lakewood, Ohio. He grew up in several towns in the Midwest and Arkansas. While attending Cleveland College he enlisted in the U. S. Army and served as a journalist until wounded. Discharged in November of 1945, he completed a master’s degree in English at Western Reserve University in 1946 and a Ph.D. at the University of Iowa in 1950. The subject of his doctoral dissertation was the novels of E. M. Forster.

Jim’s first academic appointment was at Morehead State University in Kentucky, where he founded and directed the Morehead Writers Workshop. Besides his scholarly and critical work on Forster he published a number of short stories in the 1950s. In 1956, he accepted a professorship at Cornell and moved to Ithaca with his wife Gladys, a research chemist and editor, and their two sons, Larry and Cris. A third son, Jim, would be born in Ithaca.

At Cornell Jim taught courses in modern fiction and in the new creative writing program. He was also instrumental in the development and editing of Epoch magazine, one of the preeminent fiction journals in the country. Professor McConkey founded the Cornell Council on the Arts in 1965. One of his most important achievements was the two-year Chekhov festival of the late 1970s, bringing to Cornell distinguished writers such as John Cheever, Walker Percy, and Eudora Welty to lecture on the Russian master and read from their own work. In the 1990s he developed a very popular course called “Mind and Memory,” inviting a different lecturer each week to discuss a favorite book.

Over his long career Jim McConkey published 15 volumes, ranging from his study of E. M. Forster to the stories and memoirs collected in works such as The Night Stand, Crossroads, and Court of Memory. During his lifetime Jim was most celebrated for a number of autobiographical essays and narratives published in The New Yorker and The American Scholar, works he described as “autobiographical fiction” or “life writing.”

Though he had long intended to be a fiction writer, Jim experienced a life-changing decision in 1960, inspired by the horror of the
resumption of nuclear testing by the Soviet Union and the United States. Rather than creating fictional characters, he sought to develop a new kind of narrative, incorporating “intimate experience, through memory, and personal observation.”

Inspired by the rigor of the Confessions of St. Augustine, and the candor and surprising integrity and depth of Chekhov’s narratives, and by searching his own conscience and experience, Jim discovered a new genre and a new voice. Following the classical exhortation to “Know Thyself,” he examined and recorded the life he had lived, from the cruel years of the Great Depression when his family was split apart by poverty, to the wrenching memories of WWII, the loyalty and love of his mother, and of his wife, whom he called “Jean” in the essays.

As his art evolved and his audience grew, Jim came to realize that his most unsparing efforts to tell his story honestly and without illusion even so constituted a kind of fiction, by the very nature of narrative and the art of storytelling. He wrote, “Whatever my wish, I had not escaped fiction; I had simply made myself the central character of a story, finding in my own experience and dreams a greater authenticity than I could in those of any character I might invent.” Like fiction writing, “life writing” required artistry, selection, shaping, and exclusion.

There is a poignancy in Jim McConkey’s essays and stories uniquely his own, whether he is writing about the sacrifices of his mother in the 1930s, awaking after a near-fatal wreck in Germany, visiting Mammoth Cave with his fiancée at Christmas 1943 just before shipping overseas, or the special intimacies between animals and humans. Though he lived in a post-Darwinian, post-Freudian, and post-Holocaust world, and was in no conventional sense a “religious” writer, one underlying theme in much of Jim’s work was the quest for the sacred in our day-to-day lives. His stories build up to epiphanies of connection between people, unexpected recognitions, discoveries of allegiance and loyalties. In a world where supernatural belief is no longer possible, these moments of intimate trust and connection become all the more significant.
What made Jim McConkey’s work different from that of most contemporaries was not only his soul-searching honesty, his self-lacerating confessions of failure and weakness, but like Augustine, he was on a quest to find the spiritual in a non-believing world. It is a quest whose grandeur is counterbalanced by the ordinariness of his details, the plainness and directness of his voice, the humility of his claims. Again and again through his writing Jim finds the extraordinary in the ordinary. A casual detail or overheard comments becomes a revelation. He is a poet without verse and a churchman without a creed.

Among the many honors Jim received were fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. In 1979 he received an award from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. In 2008, the Master of Fine Arts Creative Writing Award was established at Cornell in his honor by a former student.

Though Jim published important works of fiction such as The Tree-House Confessions and Kayo, he is remembered most for the stories based on his personal experience in the multi-volume Court of Memory. Themes that run throughout his work are his long love affair with Gladys, his wife of seven decades, and the search for brotherhood. He had a special affinity for the poor and struggling, but was relentless in examination of himself, his motives and actions. His work was an ongoing self-critique. There is something at once deeply satisfying and deeply unsettling about Jim’s work. Like Chekhov he was rarely judgmental, except about himself.

What is unsettling about Jim’s work, I think, is the sensitivity of his search for the authentic, contrasting with the toughness of his honesty. Much of his writing is a kind of testimonial, often of failure, but sometimes of victory too. A very modern writer, as well as a classical writer, Jim offers no sure answers beyond the power of narrative and shared experience, human connection, and the miracle of being. Rather than preach, he is witness to his own struggles, recognitions, and discoveries. He is unsettling because he peels back
layers of experience, deeper and deeper, risking pain. He is satisfying because he proves by example that virtue and value will always be found in the struggle, in the quest itself. Occupied with the thorniest existential and theological questions, Jim imposes no answers. He gives us facts and poses questions.

Many of us have known Jim as a good neighbor, concerned with issues of energy, environment, and governance. Some of us have known him best as a wise master, who teaches by example and indirection. We are all grateful that he lived for 98 years, and that he was one of us. Jim liked to credit his longevity to his lifelong appreciation of red wines. He was always excellent company, and a gracious host.

Jim McConkey died peacefully at home October 24, 2019. He was buried four days later beside his wife Gladys and son Cris, at Greensprings Natural Cemetery Preserve, in Newfield, New York.

Written by Robert Morgan and Caroline Levine
Walter Pauk

May 1, 1914 – December 7, 2019

Walter Pauk, the designer of the ‘Cornell Way’ note-taking system, passed away December 7, 2019 in Naples, Florida. He was 105 years old; born in New Britain, Connecticut. Professor Pauk was predeceased by his wife Esther Florian Pauk in 2003 and is survived by a son and daughter, both Cornell alumni, who live in Florida.

Professor Pauk received a Bachelor of Arts in 1949 from the University of Connecticut. He earned his Doctorate in Education Psychology from the College of Human Ecology at Cornell in 1955 and joined the faculty in CALS Department of Education on July 1st of that year. He retired from Cornell in 1978 and moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1994, and later moved to Fort Myers Beach, Florida.

He loved the outdoors, enjoying camping, hiking, canoeing, and golf throughout his long life. His trips were often to the mountains of the Wind River Range in Wyoming and to Quetico Provincial Park in Canada. His last camping adventure was a Canadian canoe trip at the age of 91.
Professor Pauk had a distinguished career as a member of the faculty of Cornell’s Department of Education. He served as director of the Reading and Study Skills Center at Cornell, and was a highly respected speaker and author, writing over 100 books and articles. He was lauded by Gene Kerstiens, professor of English/reading and associate dean of instruction at El Camino College, California, in the *Journal of Developmental Education* as “one of the most influential professors in the field of developmental education and study skills.”

His best-known book "How to Study in College", published in 1962, is still influencing students today, and it is in this publication that he advocated the use of the Cornell Notes system (also known as the Cornell Note-taking System, Cornell Method, or Cornell Way), as described on Cornell’s Learning Strategies Center website, [http://lsc.cornell.edu/notes.html](http://lsc.cornell.edu/notes.html). It is said that Professor Pauk designed the first iteration of Cornell Notes as a TA at Cornell in response to frustration over student test scores.

Selected publications [compiled by Wikipedia.org]

Professor Pauk was a member of the Cornell University Alumni, the Cornell Association of Professors Emeriti, the University of Connecticut Alumni, the International Reading Association, the Reserve Officers Association, the Retired Officers Association, Boehm's United Methodist Church (Willow Street, Pennsylvania), and the Adirondack Mountain Club.

Professor Pauk served in the U.S. Army during WWII and the Korean War, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was interviewed by Sally Melcher Jarvis, a correspondent with LNP, a daily newspaper in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, for an article published in April 2012. The article is included here in its entirety.

**Willow Valley resident recalls his part in the liberation of Dachau**
Sally Melcher Jarvis Correspondent April 16, 2012 Updated September 12, 2013, LNP

In April 1945, Second Lieutenant Walter Pauk crossed the Rhine with his battalion, the 910th AAA AW, attached to the 15th Corps of the Seventh Army, and received orders to detach a platoon, peel off the main road and take care of a place called Dachau.

The U.S. Army had taken the camp the day before and had moved on. The German guards had fled. Someone had to hold the place until the military government arrived. Pauk was in charge of 120 men, about 17 vehicles and eight guns-on-wheels.

Although he was aware of the existence of Dachau, he was totally unprepared for what he encountered.

What first met his eyes was a group of former
prisoners with knives - taken from the abandoned kitchens - chasing milk cows around a field, attempting to kill them for food, Pauk said in an interview given as part of "Once Upon a Lifetime: The Oral History Project of Willow Valley Retirement Communities," where he now lives. The burgomeister of the town pleaded with Pauk to save the village cows, he recalled. Pauk sent a squad to round up the former prisoners and then proceeded to the camp. It was then that the full horror of the place came to him, he said.

According to Pauk, a pile of bodies of men, women and girls, each in a long cloth bag, was stacked by the deserted railroad depot. The first job was to write down the numbers tattooed on the arms so the dead could be later identified after they were buried.

About 150 prisoners, men and women, "living skeletons," awaited in their ragged, striped uniforms. They refused to go back to the dreadful conditions of the camp. Pauk said he sent a squad up to the main road to ask the troops coming through if they could provide tents. All this was in the first hour of arrival.

"Before night fall, we had a pretty good tent town set up," Pauk said.

The prisoners' first need was food. The fleeing guards had taken all the supplies and Pauk had only enough for his men. Pauk had read somewhere that starving people should not have solid food, so for that first day he had the cook prepare a thin broth, he recalled. He told the village burgomeister, who was grateful that the cows had been saved, that the village must supply food, which the army would prepare and feed to the former prisoners. From then on, every day, the village supplied milk, beef, turnips, carrots, cabbage
and potatoes from which the cook made a rich soup.

Medical needs came next. There were no medics in his platoon, Pauk said, because they had remained with the battalion which was still entering hostile territory. The prison camp had several imprisoned doctors, all of whom were "older, with no energy or desire to help anyone else," Pauk wrote in his memoirs. He placed the doctors in a separate tent to rehabilitate them so they could help their own people.

That first full day, Pauk, with his staff sergeant, toured the tents, neatly drawn up in two rows, military style. The people were already outside. As he walked down the middle, some gratefully kissed his hand in the European tradition. The American tried to shake hands instead.

One man showed his ulcerated leg, Pauk recalled. The only medication in Pauk's unit was a supply of Halizone, used to purify drinking water. Pauk gave him a Halizone pill, and, through an interpreter, told him to drop the pill in warm water supplied by the cook and to soak his leg. After giving the pill to others, he was amazed at its psychological value. Later he found that the sulfa powder issued to soldiers was helpful, he said.

In a telephone conversation, Pauk's daughter, Laurel Pauk, now a resident of Fort Myers Beach, Florida, said that her father did not talk about his experiences when she was a little girl.

It was "not until very recently - the last five years" that he spoke of what happened," she said. "It was something he wasn't that interested in talking about. We heard always the good parts."
She said she was glad to learn what he had experienced and speculated that his three brothers, all now deceased, who lived in the same town, may have known more.

Pauk said he was at Dachau about 10 days before the officials arrived to relieve him. Near the end of his stay, Pauk received orders to transport some former prisoners to a central gathering place about 30 miles away. They loaded the prisoners into Army trucks. Each truck had a soldier guard with his loaded rifle. Pauk gave the order not to shoot any prisoner who jumped off the truck, he recalled. When the trucks reached their destination, there were only a few prisoners remaining.

"My heart went out to each man who jumped off the truck," Pauk wrote.

"They had real freedom now."

Written by The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University
David Pimentel, Ph.D. ‘51, professor emeritus of agricultural sciences, entomology and ecology, was an influential champion for the environment and was recognized as an international authority on many important interactions between humans and the environment. Professor Emeritus Pimentel published over 700 scientific items, of which 40 were books, and served on many national and government committees. He was the first agricultural researcher to argue against DDT use before it was banned, and his research exposed the environmental and economic limitations of biofuels such as ethanol.

Professor Pimentel was a significant contributor to the development of ecological perspectives on the Cornell campus and was responsible for initiating the first course in introductory ecology. He was ahead of his time in recognizing ways that species can affect each other’s evolution, thereby contributing to an explosion of research on “coevolution” between species. As an energetic and proactive department head, modest about his own accomplishments, he fostered a greater sense of cohesion and collaboration among the faculty and with other departments. He built one of the most respected entomology programs in the country by hiring faculty
engaged in both basic and applied research.

Professor Pimentel had wide ranging scientific interests, all grounded in an effort to promote wise stewardship and use of resources through scientific understanding. To provide alternatives to chemical pesticides, Dr. Pimentel proposed that native pests could be controlled by introducing new parasites and predators, based on his observations of successful control of pests in new associations and his genetic feedback model. This model was itself revolutionary and presaged the current field of eco-evolutionary dynamics. In addition to his genetic feedback model Dr. Pimentel also made important contributions to several fundamental ecological concepts including diversity-stability, the influence of competition on community structure and how spatial resource patterns influence populations. Early in his career, Dr. Pimentel studied the introduced mongoose in Puerto Rico. He later produced several works on invasive species and was one of the first to document the extraordinary economic costs of biological invasions. Professor Pimentel worked with a wide group of colleagues, including many students, to synthesize understanding of several important topics that impact sustainable human societies including energy use in agriculture, agricultural losses to pests, biofuel production, soil erosion and soil health, impacts of climate change on agriculture, and the impacts of invasive species.

Professor emeritus Pimentel was born in Massachusetts in 1925 and raised in Fresno, California. After serving in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, he received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 1948 before earning his doctorate in entomology from Cornell in 1951. He was elected to the Audubon Society, the American Institute of Biological Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences. In 2007, the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, awarded him an honorary doctorate. Professor emeritus Pimentel died December 8, 2019.

Written by Jan Nyrop and Paul Feeny
Stephen Poleskie, professor emeritus of Art, died December 21, 2019, at the Nina K. Miller Hospicare Center Residence in Ithaca. He was 81.

Professor Poleskie was an internationally known artist and writer who taught screen printing and studio art classes at Cornell for 32 years.

Stephen Francis Poleskie Jr. (Steve) was born June 3, 1938, in Pringle, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Wilkes University in 1959 with a degree in economics. A largely self-taught artist, he had his first solo show of abstract expressionist work in 1958 at the Everhart Museum in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

After college he worked as a commercial artist and as a designer in a print shop and was an art teacher at Gettysburg High School. He traveled and exhibited his work before establishing a studio on New York City’s Lower East Side in 1962 and enrolling in art classes with figurative painter Raphael Soyer at The New School.
In 1963, Steve opened the city’s first fine art screen-printing studio on East 11th Street. The shop became Chiron Press, whose clients included pop artists Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg, Roy Lichtenstein, Claes Oldenburg and Robert Motherwell.

“Where did I learn how to screen print?” he said in a 2014 interview. “Certainly not in a classroom, but from reading a book, a technical reference manual I got free at my local Sherwin-Williams paint store.”

Steve sold Chiron Press in 1968 to devote more time to his art, took a teaching job at Cornell that year and learned to fly after he moved to Ithaca. He had an Air Transport Pilot rating and was active in stunt flying as an aerobatic pilot. He appeared at the Pittsburgh Air Show and won many competitions, including the 1977 Canadian Open Aerobatic Championship.

A skilled pilot, he developed his own art form, Aerial Theater, making designs in the sky in performances often accompanied by musicians, dancers and parachutists. An exhibition at the Louis K. Meisel Gallery in New York in 1978-79 featured his biplane and drawings for various aerial performances. He stopped flying in 1998.

Over an artistic career spanning more than a half-century, Steve exhibited around the world. His diverse output included landscapes, figurative and abstract painting, printmaking, and photography.

His artwork is in the collections of several museums, including the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and the Morgan Library in New York City; The National Collection in Washington, D.C.; The Walker Art Gallery in Minneapolis; the Milwaukee Art Museum; the Detroit Institute of Art; The Victoria and Albert Museum and the Tate Gallery in London; Museo de Arte Moderno in Mexico City; and museums in Italy and in Lodz, Poland. The State Museum in Lodz has 55 of Steve’s prints in its collection; the Hobart College
Art Gallery in Geneva, New York, has 33.

His fiction, nonfiction, art criticism and poetry appeared in more than 50 literary journals in the United States, Mexico, Australia, Germany, Italy, India, the Czech Republic and Luxembourg. Most recently, he wrote a column, “Then & Now,” for Ragazine.

Steve was nominated three times for the Pushcart Prize, and his short fiction is included in the anthologies “Dove Tales,” “Being Human: Call of the Wild,” “From the Finger Lakes”, and “The Book of Love.” A handmade book of his poetry, “Sky,” is included in the Rare Book Collection at MoMA.

Steve taught courses in printmaking and drawing at both the undergraduate and graduate level, along with a popular seminar for third year undergraduates on contemporary art. His penchant for writing and performance came through in his teaching. Marnie (Dreifuss) Gelfman, B.F.A. ’87 recalls “He was very funny and engaging, often regaling us with wonderful stories! Julie Sherman, B.F.A. ’98 recounts: “I had two classes with Steve Poleskie and have fond memories of both. He told great stories, he was sharp witted, and he had unapologetically high expectations for his students—all of which I enjoyed. I remember loving how his classes focused both on technical skill but also with so much room to explore. I also remember that he always seemed amused by us undergrads and the endless drama—even though he tolerated no excuses. I loved hearing his stories about his skywriting and his press…his casual mentions of working with many famous artists.”

Several colleagues recall Steve’s wit, flamboyance, and generosity. Gregory Page, professor emeritus of art, recalls: “Steve was the ultimate performer not only through his artistic performances, aviation, and aerial stunts but also how he conducted his classes in printmaking. He very often gave the students assignments and leading in with a story of some type that related somehow in the context for the assignment. Most of these stories were accompanied by his flamboyant descriptions and active characterizations of an event. It made for a very entertaining and popular classes that Steve
enjoyed for many years.” Professor emeritus Stan Bowman, who chaired the art department from 1980 to 1985 writes: “Steve Poleskie was my colleague and friend for the 30 years I taught in the Cornell Art Department. To me he was one of my most unusual art department faculty colleagues, outspoken, opinionated, always with unusual points of view about everything. And he could tell the most interesting and fascinating stories about art and the life of artists. Moreover, students just loved him.” Stan also recalls Steve’s generosity, flying him to New York City for several days of gallery visits and introductions to gallerists and artists Steve knew from his years in the city. On their return trip, they encountered dense fog during their landing approach in Ithaca. According to Stan “he decided to do a visual approach which meant getting close enough to the ground to see the landing field, somewhere about 200 feet off the ground. He gave me the job as passenger to look out the window and search for the ground for the runway below. As he got lower and lower he kept asking ‘Can you see the ground yet’? I answered, ‘Not yet’ and he went lower. After several unsuccessful tries suddenly, I did see the ground and yelled ‘I see it...I see it!’ And down he went to gently land on the runway. For someone like myself who had never flown in a small plane this was both exciting and harrowing. To my great relief we touched down on the tarmac and coasted along to find his assigned parking place for the plane.”

Another colleague, Barry Perlus, associate professor emeritus of art, recalls the first time he met Steve at a faculty meeting: “It was my first faculty meeting as a new assistant professor. Faculty meetings were held at lunchtime around a massive circular oak table in the conference room. These were relatively informal affairs - we brought our own sandwiches and so forth. When I came in Steve was already seated on the opposite side of the table. He wore a tie underneath his ubiquitous dark blue lab coat, and in front of him was an elegant table setting he had created with placemat, plate, silverware, cloth napkin, water glass and wine glass. I don’t recall what food he had, but his arrangement was a vivid counterpoint to the usual brown bags and paper napkins scattered around the table, and he performed his character as nonconformist impeccably.”

Steve retired from Cornell in 2000 and was named professor

He also was a visiting artist and visiting professor at colleges, universities and art schools around the world. He did an artist residency at the American Academy in Rome, and as a guest artist he toured the former Soviet Union and the former Yugoslavia, as well as Honduras for the United States Information Agency.

He is survived by his wife, the novelist Jeanne Mackin.

*Biographical material adapted from the January 15th Cornell Chronicle article by Dan Aloi*

*Reflections on Professor Poleskie’s teaching and departmental service collected and edited by Barry Perlus*
James C. (Jim) Preston ’50, Ed.D. ’68, a former Cornell Cooperative Extension agent and professor emeritus of Rural Sociology at Cornell died on September 2, 2019 in Hector, New York. He passed peacefully at his home while holding his bride’s hand. He was 92.

Jim was born October 14, 1926 in Friendship, New York, to the late Clarence and Livonia (Pierce) Preston. Losing his mother at a young age, he grew up in farming communities across the state, developing a lifelong interest in agriculture and rural community development. He graduated from Ithaca High School in 1944 and proudly enlisted in the U.S. Navy that same year, serving as a patrol craft radarman during WWII.

Following his honorable discharge from the service in 1946, Jim enrolled at Cornell and earned his bachelor’s degree from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) in 1950 and began his career as a Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) agent that year. Jim loved traveling across the counties where he worked and knew every back road because he rarely took the same route twice. He was much appreciated by those he met, and with his knowledge and
winning personality, Jim made many lifelong friends of the farmers he served. Jim became a member of the Epsilon Sigma Phi honorary fraternity for extension professionals.

In 1951, while working in Steuben County, he met ‘the love of his life’ Gretta Robbins and they married in 1953 in Bath, New York. Having loved his time as a student at Cornell, and while starting a family, Jim continued his education, earning his master's degree from University of Wisconsin in 1959. By 1963, Jim and Gretta had welcomed three daughters into the world, and that year Jim accepted his dream job in Cornell Cooperative Extension at Cornell University, moving the family to Ithaca, New York. Jim's love of education continued, and he earned his Doctor of Education at Cornell in 1968. Dr. Preston accepted his 2nd dream job at Cornell as a professor in the Department of Rural Sociology (now development sociology), and at the same time became Director of the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development.

In 1977, Jim took over the Department of Development Sociology’s longstanding series, *The People of New York*, which were a series of bulletins for each county using decennial census data to profile the population and housing characteristics. Jim took the program in a new direction by designing the profiles to meet the program planning needs of county Cooperative Extension offices and christened the effort as the Population Information Program. And so a series of companion pamphlets, “The Application of Population Information to...” were developed and disseminated for program areas such as nutrition education, 4-H clubs, community resource development, and land use planning. When the 1980 *Census of Population and Housing* was released, the profiles were designed, printed and distributed along with a loose-leaf binder and came to be known as the PONY Notebook. PONY for People of New York.

Always closely involved with his home and school communities, Jim happily took leadership roles whenever called upon. He made friends everywhere he went and his commitment to church, Rotary, and Cornell Alumni Associations was unwavering. He was a member of the CCE Schuyler County board of directors, Alpha-Zeta
fraternity, Naval Patrol Craft Association, Parkinson's Support Group and many others. Jim was honored to have been recognized three times in Rotary as a Paul Harris Fellow, most recently in the week preceding his passing. Professor Preston retired to his home on Seneca Lake in 1988, and in recognition of his significant contributions to the university and rural communities throughout the state was named professor emeritus.

Jim developed the Empire State Food and Agricultural Leadership Institute (now LEAD New York) in 1983 and became its first director in 1985. His two-year pilot program for the institute was well-received and it continues today, having graduated 17 classes and more than 450 alumni who serve the food, agriculture and natural resource industries in a variety of leadership roles at the local, state, regional and national levels. Larry Van De Valk, current executive director of the program, said “I’ve had the relative advantage of learning from other program models, simply refining and building on an already solid program that I inherited from my predecessors. Jim had no such examples to follow; he created the foundation of the program and envisioned what it might become. Jim’s inaugural class set the bar high for all the classes that have followed, and his personal example of lifelong learning and servant leadership set the bar pretty high for me. His impact can be felt in our highly regarded program over three decades later.”

Through the years, Jim was a loyal supporter and regular attendee at the program’s biannual commencement ceremonies. Larry added: “I appreciate more, however, what Jim did for me personally rather than professionally. Each time we would see each other, he would not only ask me how things were going with the program, but he would also ask me how I was doing. Was I enjoying the work? Did I get the support I needed? Was there anything he could do to help? His genuine interest in me and my welfare was uplifting, and I appreciated it immensely. Jim was quite simply one of the nicest guys you could know.”

Jim had many hobbies, but loved time spent with his family the best. The family trips every summer will never be forgotten by his
daughters. Unfailingly kind and loving, there were still rules to live by that Jim did not waver from and he instilled those values in 'his girls'. Cindy, Joan, and Barb could not have been prouder to call him 'Dad' for he was the best one ever. Jim shared his love of gardening, boating, hunting, fishing, archery, golf, square dancing, cards, horseback riding, and many other hobbies with anyone in the family with the same interests; those memories of his enthusiasm will remain forever. He remained an avid reader up until his death.

Family as well as friends will remember Jim's love of most any Cornell sport, as well as any sport that had one of his children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren playing. He never missed a Cornell hockey game, if he could help it, and that went double for watching his family play any sport of their choice. His family will never forget the encouragement of his 'cheering' that could be heard like a foghorn across any playing field. Jim's love of traveling was shared with Gretta. They visited all 50 of the United States, on most trips using their motor home, including to Alaska and back. They did not stop their trips until Parkinson's disease forced Jim to slow down in his 80's. There was 'no quit' in the man as he did everything 'right' in managing his Parkinson's, rather than let Parkinson's manage him. He will forever be an example to his family of the best way to deal with what life hands you!

A colleague of Jim’s, Robin Blakely-Armitage, had the privilege of knowing him both as a great neighborhood dad to her friend Barb, and as an emeritus faculty member of the department she joined two decades later. “Dr. Preston was consistently committed to and engaged with the people around him, whether it was his family, neighbors, colleagues, or the communities he lived and worked in. He lived not only a long life, but a broad life. He truly embraced it all and serves as inspiration for those of us focused on impactful extension and outreach work.”

Survivors include Jim’s wife of 66 years, Gretta; sister, Ruth White ’46 of Cary, North Carolina; three daughters, Cynthia Hagin ’79 and Joan Denmark, both of Trumansburg, New York, and Barbara Yaeger of Cumming, Georgia; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
Written by Larry Van De Valk (chair), Robin Blakely-Armitage, and Warren Alfred Brown

Edwin Resler’s passing marks the end of a generation at Cornell that moved university research from the age of propellors into the jet engine, rocket, and space age. Ed was the director of the Graduate School of Aerospace Engineering (GSAE) from 1963 to 1972. Ed also served as the director of the Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering for a five-year term starting in 1972, when that school was formed by a merger of the GSAE with the Sibley School of Mechanical Engineering.

Aerospace Engineering research at Cornell in the 50s and 60s was truly cutting edge. The graduate program was close-knit, with strong links to industry and government labs. It attracted distinguished visitors from all over the world, including Theodore von Karman. Many of the entering students were World War II veterans, some of whom created a small flying club. Ed was proud that GSAE graduates included a half dozen CEOs of major airlines as well as the chief test pilot of the first Boeing 747, Jack Waddell [MS 1951].
Graduate students at GSAE regularly presented their work to the faculty and visitors in stimulating give-and-take sessions. In an interview from 1965, Ed explained why students couldn’t rely on written materials: “We can’t wait for reports to be published…If we waited for reports, we would be too far behind. We get our information while the research is in progress and coordinate our work with the work being done elsewhere.” Ed also explained that the school aimed to prepare students to perform the research needed for a return trip to Mars. “If we trained someone for a moon shot, he would find his information obsolete as soon as he graduated.” Later, Ed recalled that he would do research, then write up weekly progress reports with the help of long-time administrator Toni (Alice) Anthony. Once the reports were sent to the sponsor, they would promptly be classified and become inaccessible to Ed and his colleagues.

In 1956-7, Ed helped design the new home of GSAE, Grumman Hall. The building was named after one of Cornell’s alumni, Leroy R. Grumman, who had advanced aeronautical design before WWII. Out of GSAE, in the early days of Sputnik, evolved Engineering Physics as well as the Center of Applied Mathematics at Cornell. As Director, Ed was responsible for establishing the Laboratory of Plasma Physics in 1967, a collaboration of Cornell GSAE with the University of Maryland and the Naval Research Laboratory.

In his first few decades at Cornell, Ed’s research encompassed wave engines, shock tube studies of reentry and chemical kinetics, lasers, the chemistry of hypersonic flight, magnetohydrodynamics and ferrohydrodynamics, and control of sonic boom through engine design. His thesis research on strong shock waves in gases resulted in a widely referenced paper with advisor Arthur Kantrowitz and S.C.Lin, that would later have implications for understanding elements of astrophysics. Ed’s more than a dozen papers on magnetohydrodynamics and magnetoaerodynamics, some with his mentor W R Sears, formed the basis of the development of magnetohydrodynamic propulsion of sea-going vessels, featured in the 1990 thriller “The Hunt for Red October.” Various MHD generators and pumps were built in the Cornell GSAE labs.
In the 70s, Ed turned his attention the mechanical side of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, specifically to automobile engines and the air pollution they produced. He was a pioneer in the development of stratified charge and exhaust gas recirculation for control of nitric oxide emissions and alleviation of knock. Among nearly a dozen patents Ed held, eight involved vehicle engine innovations for low emissions. At one time, Ed had outfitted the car used in senior lab for Mechanical Engineering students so that exhaust gas recirculation could be readily turned on or off, demonstrating its immediate impact on pollutants.

Ed was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He attended Carnegie Tech, then entered the Navy and continued his education at Bethany College and the University of Notre Dame through the V-5 and V-12 programs. He served at the Miami Naval Air Station. In 1947, Ed graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. In 1947, Ed enrolled as a graduate student in the one-year-old Graduate School of Aeronautic Engineering (later renamed Graduate School of Aerospace Engineering) and earned his Ph.D. in 1951. He joined the Cornell faculty as an assistant professor of Aeronautical Engineering upon completion of his degree. Starting in 1952, he was an associate research professor at the University of Maryland’s Institute for Fluid Dynamics and Applied Mathematics. Ed was recruited by Bill Sears to return to Cornell as a professor in 1956. He held joint appointments in Aerospace Engineering, Engineering Physics, and Electrical Engineering, serving on the faculty until his retirement and appointment to emeritus status in 1993.

Ed was the inaugural Joseph N. Pew Professor of Engineering. He was a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and a Corresponding Member of the International Academy of Astronautics. Ed received the Honor Award for distinguished alumni from the University of Notre Dame College of Engineering in 1987. Ed served on and chaired committees related to aerodynamics for NASA and its predecessor NACA, as well as on the editorial boards of *Physics of Fluids* and the *AIAA Journal*. He
was the chair of the American Rocket Society’s Magnetohydrodynamics Society.

Ed consulted for many aerospace corporations including TRW, GE, Pratt and Whitney, Ingersoll Rand and AVCO.

Ed married Frances Williams in 1948, and they had five children: Edwin, Timothy, Carl, Daniel, and Suzanne. Ed and Frances lived on Turkey Hill Road and also spent time in Florida. They enjoyed hosting family reunions at their country home or at cottages on Cayuga Lake. Ed and Frances regularly attended football games, plays at the Hangar Theater, and picnics as part of a group known as the “gang of ten.” Neighbors recall Ed’s heartfelt hospitality—his eagerness to share what he knew about a place and to make sure that a visitor was comfortable. As befits a hands-on experimentalist, Ed frequently engaged his children in do-it-yourself home projects, from electrical to plumbing, to felling trees. Ed was an avid tennis and squash player who spent many hours playing on the clay courts in the gorge near Grumman Hall. As one former colleague reflected, Ed was an engaging fellow, with a positive outlook, who always looked to the future with a smile on his face.

Written by Elizabeth M. Fisher (chair), Albert R. George, Sidney Leibovich, and Francis C. Moon
Frank H. T. Rhodes, Cornell University’s ninth president, a national figure in higher education and an esteemed paleontologist, died February 3 in Bonita Springs, Florida. He was 93.

During Rhodes’ tenure as president from 1977 to 1995, Cornell saw significant growth in research and academic programs that continue to shape the university. Research funding more than tripled, from $88 million to more than $300 million; major initiatives in astronomy, supercomputing, biotechnology, nanofabrication and Asian studies were established; a successful $1.5 billion capital campaign was launched and completed; diversity at the university among students and faculty significantly increased; and the university’s international presence was strengthened.

When Rhodes stepped down in 1995, he had become a national leader, influential academic administrator and a formidable advocate for education and research, influencing the development of national science policy during the administrations of four U.S. presidents.

Rhodes was “an unparalleled leader, colleague and friend to
generations of Cornellians,” said Robert S. Harrison ’76, chairman of the Cornell Board of Trustees. “Frank led Cornell for 18 years – nearly unheard of today at major research universities, transformed Cornell’s national and international role – and even after stepping down as president continued to be an influential voice in higher education.”

“Perhaps most importantly, Frank cultivated permanent, lifelong bonds with multiple generations of Cornell faculty, staff and alumni,” Harrison said. “Eloquent, charming and an affable, peerless advocate for the university, he, along with his wife, Rosa, were frequent guests, attendees and cheerleaders at nearly every major Cornell event for decades.”

“Frank Rhodes was a brilliant scholar and a gracious leader who was not only deeply respected, but truly loved by generations of Cornellians,” said Cornell President Martha E. Pollack. “His boundless curiosity, his kindness and humor, and his sage leadership shaped Cornell as we know it today, as his wise and generous mentorship shaped the lives of the countless students, faculty and staff who passed through Cornell during his tenure. I am deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to benefit from his friendship and guidance in my early days at Cornell, and will always remember the warmth with which he welcomed my family into the extended family of Cornellians.

“I join Frank’s family and many friends in mourning this tremendous loss to the entire university community,” Pollack said.

Frank Harold Trevor Rhodes was born in Warwickshire, England, on October 29, 1926. He earned his bachelor’s, doctor of science and doctor of philosophy degrees in geology from the University of Birmingham, England. He taught at the University of Durham and the University of Wales, Swansea, where he also was dean of the faculty of science. He was a life fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge, a visiting fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, and an honorary fellow of Robinson College, Cambridge.
In the United States, Rhodes taught at the University of Illinois and Ohio State University (as a Fulbright scholar and a National Science Foundation senior visiting research fellow, respectively) before joining the faculty at the University of Michigan in 1968 as a professor of geology. In 1971, he was named dean of Michigan’s College of Literature, Science and the Arts and, from 1974-77, he served as Michigan’s vice president for academic affairs.

Rhodes was named Cornell president in early 1977, succeeding Dale Corson; he was installed as Cornell’s ninth president that November.

At his inauguration, Rhodes issued a call to Cornell and other research universities in the United States to work together to become “a new hope for humankind,” and he called onCornellians to embrace “the power and priority of reason” and hopefulness in “the uncertain years that lie ahead.”

He stressed four “reaffirmations” necessary to secure a healthy future for the university: the power of reason; the strength of community that is Cornell; the priority of research and teaching; and the importance of the wider partnership beyond the campus.

Particularly notable accomplishments and events during Rhodes’ administration included:

- Rhodes had a deep commitment to creating educational opportunities for women and minorities, and diversity at Cornell among students and faculty increased significantly during his tenure. Underrepresented minorities as a percentage of the student body grew from 8% in 1977 to 28% in 1994, and the number of women and underrepresented minorities on the faculty more than doubled during the same time.

- A successful $1.5 billion capital campaign “super goal” was completed by 1995, due largely to Rhodes’ efforts to strengthen support for financial aid, educational programs and libraries. Cornell rose from eighth in the country in
voluntary support in 1977-78 to third in 1992-93, and by the end of Rhodes’ presidency, ranked first in gift support from alumni and friends.

- New buildings and facilities built during Rhodes’ tenure include the supercomputing theory center (which was named Frank H.T. Rhodes Hall in his honor when he stepped down from the presidency), the Statler teaching hotel, the Biotechnology Building, the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts, Snee Hall, the Carl Kroch Library, the nanofabrication laboratory, the veterinary medical center, the Akwe:kon Native American program house, and several athletics facilities.

- New programs in ethnic studies were launched (including American Indian, Asian American and Hispanic American), and new teaching programs like Cornell Abroad and Cornell in Washington were established.

Early in his presidency, Rhodes became an influential voice in national academic and university leadership. In 1984, he spoke to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology, saying: “Research is the foundation of our national progress. Our economic strength, our industrial productivity, our cultural vitality, our people’s health, our international leadership, our national security – all these and more depend on it.” Support for universities engaged in “creative research and vigorous development,” he said, “… is the prerequisite for all other goals, the best hope for their achievement, the foundation for their eventual implementation, the basis of our national being.”

He also spoke about the importance of the role of teaching at major research universities: “We can cultivate the spirit of liberal learning only through the selection and nurture of faculty who regard teaching as a moral activity.” He later instituted a Cornell policy that made evaluation of teaching an essential part of tenure review.

“Frank Rhodes epitomized academic excellence, championed
scientific inquiry, and led Cornell University so naturally, optimistically and gracefully for nearly two decades that he set the standard by which all research university presidents can be measured,” said Ezra Cornell ’70, Cornell University’s life trustee and a direct descendant of university founder Ezra Cornell. “I will cherish the decades I spent working with him to further the university’s mission. My heart goes out to Rosa, their daughters, and to Frank’s extended loving family.”

What might be Rhodes’ greatest and lasting success was his cultivation of lifelong connections with thousands of Cornellians.

According to “Cornell: A History, 1940-2015” by Cornell professors and historians Glenn Altschuler, Ph.D. ’76, and Isaac Kramnick, Rhodes played “an indispensable role in rekindling pride in Cornell among faculty, students and especially alumni,” serving as the university’s ultimate ambassador.

“Slim, handsome, and unfailingly gracious, Rhodes had a superhuman capacity to remember names and faces,” they wrote, and credited him with persuading the university’s board of trustees to adopt a management approach of “keep[ing] their noses in and their fingers out.”

Vice President Emerita Susan H. Murphy ’73, Ph.D. ’94, said: “Frank Rhodes taught all of us, especially those of us who had the privilege to work with him, how to lead and how to inspire. He did that by his integrity, his grace and his personal warmth. When you interacted with Frank, you felt as if you were the only person who mattered at the time. He loved and treasured Cornell, our faculty, staff, students and, especially, our alumni. He inspired Cornellians worldwide to share in that admiration and dedication. Our lives are richer because Frank Rhodes was part of them.”

At the time of his retirement, almost half of the university’s then nearly 123,000 living undergraduate alumni had attended Cornell while Rhodes was president. A celebration held for him and his wife, Rosa, in May 1995 included a parade and festival on campus
with more than 200 student groups, athletic teams and university departments and units participating.

The Frank H.T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Award was established in 1994 in his honor. It is presented annually to honor alumni who have demonstrated extraordinary, long-term volunteer service to the university, continuing their lives after Cornell as truly dedicated Cornellians.

Rhodes was professor emeritus of geological sciences and a lifelong paleontologist and Darwin scholar. He published widely throughout his career and for many years after his presidency in the fields of geology, paleontology, evolution, the history of science, and education. His books include “Language of the Earth,” “The Evolution of Life,” “The Creation of the Future: the Role of the American University,” “Earth: A Tenant’s Manual” and “Origins: The Search for Our Prehistoric Past.”

In the 1950s and ’60s, Rhodes had researched microfossils known as conodonts, which had long been useful as index fossils for working out the relative ages of Paleozoic rocks. But conodonts were then still mostly biological mysteries – only fragments of their structures existed, and they had puzzled scientists for decades.

As a postdoctoral researcher, Rhodes proposed new theories on their origins and assemblage and gave them new species names – theories that largely pointed the way to modern understanding of the eel-like marine creatures. Rhodes’ work in paleontology also illuminated, delineated and helped explain the mass extinction that defined the end of the Paleozoic Era.

Through his work as a geologist and naturalist, Rhodes also contributed to a greater historical understanding of British naturalist and evolutionary scientist Charles Darwin (1809-1882), linking Darwin’s early hands-on scientific work to his later evolutionary theory – an interconnectedness that Rhodes’ own scientific approach echoed.
Rhodes’ 1991 paper “Darwin’s Search for a Theory of the Earth: Symmetry, Simplicity and Speculation” marked the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin’s first major scientific theory and tied Darwin’s early geologic research on the formation of mountains and continental elevations to his later views on the origin of species.

Rhodes’ later work transitioned to a more holistic, planetwide viewpoint, focusing on sustainability and the Earth. This was crystallized in his 2012 book, “Earth: A Tenant’s Manual,” which explored the planet, from its place in the universe to the evolution of life on its land and in its seas.

In 1987, Rhodes was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the National Science Board, of which he was a former chairman. In 1989, President George H.W. Bush named him to the President’s Educational Policy Advisory Committee.

Rhodes served as chairman of the governing boards of the American Council on Education, the Association of American Universities, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. He also chaired the board of the Atlantic Philanthropies for eight years, helping to direct transformative philanthropy around the world on behalf of Cornellian Chuck Feeney ’56.

He was chairman of the 1987 National Commission on Minority Participation in Education and American Life, which produced the report “One-Third of a Nation,” and he was a member of the Association of Governing Boards’ 1996 Commission on Renewing the Academic Presidency and a member of the National Academy of Sciences’ Commission on the Future of the Research University.

Rhodes was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, served as a trustee of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and was a member and past president of the American Philosophical Society. He held 35 honorary degrees and was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Bigsby Medal from the Geological Society and the Ian Campbell Medal of the American Geosciences
Institute in recognition of singular performance in and contribution to the geoscience profession.

Rhodes is survived by his wife, Rosa, four daughters, 11 grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

Written by Joe Wilensky

Originally printed in the Cornell Chronicle on February 4, 2020
David Robertshaw, emeritus professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, was an accomplished physiologist, a dedicated teacher, and an able administrator. David enjoyed a long and successful career that carried him around the globe many times over. He died at age 85 and remained active and productive until shortly before his death. He is survived by his wife Margaret.

Born into a dairy farming family in Yorkshire, England, David was fortunate to be educated at the King Edward VI grammar school in Stafford, where he excelled academically. His agricultural background led David to the field of veterinary medicine, and he was admitted to the University of Glasgow to undertake that course of study. David graduated in 1957 with a bachelor’s degree in veterinary medicine and surgery and immediately began research in Glasgow in physiology as the first graduate student of the physician-scientist Sir James Black, who later was awarded the Nobel Prize for his work in developing beta blockers and histamine antagonists. It was during this period that David met and married his wife, Margaret MacRitchie, who was his constant companion in their peripatetic travels across the world.
Upon completion of his Ph.D. degree in 1963 David was invited to work at the East African Veterinary Research Organization in Kenya. There David developed a deep interest in thermoregulation and how animals adapt to hot climates. After a short stint back in the United Kingdom as a research scientist at the Hannah Research Institute at Ayr, Scotland, David’s experience in Africa led to another research opportunity in Kenya, this time with the Rockefeller Foundation, and later to the inaugural professorship of physiology at the newly formed University of Nairobi. Through contacts made in Africa, David was recruited to serve as Chair of Physiology at the Indiana University School of Medicine. Before long, he was induced to return to a veterinary medical environment as chair of the Physiology Department in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Colorado State University. Although David retained his love for desert animal physiology throughout his career, he also found great satisfaction in leadership positions in academia.

In 1985, Dr. Robert Phemister was appointed Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, joining Cornell from a similar position at Colorado State University. Dean Phemister convinced David to move once again, and in 1987 David and Margaret relocated to Ithaca, where David served as chair of the Department of Physiology in the Veterinary College, and head of the Section of Physiology in the Division of Biological Sciences. David and Margaret lived for a year on west campus where David was a resident faculty advisor in one of the freshman dormitories. David very much enjoyed that experience, and it encouraged him to devote more of his effort to undergraduate education.

After two terms and 10 years as department head, David returned to the ranks of the faculty, but soon he was drawn into academic leadership once again. David’s involvement on the Cornell committee that designed the curriculum for a new medical college in Qatar prompted him to seek further involvement with this new venture. David was appointed as the inaugural Associate Dean for Pre-medical Education at the Weill-Cornell Medical College in Doha. David and Margaret spent six memorable years in Qatar,
where David made major contributions to the organization and implementation of the two-year pre-medical curriculum. He particularly enjoyed the summer program that placed Qatari pre-medical students in the laboratories of Cornell faculty for short-term research experiences. Through his early experiences in Africa and later-life work in the Middle East, David became a passionate advocate for access to higher education for students from all cultures. David developed strong relationships with his students that he cultivated and cherished throughout his lifetime.

After his final retirement from Cornell, David was encouraged to serve as a Fulbright Specialist, where he was assigned to a project in Israel that tapped his expertise in medical education. Among many honors he received during his career David was elected president of the American Society of Veterinary Physiologists and Pharmacologists (1985-86), and he received an Honorary Award for Contributions to Physiology by the American Physiological Society in 2002. In 2013, David was filmed for the American Physiological Society’s Living History of Physiology series. That video recording (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQPLFA7nugo) captures David’s enthusiasm for research and teaching in his own voice. It is our hope that the video will be available for many years to come as an inspiration to students of all levels and interests. David Robertshaw is remembered as a gracious and thoughtful colleague.

Written by Douglas F. Antczak, Richard E. Rawson, and Mark S. Roberson
Carol Gilson Rosen, professor emerita of linguistics, and a leading figure in general and Romance linguistics, died August 19, 2019 in Ithaca. She was 79.

Carol is deeply and dearly remembered by generations of students and colleagues not only in linguistics but Romance studies and in music during the more than three decades that she taught at Cornell. Carol’s contributions to linguistic theory, crystalized in a number of impactful publications, are recognized by specialists across theoretical frameworks, but it is the power of her personality that those of us who knew her well will remember longest.

Carol came to Cornell from Harvard, where she received her Ph.D. in 1981. Like many linguists, she began as a mathematician; she earned her B.A. in Mathematics from Columbia in 1962, followed by an M.A. in Italian from Berkeley in 1965. She continued to study Romance philology at Berkeley, where she completed, under the distinguished Romanist Yakov Malkiel, all the requirements for the Ph.D. but the dissertation; but a growing interest in syntactic theory led her to Harvard. The shape of her early academic career
represents a profile once common (if difficult to accomplish) but now increasingly rare: an internationally respected grounding in all areas of a linguistic and philological field – phonology, syntax, and historical linguistics – combined with a commitment to cutting edge theory. This combination of strengths made Carol an indispensable figure in linguistics and Romance linguistics throughout her tenure.

Carol joined the Cornell faculty in 1978 as an instructor and became assistant professor in 1981 in the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics (DMLL). She was tenured as associate professor of modern languages in 1987 and was named full professor in 1994. In addition to the DMLL and the Department of Linguistics, she taught in the former Department of Modern Languages and was a member of the Graduate Field of Romance Studies.

In the 1970s, Cambridge, Massachusetts was a hotbed of innovation and dispute in linguistics, the International Center of the Scientific Study of Language. The central presence of Noam Chomsky at MIT stood in relief to the battles between Chomsky critics, often former MIT students, as well as supporters, in other area departments such as Harvard, Brandeis, and UMass as well. Carol became a leading proponent of the framework known as Relational Grammar, first developed by David Perlmutter and Paul Postal. The leading tenet of Relational Grammar is that grammatical relations – subject, object, indirect object – are theoretical primitives, in contrast to the Chomskyian view that these notions are derivative from syntactic structure. Romance languages, and in particular Carol’s beloved Italian, provided much of the crucial data for the early development of RG. Carol quickly became a central figure in the development of the theory.

Carol co-edited with Perlmutter the second major collection of articles in the RG framework, Studies in Relational Grammar II (1984, Chicago). This volume contained a hugely influential paper by Carol, “The Interface between Semantic Roles and Initial Grammatical Relations”. Many of the basic ideas of RG have gone on to influence syntacticians in all theoretical frameworks; one of these is the insight that subjects of intransitive verbs like “die” and
“arrive” share properties with syntactic objects (such as the objects of “kill” and “bring”). In the basic RG analysis, such subjects originate, in the syntactic derivation that is a central concept of RG and most current frameworks, as syntactic objects. This insight led many linguists, including Perlmutter, to suggest that such “unaccusative” subjects owe their object-like properties to their meaning. Carol’s 1984 article showed that this could not be true, at least not in a general sense, because with the object-like subjects of verbs like “die” and “arrive” did tend to behave alike across languages, other verbs, particularly manner-of-motion verbs like “crawl” did not. Carol argued that the object-like behavior of unaccusative subjects must be a syntactic, not a semantic fact.

Carol’s work on unaccusativeness was followed by a series of important studies, including two papers published in Language, one on the notion of multi-predicate clauses (1988, with William Davies), and another on the triple-agreement pattern in the Tanoan language Southern Tiwa (1990). Her 1989 paper with Kashi Wali in Natural Language and Linguistic Theory on Marathi passives further demonstrated Carol’s extraordinary ability to uncover compelling data across languages. Throughout, she sought to build a theory of universal grammar that was free of Anglocentrism, and to discover how to best reveal and explain the regularities that run through the world’s languages. Carol’s Harvard dissertation, on the grammar of reflexives in Italian, was published by Garland in 1981.

At Cornell, Carol trained many in the next generation of scholars working in the RG framework, including Stanley Dubinsky (Ph.D. 1985), Ignazio Mirto (1997), and Josep Alba-Salas (2002). Carol’s expertise in Romance linguistics was deep and broad; she also supervised dissertations in fields such as Italian phonology (Doris Borrelli, 2000), medieval Romance languages in Hebrew script (Devon Strolovich, 2005), and Romance historical syntax (Diego de Acosta 2006), as well as, in the graduate field of Romance Linguistics, French child language acquisition (Cristina Dye, 2005).

Carol’s success as a graduate adviser was matched by her skill as a classroom teacher. She received Cornell’s Russell Award for
excellence in teaching in 2010 and was recognized three times by seniors in the Merrill Presidential Scholars Program for her influence on their academic careers. Taking or teaching a class with Carol was a special experience. Carol was a calligrapher, practitioner of an art of precision that matched the preciseness of her meticulous handouts and exquisitely constructed lectures. Carol was generous with her teaching experience and expertise and mentored many of the current faculty in the Department of Linguistics in the basics of teaching the foundational courses in the field.

In addition to the core undergraduate Introductions to Linguistics and one of her favorite courses, Language Typology, Carol regularly taught historical and comparative Romance linguistics, an old subdiscipline that Carol renewed with her attention to current theoretical approaches. In 2010, Carol published the widely used textbook, Romance Languages: A Historical Introduction (Cambridge), co-authored with Ti Alkire, senior lecturer of French and Italian language in the Department of Romance Studies. For a number of years prior to her retirement in 2010, Carol and Ti co-taught History of the Romance Languages I and II.

Carol is the only faculty member in the history of our university to have courses co-listed in Linguistics and Music. She taught a series of courses and seminars on Italian opera libretti, which were attended by students from Music and Romance studies as well as Linguistics. These courses, legendary among those who experienced them, gave her a forum to work with her husband, emeritus professor of music David Rosen. Carol translated the libretto of the 1606 Baroque opera Eumelio for a performance held in March 2016 as part of the New Century for the Humanities Celebration for the opening of Klarman Hall.

Carol’s work on Romance languages went far beyond Italian to include Romanian, a subsequent passion, but her research received particular recognition in Italy. Her publications in Italian include the monograph Ragionare di grammatica: Un avviamento amichevole [Reasoning about grammar: A gentle introduction] (Edizioni ETS 2017), co-authored with Nunzio La Fauci, a distinguished
syntactician and close colleague. Carol was elected Vice President of the Società di Linguistica, an unprecedented honor for an American scholar.

Carol’s intellectual precision informed and was infused by her wicked sense of humor. This could pop out at any time, in a linguistic example in a beautifully crafted handout, or in a note to colleagues or pinned on her door. One of the latter was a quotation from Thoreau, “Simplify, Simplify.” Beneath it, in an elegant Italian Hand, Carol wrote, “Simplify.”

Written by John Whitman
Professor Stephen Louis Sass, who pioneered fundamental studies of crystalline interfaces and made great strides in increasing gender diversity in engineering, died in Ithaca, New York on August 15, 2019. He was 79.

Professor Sass was born on March 11, 1940 in Bronx, New York. He received a bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering from the City College of New York in 1961 and then carried out graduate studies in the Department of Materials Science at Northwestern University, earning his Ph.D. in 1966. He spent the following year as a postdoctoral researcher at Technische Hogeschool, in Delft, The Netherlands as a Fulbright Scholar. In 1967, he joined Cornell University as an assistant professor, advancing to full professor in 1979. He was elevated to emeritus status in 2008.

Professor Sass was a leader in using transmission electron microscopy to investigate the structure of metals and ceramics at the atomic level. He published more than 130 articles in the refereed literature, which were cited thousands of times worldwide. His careful studies of crystalline interfaces were particularly influential.
He worked collaboratively with many of the faculty across the university, and was a Fellow of ASM International, the professional organization of materials scientists and engineers.

He was extremely open-minded and had an infectious enthusiasm for science that sparked conversations and friendships around the world. Professor Sass was an accomplished author, penning the book "The Substance of Civilization: Materials and Human History from the Stone Age to the Age of Silicon". He was also a New York Times Op-Ed contributor, publishing “Scarcity, Mother of Invention” in August 2006. He was dedicated to creating closer connections between Cornell and Chinese universities and travelled to China frequently in that effort. He published another New York Times Op-Ed in January 2014, “Can China Innovate without Dissent?” in which he shared his concern that authoritarian policies can inhibit development of a robust culture of problem-solving.

He served as the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Materials Science and Engineering from 1988-1998 where he began publicizing the excitement of materials science in high schools across the country, an effort that was instrumental in increasing undergraduate enrollment. He also developed a rigorous undergraduate research program which was a significant factor in recruiting women to the field of materials science and which opened doors for more women to participate in research. Professor Sass took great pride in this and alumni of the program considered it a life-changing experience. He was very pleased by the outstanding subsequent accomplishments of his graduate and undergraduate research mentees. Among the many distinguished awards Professor Sass received, the Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellowship in 2002 was a source of special pride, recognizing his sustained and distinguished contributions to undergraduate teaching. He also was the first recipient of the Northwestern University Distinguished Achievement Award for Alumni of Materials Science and Engineering in 2012.

Professor Sass is survived by his wife of 53 years, Karen, his two sons Adam and Erik, and two grandchildren, Carol and Levi. He and
Karen were very active in the Friends of the Library, Ithaca Chamber Orchestra, and were avid travelers and music lovers.

Written by Bruce van Dover and Lara A. Estroff
Professor Emeritus Thomas W. Scott passed away on August 22, 2019 at Kendal at Ithaca, where he had made his home in recent years. He grew up on a dairy farm near Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. His parents were Elsie and John Scott. He received his B.S. degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1952 and then served as a Lieutenant in the Strategic Air Command until the end of the Korean War. Dr. Scott received advanced degrees from Kansas State University (M.S. 1956) and Michigan State University (Ph.D. 1959). He came to the then Agronomy Department (now Soil and Crop Sciences) at Cornell University in 1959, serving in extension and research on the New York State Sugarbeet Feasibility Trial as an assistant professor. In 1965, he was promoted to associate professor with tenure. In 1969, he switched responsibilities to teaching and research in soil science concentrating on soil fertility management. In the preceding years Dr. Scott was the principle leader in the formation of the Empire State Soil Fertility Association, with a term as president in 1962. He was also active in the development of New York Lime Law, and he became active in undergraduate student affairs as advisor of the Agronomy Club and of Alpha Gamma Rho social fraternity.
Dr. Scott’s initial teaching responsibility was in Introductory Soils. He was a gifted teacher with the dual attributes of expertise in the subject matter and an obvious rapport and concern for students. One of his goals, which he regularly achieved, was learning the names and recognizing every student in his classes. In 1969, he received the Professor of Merit Award from the students in CALS. He was later selected as the Outstanding Advisor of CALS and received the teaching award of the Northeast Branch of the American Society of Agronomy. Professor Scott advised hundreds of undergraduate students who fondly remember his concern for them as a person as well as a student.

In the late 1960’s, Dr. Scott worked with a number of colleagues in CALS to develop an off-campus regional travel course in production agriculture with summer tours in the western states. The outstanding value and results of this approach was transferred to the mid-session course in international agriculture, and that method, spawned in part by Dr. Scott, is still included in the International Agriculture and Development curriculum. Dr. Scott shared his own skills as a soil scientist with international work in soil fertility in the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Panama, and Costa Rico. He also oversaw research projects in Africa and Asia.

Professor Scott was an outstanding citizen of the Cornell Community as well as the Ithaca community at large. At Cornell, he was Faculty Fellow with the University Residence Life Program in the 1980’s. He served on numerous college and university committees including the Academic Achievement and Petitions Committee. He was the University Ombudsman from 1991 to 1994. He was also active as an elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, where he had a leadership role in establishing a school in Ethiopia. As he approached retirement, he worked with Madison Wright and Gary Fick to develop a course in sustainable agriculture and became one of its first teachers. In addition, he was a co-teacher of Soil and Water Management and of Ecology of Agricultural Systems. His retirement plan included volunteer teaching.
Upon his retirement, his family and friends set up the Tom Scott Scholarship Fund for students in CALS. He was preceded in death by his wife Nancy in 1984. At the time of his death, he had four living children, twelve grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. They are blessed to be a part of his family.

*Written by Gary W. Fick, David R. Bouldin, and Kathleen C. Howard*
Yervant Terzian, the Tisch Distinguished University Professor Emeritus in the Department of Astronomy at Cornell University, died on November 25, 2019 after a long illness. Professor Terzian made major contributions to the field of astronomy as a researcher, an inspired teacher and a gifted administrator. He had a tremendous capability to inspire and delight both students and everyone he knew or met with the excitement for astronomy and space research that he personally felt.

Professor Terzian was born on February 9, 1939 in Alexandria, Egypt of Armenian and Greek parents. He attended the American University in Cairo, graduating in 1960, and then came to the United States to pursue a master’s degree and doctoral degree in astronomy at the University of Indiana, which he completed in 1963 and 1965, respectively. Yervant’s doctoral research, conducted at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in West Virginia, led to a lifetime of contributions to our understanding of the interstellar medium, the gas and dust between the stars. In early 1965 he joined the scientific staff of the recently built, and Cornell University managed, Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, the beginning of a lifelong association
with Cornell.

In 1967, Yervant moved to Cornell’s Ithaca campus as assistant professor of astronomy, the start of a distinguished teaching career for which in 1984 he received the Clark Distinguished Award for Excellence in Teaching. Over the years he supervised many Ph.D. students and authored, or co-authored, over 235 scientific publications and edited seven books including Carl Sagan’s *Universe*. He was promoted to associate professor in 1972 and professor in 1977. During this time he continued to give lectures to summer students at the Arecibo Observatory. In 1979 he was appointed chair of the Astronomy Department, a position he held for twenty years, a testament to his diplomatic skills. As department chair, he oversaw a significant increase in the size of the department, which drove the need for an increase in the size of the Space Sciences building. Using his considerable persuasive skills, he convinced the university of the need to add two more floors to the existing four.

Yervant was devoted to undergraduate, graduate and adult education. Throughout his tenure as departmental chair, he continued to teach Cornell undergraduate courses, especially the large general introductory course, Astro 101. As an American Astronomical Society’s Harlow Shapely Lecturer from 1974 to 1986, he travelled to colleges across the country to bring the excitement of modern astronomy and astrophysics to students everywhere. From 1988 to 1999 he led the New York State Pew Program in Undergraduate Science Education, and in 1989 he was the founding director of the Astronomy Department’s NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates program, a position he held until 2010. He supported his graduate students with relentless energy and a deep sense of humanity, empathy and respect long into their careers. He was always on the prowl for big opportunities that newly-minted students could never have found on their own. This selfless search for opportunity for his juniors and everyone else around him was a fundamental part of his entire career. Every paper he co-authored with his students or his colleagues he reviewed with an eagle eye, simultaneously profoundly caring and as exacting of
them as he was of himself.

His love of teaching extended to alumni. In addition to numerous lectures to alumni clubs all over the country, in 1992 Yervant founded the Friends of Astronomy, a group of Cornell related alumni who shared Yervant’s enthusiasm for astronomy and who have been, and continue to be, very supportive of Cornell’s Astronomy Department. In 1999 the Friends established an endowment for the Yervant Terzian Undergraduate Scholarships and in 2009, Chuck Mund Jr. ‘81, a member of the Friends, established the Yervant Terzian Lectures. In 2017 the group dedicated the conference room the sixth floor of the Spaces Sciences Building in his name, “in recognition of his many years of leadership, scholarship and citizenship to Cornell.”

However, it was in the broader area of astronomy that Yervant made his major contributions.

He is best known to astronomers for his pioneering papers on the radio emission of HII regions (ionized clouds of interstellar atomic hydrogen), planetary nebulae, and normal galaxies. His first refereed paper, ”Radio Radiation from Normal Spiral Galaxies”, appeared in the Astrophysical Journal in 1967 and the last, which was in 2019, "Survey of Ionized Gas of the Galaxy, Made with the Arecibo Telescope (SIGGMA): Inner Galaxy Data Release,” published in the Astrophysical Journal, reported results from a major survey initiated by Yervant more than ten years prior.

Yervant was the founding Vice-President of the Astronomical Society of New York in 1968. From 1982 to 1992 he was a member of the Editorial Board of the Encyclopedia of Astronomy and Astrophysics and from 1989 to 1999 he was a scientific editor of the Astrophysical Journal. From 1996 to 2015 he directed the NASA funded New York Space Grant Consortium for Science Education, which he built up to comprise eighteen universities and four industry and science museums. In 1997 he was a founding member of the Pan-Hellenic Astronomical Society (now Hellenic Astronomical Society), and that same year he chaired the Committee on
Astronomy in Greece for the 21st Century. In 2002 he was founding member of the Armenian Astronomical Society; he served as its Co-President from 2003-2005.

Yervant served as Board Chair of the Space Grant Alliance from 2007 to 2010 and, in 2012, the 52-member NASA Space Grant directors group elected him as chair, a position he held for two years. In the wake of the breakup of the Soviet Union and the loss of much of the funding for scientists in Armenia, Yervant and colleagues created the very successful Armenian National Science and Education Fund, which Yervant chaired, to raise money to support Armenian scientists based on peer reviewed proposals. In 2002 he was elected chair of the US Consortium of Universities and Institutes involved with the international project to build the next generation of large radio telescopes, the Square Kilometer Array, and chaired the site selection committee for the telescope.

Yervant’s contributions were widely recognized. He was awarded Honorary Doctor of Science degrees from the University of Indiana (1989), the Yerevan State University in Armenia (1994), the University of Thessaloniki in Greece (1997), and from Union College in New York (1999). In 1990, he was elected a Foreign Member of the Armenian Academy of Sciences. In 1999 the Friends of Astronomy established an endowment for ‘The Yervant Terzian Undergraduate Scholarships’. In 2001 he was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2004 he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the American University in Cairo. In 2008 he received the Gold Medal, the ‘highest honor for scientific achievement,’ from the Government of the Republic of Armenia. In 2015 he was the recipient of a NASA Public Service Award.

In 2018 Yervant received NASA’s Distinguished Public Service Medal, the highest honor the agency awards to non-government employees. The citation read “[Yervant Terzian] has used his enthusiasm for space exploration and education to bring inspirational experiences to students and the general public across the country.” This was a short but accurate summary of Yervant’s
life work.

Professor Terzian was predeceased by his first wife, Araxy Bablanian. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Fernández de Castro, his two children, Sevan (spouse Lee Ann) and Tamar (spouse Joseph), and grandchildren Talar, Christopher, Zaven, and Nairi.

Written by Bruce Balick, Donald Campbell, Patricia Fernandez de Castro, and Jim Cordes
Brian Tierney retired from Cornell’s history department in 1991 as the Bryce and Edith Bowmar Professor of Humanistic Studies. He was the first incumbent of that distinguished chair. His career at Cornell spanned 33 years, and his reputation as the finest Medieval scholar of his generation stayed with him until he died on November 30, 2019 at the age of 97. His work asked big questions that made medieval canon law relevant to the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Relevance mattered to Brian. Perhaps that was a natural inclination of someone whose adult experiences began with heroic service during World War II.

Born in Scunthorpe, England on May 7, 1922, Brian enlisted in the RAF in July 1941, the beginning of the worst bombing of England by Germany’s Luftwaffe. Trained as a flight navigator, he flew 29 missions on Wellington Bombers and another 60 on Mosquitoes. He survived, while many did not, and received the Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar, the Bar signifying a second DFC. Only then in his mid-20s did he turn his attention to scholarship. He enrolled in Pembroke College, University of Cambridge, where he graduated with First Class Honors in 1948. He continued his graduate studies
in Medieval history under Walter Ullmann at Cambridge and received his Ph.D. in 1951.

His dissertation on the legal foundation of the conciliar movement caught the attention of Stephan Kuttner, a distinguished canon lawyer based in the United States. He secured for Brian a position in the history department of the Catholic University of America. In 1951 Brian and his wife Theresa sailed for New York on the Queen Mary and were among the last immigrants to the United States processed through Ellis Island. He published his dissertation in 1955. It was entitled Foundations of the Conciliar Theory: The Contributions of the Medieval Canonists from Gratian to the Great Schism. What sounded like a monograph to be read only by a handful of scholars attracted widespread attention in an era when the place of Catholicism in modern democracies was a controversial subject. It helped stir reform in the Catholic Church and was the focus of important debates at the Vatican II Council that Pope John XXIII began in 1962.

In the meantime, Cornell in 1959 successfully lured Brian to join its history department. He became the Goldwin Smith Professor of Medieval History in 1969, eight years before he was awarded the Bowmar Chair. Before he retired he amassed a host of academic awards including honorary degrees from Upsala University and the Catholic University of America, the prestigious Haskins Medal awarded by the Medieval Academy of America, membership in the American Philosophical Society, election as both a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and as a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy, and the Award for Scholarly Distinction conferred by the American Historical Association. The last came after his retirement from Cornell as he continued to conduct research and write.

Brian walked almost every day from his home on Willard Way to the Cornell University library. His Olin study was the center of his professional life. There he wrote his books and prepared his undergraduate and graduate classes. In one long remembered meeting of the history department, Brian used the ceremonial visit of
Cornell’s new president to deliver a heated complaint about the cutback in library hours due to budget constraints. The old schedule was restored.

Brian used those long hours in Olin to good effect. After the conciliar study, his scholarship moved in two directions — resulting in The Origins of Papal Infallibility, 1150-1330 (1972) and Religion, Law and the Growth of Constitutional Thought, 1150-1650 (1982). He argued in his sustained examination of Natural Law that many legal principles considered modern, as for example the doctrine of individual rights, had their origins in medieval canon law. Lawyers currently engaged in formulating digital rights policy for the United Nations have cited this work. Brian also explored the medieval roots of the notion that the state had a positive duty to take care of the poor.

His last book, Liberty and Law. The Idea of Permissive Natural Law, 1100-1800, appeared when Brian was 92. Here Brian showed that during the years from the 12th to the 18th century the doctrine of Natural Law, which was mostly prescriptive in nature, also contained the permissive notion that if something wasn’t prescribed or forbidden, people were free to choose how to act. This latter thread of thought underscored what Brian had earlier written about canon law and the development of individual rights.

Cornell was fortunate to retain Brian on the faculty since he was wooed by many of the country’s best universities. One part of its success owed to his love of the outdoors and his passion for sailing, fishing, swimming, hunting, and skiing. His graduate students grew used to his disappearing for several weeks of the spring semester, while they wrote their papers, to sail his boat in the Florida Keys. He continued to make trips to Greek Peak until the last years of his life.

After his beloved wife Theresa died in 1999, Brian remained in his home, and continued with his academic work while traveling the world and lecturing. Brian’s four children, John, Helen, Chris, and Ann Jane, all Cornell graduates, were regular visitors to Ithaca.
Brian will be missed by all of those of us who knew him. His legacy will live on in his writings and his many students who are now famous professors in their own right.

Written by Larry Moore
Herbert Bernhardt Voelcker, Jr., the Charles Lake Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Emeritus died on January 23, 2020 in Ithaca at the age of 90.

Herb was born in Tonawanda, New York and considered himself a "river rat," sailing his own small sailboat (built with his father) on the Niagara River.

He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. While at MIT, he was both the stroke of the Lightweight Crew and the captain of the university's rifle team, as well as a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Herb was also a Distinguished Military Graduate of the Reserve Officers Training Corps. Upon graduation, he received a commission in the regular U.S. Army Signal Corps. He served as a signal officer in the 82nd Airborne Division for two years. The Army then sent him back to MIT, where he earned a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1954.
While in graduate school, Herb met Jean Hunter through an introduction by his sister. Herb and Jean's first date was on a cold, windy March 1954 day sailing a rather leaky Tech dinghy between the bridges on the Charles River, drenched and freezing. They married in December that year.

Starting in 1955, Herb discovered the joys of research after being posted to the U.S. Army's Signal Labs at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. This set him on his future career as a research engineer and professor. During that time, he was also a member of the U.S. Army Rifle team, traveling to Melbourne, Australia, to compete in the 1956 Olympic Games.

Herb resigned his commission at the rank of Captain when he received a two-year Fulbright Fellowship in 1958, enabling him to study at the Imperial College of Science in London. The College granted him a Doctorate of Electrical Engineering in 1961, after which Herb and Jean returned to New York State.

He started teaching at the University of Rochester as an assistant professor of electrical engineering. In 1969, he was awarded the university's Edward Peck Curtis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, a remarkable honor so early in his career. Later, while at Cornell, he continued as a rigorous teacher whose students valued his teaching and rated it very highly.

Herb is well known for founding the Production Automation Project in 1972, leading the research team that developed mathematical foundations and core algorithms for solid modeling—the enabling technology for modern mechanical computer-aided design.

In 1985, Herb became the head of a new directorate for advanced manufacturing technologies at the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C. However, a reorganization less than a year after he arrived curtailed the goals of his unit, so the Voelckers spent only a single year in the nation's capital.
Returning once more to upstate New York, Herb was the first recipient of a new chair at Cornell in the Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. With their two adult sons John and Edward (Ned), out on their own by then, Herb and Jean lived for more than three decades in Ithaca—their longest tenure in any one location.

At Cornell, Herb was one of the primary intellectual leaders in developing the School's curriculum in design and manufacturing. After formal retirement in 2000, Herb continued to teach one course each year through 2019 and had planned to do so again in early 2020.

His research during a 60-year career ranged over radio propagation, aural perception, and bandwidth compression in the 1950s; modulation theory and digital signal processing in the 1960s; computer science and solid modeling in the 1970s; machine tools and numerically-controlled programming systems in the 1980s; and parallel computation, dimensional tolerancing, and mechanical design during the 1990s. Following his 2000 retirement, his part-time technical work focused largely on assembly modeling and variation control in mechanical design and manufacturing. The National Science Foundation provided financial support to many of these efforts.

Among his professional honors, Herb was a Life Fellow of both the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). In 2007, along with engineering professor Aristide Requicha of the University of Southern California, one of his early Ph.D. students, he received the inaugural Prix Bezier, the senior prize of the International Solid Modeling Society, for fundamental contributions to solid modeling.

Two years later, he was named a '2009 Master of Manufacturing' by Manufacturing Engineering, the magazine of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME). In 2014, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in industrial automation from ASME's Computers in Information in Engineering (CIE) Division.
During the 1990s, Herb and Jean returned to the water, piloting a succession of cruisers throughout the Northeast, the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Intercoastal Waterway, and other recreational routes. They jointly designed the layout and interior of the Rover, a 37-foot craft built in Maine on the hull of a lobstering trawler, taking delivery in October 2002. The last boat Herb built, after a gap of more than half a century, was a wooden Nutshell Pram that served as the dinghy on the Rover.

*Modified obituary submitted by John Booker and Albert George*
Professor Emeritus William (Will) Deakins White died on October 11, 2019 after an extended illness. We at Cornell and Sloan miss him dearly, as do the hundreds of students he educated and mentored along with the faculty he collaborated with. We are grateful for his friendship, passion to improve the health care system, and innovation in health education.

Will was born July 13, 1945, in Philadelphia, the son of the late Gilbert F. and Anne White. Will White received his B.A. from Haverford College and holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University. Raised as a Quaker, Will was a conscientious objector and completed his alternative service at Massachusetts General Hospital, which sparked his keen interest in health care policy.

Prior to coming to Cornell, he headed the program in health management at Yale where he revitalized the program. Prior to this, he was a professor and associate director of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago.
Will was a pivotal member of the “first generation” of health economists. His seminal research on the economics of health systems, physician practices, and managed care organizations continues to influence the profession and shape our understanding of health care markets. He had many appointments as a visiting scholar including as a Distinguished Academic Visitor at Queens College, Cambridge University; the Judge Business School, Cambridge; Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern; University of Chicago; MIT; and Harvard.

Among his fellowships and awards, Will was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, winner of the Annual Health Care Research Award, National Institute for Health Care Management; Article-of-the-Year Award, Association for Health Services Research; Sodexo Marriott Corporation Health Care Services Faculty Publication of the Year Ward, American Academy of Medical Administrators. He also received numerous grant awards from groups such as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), New York State Health Foundation, and the Anthem Foundation. He published a wide variety of academic papers in many prestigious journals and authored or edited all or part of a number of books, organized a number of conferences and made numerous presentations both in the U.S. and abroad. He has also been an expert witness in many cases regarding anti-trust in the health field. His primary research interest is health economics and his professional career focused on the organization and operation of healthcare markets.

Will was a professor in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management and the Director of the Sloan Program in Health Administration at Cornell University from 2003 through 2014. Through his leadership, vision, and tireless work, Will turned the Sloan Program around. The program is greatly indebted to Will for his extraordinary leadership - his tenure as director was transformational. Under his direction Will attracted many faculty to Cornell (including Sean Nicholson, Julie Carmalt, Nicolas Ziebarth, Brooke Hollis and Colleen Carey), student enrollment nearly tripled, alumni became more engaged, and the program soared from 29th in
the *U.S. News & World Report* ranking of health administration programs to its current top-10 ranking. He taught microeconomics and the Colloquium course, led several successful and important accreditation processes, and raised the visibility of the Sloan Program externally through his leadership in national health education and administration organizations. His impact on the quality of the program is also reflected in reactions of so many alumni and other leaders in the field who have recruited Sloan graduates to work for them.

Professor White also positioned the program for a strong future by recruiting and developing an administrative team and exploring the potential for an executive M.H.A. program. One of Will’s most important legacies is training hundreds of students who are now helping health care organizations provide high-quality, affordable, and accessible health care throughout the country and beyond. His stewardship of the Sloan Program will continue having an impact for years to come. Among his contributions to the greater Cornell mission, he was the lead author of the health-related portion of the successful Tech Campus proposal.

Will’s other interests included 19th Century political cartoons, history, horse riding, and cross-country skiing. He is greatly missed by his cherished wife Olivia, children Gilbert and Lydia (Giovanni), and sisters Mary White and Frances Chapin.

There are a variety of funds and charities that he actively supported: the Friends Committee for National Legislation. Another is the White/Hollis Sloan Prize Fund at the College of Human Ecology that recognizes Dr. White for his contributions and helps to carry on some of his initiatives that encouraged students to engage in case competitions, hackathons and entrepreneurial activities by providing modest funds for prizes.

*Written by Brooke Hollis, Rosemary Avery, and Sean Nicholson*