MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS

Raymond Arritt
Irving Carlson
Morton McKee Boyd II
Howard Paul Johnson
John C. Meadows
John Pesek
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Robert (Bob) Swanson
Paul Wray

Iowa State University Faculty Senate May 7, 2019
Memorial Resolution for Dr. Raymond W. Arritt 1957–2018

Raymond W. Arritt, 61, of Ames, passed away unexpectedly of a stroke on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

Ray was born September 19, 1957, to Muriel Louise Smith and Raymond Ward Arritt, Sr. in Covington, Virginia. He grew up in Lynchburg and Richmond, Virginia, and attended the University of Virginia, where he received his B.A. in Economics and Environmental Science in 1979 and his M.S. in Environmental Science in 1982. It was during the final semester of his undergraduate degree that he met his beloved wife Teresita Navarrete in 1979. They married within a year of their first date, on March 29, 1980.

Ray earned his Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins in 1985 and became a faculty member at the University of Kansas in Lawrence in 1988. In Kansas Ray and Tere had their children, Spencer and Kevin. The family moved to Ames, Iowa, in 1993, and Ray worked at Iowa State University until the day of his death.

At Iowa State, Professor Arritt was in the Department of Agronomy and a member of the Agricultural Meteorology Graduate Major. He was an expert in land–atmosphere interactions, which describes how the atmosphere is influenced by the land surface, and vice-versa. Specifically, he investigated how these processes are represented in weather and climate models. One example is his work (unpublished at the time of his death) on how changes in land cover related to the move from horse-drawn plows (and the perennial vegetation need to feed these horses) to tractors (and more annual row-crops) affected precipitation in the US Midwest. He worked with many other faculty. One example in his home department was with Professor Mark Westgate on pollen dispersal via wind. He partnered with Professors Bill Gutowski and Gene Takle in Geological and Atmospheric Sciences to compare numerical weather prediction models. Ray’s work as part of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) resulted in him (and the other members of the IPCC) sharing the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Vice President Al Gore. His most lasting research impact will be through the Iowa Environmental Mesonet, which he co-implemente with Daryl Herzmann. The IEM (https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu) is the busiest website at Iowa State, serving people all over the country as a repository for weather data. Ray served on 90 program-of-study committees and was the major adviser for 15 students. He was a caring supervisor of staff and graduate students who constantly emphasized the importance of addressing family needs over work requirements.

Ray was an outstanding teacher as well. He taught courses on basic weather and climate, world climates, land–atmosphere interactions, and numerical weather prediction. In recent years he made great efforts to improve his teaching, one example being the implementation of team-based learning. The weather and climate class he co-taught with Professor Brian Hornbuckle each fall semester for the last 15 years was taken by over 4000 students. He was an enthusiastic teacher. When teaching about the formation of low pressure systems, he would sit in an office chair holding dumbbells and allow someone to spin him as fast as possible in order to demonstrate the conservation of angular momentum. He would put pop cans in bowl of hot water and wait for them to explode in order to demonstrate how oceans will release carbon dioxide as they warm, thus
creating a dangerous positive feedback that will enhance global warming. He brought his guitar, amplifier, and speaker to class to further demonstrate the concept of a positive feedback Jimi-Hendrix-style. And his explanation of how Viking settlements in Greenland were affected by climate change was short and to-the-point: “It got cold, and then they died.” This humor also included a collection of Hallmark sympathy cards stashed in his desk that he would send to the parents of a student who required absence from a test due to a sudden death of a long lost uncle or grandparent.

Finally, Ray provided a great deal of service to the university and his research community. Of the many committees on which he served, his department will remember most his tenure on its curriculum committee. While he was chair the department made extensive changes to its curriculum that will positively impact students for many years to come. His value of science, high moral standards, and straight-forward approach allowed him to effectively serve in this position. For many years he and colleague Dr. Ruby Leung of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory co-chaired a session on regional climate modeling at the Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union.

Besides being a consummate faculty member, he was also an avid biker, and most proudly a loving and devoted husband and father. We remember his gentle and generous demeanor, his love of music, and his thoroughly offbeat sense of humor.

Daryl Herzmann and Brian Hornbuckle
April 26, 2019
Irving Theodore Carlson passed away at Edward Hospital in Naperville, Ill., on Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019.

Irving was born on his family’s farm in Colbert, Wash., on July 14, 1926, to Joseph August and Anna (Ingo) Carlson. He grew up in the Spokane area. Irving loved life on the farm even though there was never any indoor plumbing and no electricity before he was 13. He graduated from Mead High School in 1944. He continued his education initially at Whitworth College where he was inspired by an exceptional Botany professor. He then transferred to Washington State University where he majored in agronomy and earned a bachelor’s and a master’s degree. During his time there, he met the love of his life, Elizabeth Emtman, and they were married on June 15, 1952. Following the wedding, they took their first cross-country road trip to Madison, Wis. There, in 1955, Irving obtained his PhD in agronomy, specializing in plant breeding from the University of Wisconsin.

In 1956, Irving launched his career as a plant breeder at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. In 1960, he took a position in the Agronomy department at Iowa State University. A key focus of his work was the development of new varieties of orchard grass and other cool season forage crops. In addition, Irving advised many graduate students from around the country and around the world.

Irving and Elizabeth were blessed with two children, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He had a strong interest in the lives of all of his offspring — visiting them, traveling with them, sending them interesting newspaper clippings, and discussing the weather with them.

Irving enjoyed traveling. Each summer the family took a 3- to 4-week road trip, exploring all corners of the U.S. Later, Irv and Liz expanded their scope to Europe, Russia, Japan and Australia. A memorable trip was one to visit extended family in Sweden, Finland and Germany.

Irving was an avid reader, especially enjoying nonfiction historical books about the lives of interesting people. The Lewis and Clark expedition and native American history were special interests. On his travels he would often visit the places he had read about.

In Ames he enjoyed hiking in the woods near his home. He was a fan of ISU football and basketball. And as a long-time Chicago Cubs fan, he was excited when they won the World Series in 2016. Irving was a member of St. Andrews Lutheran Church for nearly 60 years.

Irving will be remembered by those who knew him as a kind, gentle, humble and friendly person who cared for others and took a genuine interest in their lives.

Irving was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth; his parents; his brother, Ivar; and his sister, Mildred. Irving is survived by his sister, Margaret; children, Susan (Terry) and Steven (Karen); grandchildren, John (Sherry), Christian, Scott, and Kate; and great-grandson, Leif.
Mort Boyd was raised in Pittsburgh, PA. He signed up with the U.S. Navy at the age of 18 and spent three plus years in the service. He was commissioned as an Ensign and served on reconnaissance mission flight crews in Gibraltar and North Africa. He returned to finish his degree at Penn State in Agricultural Engineering and graduate work at the University of Massachusetts. He turned down numerous offers to fly for commercial airlines as he started his career.

His professional career had stops in Alliance, OH, Bettendorf, IA and finally with his new wife Shelly, landed in Ames, IA in 1968. Mort served on the faculty of the Agricultural Engineering department at Iowa State University for 30 years, retiring in 1998. He found academic advising to be the most rewarding part of his job, along with the classroom time shared with the thousands of students who passed through the department.

Mort spent his retirement working on antique cars and other projects. He visited Scotland on two occasions to research the Boyd family history. In 2015 he moved to Papillion, NE to be closer to his young granddaughters. He will be remembered as a husband, father, teacher, and mentor to all those that he touched throughout his life.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years Shelva "Shelly" Boyd in September 2017. Mort is survived by his son Paul, daughter-in-law Nora, and granddaughters Margot and Eliza.
Howard was born on a farm in Sac County, Iowa to Gust and Ruth Johnson on January 27, 1923. He attended country school and graduated as Salutatorian from Odebolt High School.

After employment with his father and as a farm hand with neighbors, he was drafted into the Army during WWII. He entered the service January 1943 with the armored forces. Later while attached to a vehicle maintenance school, he was assigned to the Army Specialized Training Program. When the ASTP program closed, he was transferred to the artillery in the 69th Infantry Division where he served in the European Theater from the end of the Bulge, across Germany to contact the Russian Army at the Elbe River.

After discharge from the Army in January 1946, he began studies at Iowa State College in March 1946. With the aid of the GI Bill he completed the BS and MS degrees in engineering. He was ever grateful for the support of Congress and taxpayers who enabled veterans to attend college. He completed an MS degree in hydraulics at the University of Iowa in 1954 and was awarded the PhD jointly with Civil Engineering (Soil Mechanics) and Agricultural Engineering, soil and water resources in 1959.

In 1960 Howard began a career with the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department at Iowa State University after several years as a research associate. His teaching and research responsibilities related to soil conservation, agricultural hydrology, computer modeling and, with peers, the transport of sediment and degradation of chemicals in the agricultural environment.

Howard served on the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ASABE) as Technical Council Director, Soil and Water Division and was Chairman of the Soil and Water Division Steering Committee. He served as Chairman of the ASABE of the Committee on Graduate Instruction. He received the Hancor Soil and Water Engineering Award for Advancing the Science of Agricultural Hydrology in 1978 and The John Deere Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement in the Application of Science and Art to the Soil after retirement. He was elected to Who's Who in Engineering by the Engineer's Joint Council in 1977.

Howard was named Acting Head of the Ag Engineering Department in 1980 and Department Head in 1981. In 1986 he was selected as Anson Marston Distinguished Professor of Engineering. In 1973 Howard was named Fellow of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. In 1988 he was elected to Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science. With the aid of peers,
he compiled the history of the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department in Agricultural Engineering Century: Iowa State University, which was published in 2005.

He was a member of the Ink Spots Writers, an Ames Library group. He was also a member of Northcrest Writers. He composed three poetry chapbooks and published poetry many years in Lyrical Iowa, annual book of the Iowa Poetry Association. His prose essays related primarily to family recollections, WWII memories and economics. He wrote the genealogy of both sides of his family, his father an immigrant, his mother a first-generation citizen.

Howard is survived by his wife Patricia, their three children Cynthia, Lynette and Malcolm, his siblings Elaine, Virginia, Helen and Wayne, and grandchildren Erica, Kristen, Benjamin and Drew.
John C. Meadows

1933-2018

John Meadows of Jacksonville Beach, FL passed away December 24, 2018 following a battle with Parkinson’s disease. On completing his Ph.D. at Duke University in forestry economics. He was on the ISU Department of Forestry faculty 1968 – 1973. During his time at Iowa State his son, Paul Meadows was born. The Meadows lived in Iowa while John was a professor at the Iowa State University and it was a joyous time. So far from home, with young children and living in a cold climate, friends became family for John and Leeanne and he began to hone his skills as a teacher and mentor. John also relished leaving in the early morning hours and frigid mid-western temperatures with his much-loved Cocker Spaniel, Iris to hunt for pheasant and duck.

During his time in Ames, Dr. Meadows was an instructor at the 1970 Forestry Camp in Wanakena, NY, the first camp lasting six weeks. From the Ames Forester 1973 (Vol.60):

Dr. Meadows went on to employment with the Tennessee Valley Authority and then to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC that turned into a 20-year career as a Forest Economist. John traveled widely to work with land grant colleges, focusing on how best to utilize land and wildlife for the support of communities. The research projects ranged from examining the economic viability of sugar cane resurgence to growing catfish as a crop. John worked at the Department of Agriculture until his retirement to Jacksonville Beach, Florida.

John T. Pesek, 97, of Ames, Iowa passed away on February 11, 2019 at Northcrest Community in Ames.

John was born on November 15, 1921 near Hallettsville, Texas. He was the oldest child of Elizabeth (Kallus) Pesek and John T. Pesek. He is preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Victor; a sister, Kitty; his wife, Isabel; and a daughter, Rebecca. John is survived by his son, Brian; daughter, Cindy; son-in-law, Philippe Vandeweghe; and granddaughters, Natalie and Courtney.

John graduated from Jourdanton HS in 1938 and received his Bachelor’s Degree in Agricultural Education from Texas A&M in 1943. He was a member of the 98th Bomb Group within the 15th Air Force serving as a radar navigator during WWII. After the war he continued his education receiving his M.S. in Agronomy from Texas A&M and Ph.D. in Agronomy from North Carolina State University.

Dr. Pesek began a long and distinguished career at Iowa State in 1950 as an assistant professor in soils. He served as head of the agronomy department for 26 years. During his term as head from 1964 to 1990, he also served as interim dean of agriculture from 1987 to 1988. He worked extensively internationally, emphasizing the environment, production agriculture and education. He spearheaded the development of the Agronomy and Agricultural Engineering Research Farms and oversaw the efforts to secure funding for Agronomy Hall’s substantial building addition. Dr. Pesek was named a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy, the Soil Science Society of America, Crop Science Society of America, the Iowa Academy of Science, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He served as president of both the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America and helped establish the nation’s first National Soil Tilth Laboratory, a USDA-ARS facility in Ames, IA (now called the National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment). Dr. Pesek was named a Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor of Agriculture at Iowa State University in 1981 and received the Agronomic Service Award from the American Society of Agronomy in 1989. Pesek retired in 1992. He received the Iowa State University Honorary Alumni Award in 2014 and is an emeritus member of the Iowa Academy of Science.

John was a caring and compassionate man who always gave of himself to his family, friends, professional colleagues and Church. He was a quiet, gentle man with seemingly endless knowledge and a sense of humor that will be missed by close friends and family. He was a long-time member of St. Cecilia Catholic Church.
Sheldon Shih Ta Shen's life quietly ended on March 31, 2019, with his beloved wife, Martha, by his side. Sheldon was born November 22, 1947, in Shanghai, China, to Tony Chung Yu Shen and Rosedo Shou Hui Chang. He came to the United States at the age of 7.

Shen spent most of his childhood in St. Louis, Mo., with his father; stepmother, Colleen; and two brothers, Vincent and Anthony. He received a bachelor’s degree in science from the University of Missouri. After receiving his graduate degree at the University of California-Berkeley, he had a successful tenure as a professor in the Department of Genetics, Development and Cell Biology at Iowa State University.

In addition to being survived by his wife, Martha, he is survived by his son, Christopher, and his wife, Christine; daughter, Molliarda and her husband, Ron; daughters: Camille, Natalie and Rachel; daughter, Abra, and her husband, Ryan; daughter, Elanni and her wife, Jen; and his brothers, Vincent and Anthony. His legacy will continue through his grandchildren: Jordan, Hannah, Rachel, Noah and Cody as well as Aria, Luke and Anna. He was remembered in a private memorial service.
Robert Dean Swanson, age 83, of Ames, died on December 15, 2018 at home under hospice care. Bob was born July 3, 1935 in Cherokee, Iowa to Armena and Albin Swanson, the oldest of four children in the family. He graduated from Cherokee High School in 1953 and the University of Nebraska in 1957. Upon graduation Bob joined Swanson Foods. The grocery business was in Bob's roots. In the early 1900s Peter Swanson, Bob's grandfather, with one hundred dollars and a team of oxen with a wagon opened a store in his log cabin to supply the Thorhult, Minnesota area with provisions. From this evolved Swanson Stores, a grocery business established by Bob's father Al. Bob's involvement with Swanson Stores began at age 11 when he candled eggs and sacked potatoes. By 1966 Bob was president of Swanson Stores. In 1969 the twelve Swanson Stores in Iowa and Minnesota merged with HyVee.

After a short continuation in the grocery business as a HyVee store manager and then owner of his own supermarket in Wisconsin, Bob's career shifted to academia. He earned his MBA from the University of Denver and his Ph.D. degree in accounting and taxation from the University of Iowa in 1977. Bob was on faculty at Michigan State University and Kearney State College before joining Iowa State University from 1982 to his retirement in 2003.

On November 13, 1993, Bob married Patricia Titus and their two families were merged. Bob and Pat shared careers at Iowa State and a love of the Cyclones, Arizona winters, and investing. Bob's academic specialty was federal taxation. While the content of his courses was rigorous, he taught with precision and humor and enjoyed hearing from his students how he prepared them for their professional exams and careers. Among his many professional associations was the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants of which he was a member of the National Tax Committee. Another highlight of Bob's years at Iowa State was serving on the Athletics Council.

Bob was a golf enthusiast. Bob golfed in Ames at the Ames Golf and Country Club (where he served on the board). His Thursday foursome and Tuesday morning golf breakfast group were weekly must-dos.

Bob had type 1 diabetes for 66 years. He saw many advances in the treatment of diabetes during his lifetime and diligently monitored his glucose levels which led to a much longer life than expected.

In addition to his professional organizations, Bob was a member of Bethesda Lutheran Church, Ames Rotary, the ISU Cyclone Club, Stone Brooke Home Owners Association Board, and the Ames Planning and Zoning Commission.

Bob's children and grandchildren were important to him. Although never becoming adept at, he learned the basics of technology and social media in order to keep up with their lives. Friendships were also important to Bob and he loved his weekday coffee group that discussed all things Cyclone.

Bob is survived by his wife Pat of Ames; three children from his marriage to Karen Wright Swanson -- Rob Swanson of Tucson, Arizona; Nancy Osman (Richard) of Petaluma, California; and Joel Swanson (Selena) of Des Moines, Iowa; one son, Jonathan Titus (Yue) welcomed into the family from his marriage to Pat; and twelve grandchildren -- Elena Swanson; Bethany, Lydia, Gabe, Evie, and Lillian Swanson; Hadley, Elyse, and Will Osman; and Alex and Declan Titus.

He is also survived by his sister Karen (Robert) Wooldridge, brothers-in-law Robert Ament (Kathy) and Jerry Christenson (Carol), many nieces and nephews, and family he acquired through Pat. Bob was preceded in death by his parents and sisters Marilyn Ament and Janet Christenson.
Dr. Paul Wray,


Paul Wray passed away in the early afternoon hours of February 20, 2019. After completing his PhD. in forest biology at Iowa State University, he served briefly as a faculty member at Virginia Polytechnic Institute before returning to the Forestry Department at Iowa State University as a faculty member in forestry extension. For over 30 years, he and Dean Prestemon were the “face of forestry” to countless forest land owners around the state. Between the two of them, they explained forestry, from tree planting to proper use and care of wood, to all who were interested. He loved traveling the state with Dean to deliver forestry field days, workshops, and master woodland manager programs to all who wanted to do a better job of managing their forest holdings. In addition, Dr. Wray was an instructor for many years of the Forestry Camp beginning in 1973 with a trip to Cullowhee and Rougement, North Carolina through 1997 when he was the co-instructor with David Countryman when they travelled to Cloquet, Minnesota. He was universally liked by all who had the good fortune of knowing him.

- Contributed by Dr. Steve Jungst