Obituaries of the Members of the Ohio Academy of Science Report of the Necrology Committee, 2005

The Ohio Journal of Science, v105, n5 (December, 2005), 142-152.
http://hdl.handle.net/1811/31919

Downloaded from the Knowledge Bank, The Ohio State University's institutional repository
OBITUARIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
REPORT OF THE NECROLOGY COMMITTEE, 2005

The Necrology Committee of The Ohio Academy of Science, chaired since 1992 by Historian-Archivist Ronald L. Stuckey, consists of William R. Burk, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC; Christopher Cumo, Canton, OH; and Relda E. Niederhofer, Firelands College of Bowling Green State University, Huron, OH. The committee also expresses its gratitude to the following individuals and institutions for providing information: Ruth Davidson, Columbus, OH; Bertha L. Ihnat, Library Associate, University Archives, The Ohio State University; Bruce Leach, Head Librarian, Biological/Pharmacy Library, The Ohio State University; and Jennifer K. Nieves, Archivist-Registrar, Dittrick Medical History Center, Allen Medical Library, Cleveland, OH. The Academy office files may contain additional published and unpublished information on the deceased members treated in this report.

The committee is seeking volunteers to provide information or to write obituaries on deceased members of the Academy whose obituaries have not yet been written for The Ohio Journal of Science. Please contact The Ohio Academy of Science if you can assist in this effort. A two-page outline of instructions for preparation on obituaries in The Ohio Journal of Science, written by Ronald L. Stuckey, is available from the author or the Academy office.

The following is a list of deceased members of the Academy with the year joined and date of death, if known, whose obituaries have not yet been published in the journal.

Ronald L. Stuckey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>DATE OF DEATH</th>
<th>YEAR JOINED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John B. Brown</td>
<td>17 February 2003</td>
<td>??</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Dollimore</td>
<td>4 Aug 2000</td>
<td>1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Knoll</td>
<td>11 July 2003</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irving Mayer</td>
<td>25 March 2004</td>
<td>1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth W. Smith</td>
<td>2004?</td>
<td>1947</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following obituaries appear in the 2005 report:

Edward Barton Bell (1913-2002) ................................................................. 143
Robert James Bendure (1920–2004) ............................................................ 143
John Boyer Brown (1924–2003) ................................................................. 144
Reuben George Bullard, Sr. (1928–2004) ............................................... 144
Richard Shoots Davidson (1918–2005) .................................................... 145
John Franklin Disinger (1930-2005) ......................................................... 146
Sherman Lewis “Jack” Frost (1909-2004) .............................................. 147
Ruth Wertenberger Melvin (1909-2005) .................................................... 148
Frederick Chapman Robbins (1916–2003) ............................................... 149
Adolph Benedict Schneider, Jr. (1913-2004) ......................................... 150
Hans Willi Zimmer (1921–2001) ............................................................ 151
EDWARD BARTON BELL (1913 – 2002)

Edward Barton Bell, age 88, longtime director of chemical research at Armco Steel (now A.K. Steel) in Middletown, OH, died from pneumonia on 25 February 2004, at Otterbein Retirement Center, a community of the Otterbein Methodist Church in Otterbein, OH. A leader in space engineering, he was an early advocate of ballistic missiles and an early proponent of space science. Bell directed the first Air Force Man-in-Space Study. In recognition of his devoted service to the United States Government, he received a 30-year pin and certificate at a ceremony held at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in November 1968. In 1990, he received the Goodyear Conservation Award for his efforts in applying soil and water management practices on his 80-acre estate. Joining The Ohio Academy of Science in 1968, Bell affiliated with Section Conservation (later called Natural Resources) and became a life member (1981).

Between April 1944 and January 1945, Bendure trained as a line officer in Hollywood, FL, Norfolk, VA, and Columbus, OH. From 3 February 1945 to 2 April 1946 Bendure served aboard the USS Frank E. Evans, a destroyer commissioned in New York City and deployed in the Pacific Ocean near Okinawa, an island the United States wrested from Japan in June 1945. The role of the airplane in the battle for Okinawa made crucial the ability of Bell and other line officers to distinguish American planes from Japanese planes. As pickets for the aircraft carriers, the Evans and other destroyers were to screen out Japanese airplanes with a barrage of fire. Alternatively, the Evans was to allow American pilots safe return to the flight decks of their carriers. Consequently, Bendure devoted much of his efforts to the proper identification of airplanes. The Navy promoted him to Lieutenant Junior Grade 1 November 1945. As part of the Seventh Fleet, the Evans remained in the Yellow Sea through February 1946. The ports of call were Tsingtao, China, Shanghai, China, and Jinsen, Korea (now South Korea). Following a route from Okinawa to San Francisco, CA, Bendure received his discharge from active duty 6 April 1946 at the U.S. Naval Personnel Separation Center in San Francisco. He was on leave until 28 May 1946 and on inactive duty until 13 October 1953, when the Navy granted him an honorable discharge. Once on leave Bendure returned to Armco Steel to his previous title as chemical analyst (May 1946-1948), being promoted to chemical supervisor (1948-1961), until 28 May 1946 and on inactive duty until 13 October 1953, when the Navy granted him an honorable discharge. Once on leave Bendure returned to Armco Steel to his previous title as chemical analyst (May 1946-1948), being promoted to chemical supervisor (1948-1961), manager of the chemical laboratories (1961-1969), assistant research director (1969-1976), and research director (1976-1983).

In professional associations, Bell held memberships in the American Institute of Aeronautics Astronautics (associate fellow), the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Scientific Research Society of America, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Following retirement, Bell contributed to a range of civic causes. He became a member of the Board of Directors of The Somerville National Bank (beginning 1972), which his father established. He also served on the Board of Directors of The First National Bank of Clermont County (1972-1977). In area schools, he was an active member of the Talawanda Board of Education, Oxford, OH (1976-1979; president, 1979) and the Board of Education, Butler County Joint Vocational School (1976-1979). For a number of years, he was a volunteer judge at the Ohio State Science Fair held at Ohio Wesleyan University. As a pastime, Bell enjoyed maintaining and managing an 80-acre farm in Milford Township, Butler County, OH, which he purchased in 1966. Six years later, he moved into a new house which he built on his farm. There, he planted spruce and pine seedlings. The planting of trees and also shrubs improved habitats for wildlife, which turned his land into a veritable wildlife sanctuary.

Edward Barton Bell is survived by his wife Lillian (Collins) Bell, whom he had married on 11 July 1936; two daughters, Evelyn and her husband Richard Streng of Valley Center, CA, and Christine and her husband James Gatzke of Redondo Beach, CA; one son, Edward and his wife Ann Bell of Hamilton; two grandchildren, Scott and his wife Sara Streng of Columbus, OH, and Todd Streng of Valley Center, CA; and one step-grandson, Kenneth and his wife Tracey Allen of the Smith and Ogle Funeral Home, Oxford, OH. On the following day, memorial services were held at the Somerville United Methodist Church, Somerville. Memorial contributions may be sent to The Somerville United Methodist Church, 154 West Mill Street, Somerville, OH, or to The Air Force Museum Foundation, PO Box 38624, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH 45435.

ROBERT JAMES BENDURE (1920 – 2004)

Robert James Bendure, age 83, corporate director of chemical research at Armco Steel (now A.K. Steel) in Middletown, OH, died from pneumonia on 25 February 2004, at Otterbein Retirement Center, a community of the Otterbein Methodist Church in Otterbein, OH. A leader in the movement to standardize the techniques of measurement throughout the steel industry, Mr. Bendure, in collaboration with the Bureau of Standards, developed standards that remain normative in the industry. Bendure was a recipient of the Lundell Bright Award (1974) and of the American Society of Testing and Materials Award of Merit (1977). He joined The Ohio Academy of Science in 1964, later becoming an emeritus.

Between April 1944 and January 1945 Bendure trained as a line officer in Hollywood, FL, Norfolk, VA, and Columbus, OH. From 3 February 1945 to 2 April 1946 Bendure served aboard the USS Frank E. Evans, a destroyer commissioned in New York City and deployed in the Pacific Ocean near Okinawa, an island the United States wrested from Japan in June 1945. The role of the airplane in the battle for Okinawa made crucial the ability of Bell and other line officers to distinguish American planes from Japanese planes. As pickets for the aircraft carriers, the Evans and other destroyers were to screen out Japanese airplanes with a barrage of fire. Alternatively, the Evans was to allow American pilots safe return to the flight decks of their carriers. Consequently, Bendure devoted much of his efforts to the proper identification of airplanes. The Navy promoted him to Lieutenant Junior Grade 1 November 1945. As part of the Seventh Fleet, the Evans remained in the Yellow Sea through February 1946. The ports of call were Tsingtao, China, Shanghai, China, and Jinsen, Korea (now South Korea). Following a route from Okinawa to San Francisco, CA, Bendure received his discharge from active duty 6 April 1946 at the U.S. Naval Personnel Separation Center in San Francisco. He was on leave until 28 May 1946 and on inactive duty until 13 October 1953, when the Navy granted him an honorable discharge. Once on leave Bendure returned to Armco Steel to his previous title as chemical analyst (May 1946-1948), being promoted to chemical supervisor (1948-1961), manager of the chemical laboratories (1961-1969), assistant research director (1969-1976), and research director (1976-1983).

Son Raymond Bendure placed his father’s duties within the context of an industry that requires steel to exhibit, among other qualities, ductility and corrosion resistance. Because analytical chemistry gauges these qualities it is the science at the core of the steel industry. The multiplicity of his duties aside, Robert Bendure was chiefly an analytical chemist. Bendure allotted his work among instrumental methods of chemical analysis, the separation and measurement of gases in metals and alloys, the extraction and measurement of metallic compounds, the development and testing of metal cleaning systems, and the development of efficient means of reducing pollution in the production of steel. His publications include “Acid Contamination as a Source of Error in Boiling Nitric Acid Test for Corrosion Resistant Steels,” in the July 1955 issue of the American Society for Testing and Materials Bulletin, “Elimination of a Coke Oven Light Oil Waste Problem” in the August 1958 issue of Sewage and Industrial Wastes, “Aluminum Alters Density of Electrical Steel” in the November 1959 issue of Metal Progress, and “Quantity and Form of Carbohydrates in Aerobic and Precipitation Hardening Stainless Steels” in the October 1961 issue of Transactions of the Metallurgical Society of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers.

In addition to being a member of The Ohio Academy of Science, Mr. Bendure was a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Society for Testing and Materials. In the latter organization Bendure was a member of the Standing Committee of Districts (1974-1978), chairman of the Editorial Subcommittee, chairman of the Award Merit Subcommittee, and secretary and chairman of the Ohio Valley District. He was a member of the Parent Teacher Organization Executive Committee (1951-1952) and of the Boy Scouts of America, being active in Cub Scouts (1953). Active in the local science fair, Mr. Bendure was a judge (1957-1959, 1961) and a member of the Judging Committee (1956, 1960). He was chairman of the Research Section of Miami University Extension Fund Raising (1965), a technical liaison representative to Miami University and Ohio University (1962-1970), and a member of Wright State University’s faculty.
Bendure is buried at Lebanon Cemetery in Lebanon, OH. Friends may make donations to United Way, 20 North Mechanic Street, Suites 1-2, Lebanon, OH 45036. The Ohio Academy of Science retains on file in its office Mr. Bendure's personnel documents and offers of his military service.

CHRISTOPHER CUMO

JOHN BOYER BROWN (1924 – 2003)

John Boyer Brown, age 78, Professor Emeritus and former chairman of the Department of Chemistry at Denison University in Granville, OH, died from pneumonia 17 February 2003 at Licking Memorial Hospital in Granville, OH. As an administrator, Dr. Brown presided in 1964 over the construction of a new chemistry building at Denison University. As a chemist, he built a research program in several subfields of physical chemistry. Brown joined The Ohio Academy of Science in 1954 and was elected a fellow in 1964. A participant in the Academy's Visiting Scientists Program, Dr. Brown lectured on the future of the chemistry profession at Bedford Senior High School in Bedford, OH, on 30 and 31 January 1961. He lectured to 150 students on chemistry textbooks, the periodic table, and the discovery of new elements at Frazenburg-Nashport High School in Frazenburg, OH, on 22 May 1963 and fielded questions from members of the Science Club at Granville High School in Granville on 17 and 24 February 1964. Thereafter, administrative duties at Denison University forced Brown to reduce his service in the Visiting Scientists Program.

Born 12 November 1924 in Lexington, KY, John Boyer Brown was the son of Marion Clay and Martha (Boyer) Brown. In 1941 John Brown graduated from Henry Clay High School in Lexington. Between 1941 and 1943 he attended the University of Kentucky in Lexington on a scholarship in Industrial Chemistry from Ashland Oil and Refining Company, but suspended his studies to serve in the Armed Forces during World War II. On 2 February 1943 he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps, the forerunner of the United States Air Force. A Station Weather Officer, Brown undertook training in meteorology at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, NC, from March to September 1943, and at the University of Chicago in Chicago, IL, from September 1943 to June 1944. He received a Certificate of Professional Competence in Meteorology from the University of Chicago in June 1944. While on active duty, Brown rose to the rank of captain in charge of a Class A weather station in which capacity he prepared short range forecasts for flight crews. Brown served at Bowman Field in Kentucky and at an Army Air Corps base in Ansbach, Germany. Upon release from active duty, Brown served in the United States Air Force Reserves, attaining the rank of major. Between 1946 and 1948 he was an instructor in ground school subjects at the University of Kentucky and held a Ground Instructor Certificate. He was also a student at the University of Kentucky, from which in 1948 he received a B.S. in chemistry. That year the university's Department of Chemistry honored him with the Meredith Award in Chemistry, an award given to the outstanding senior in chemistry. He matriculated into Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, for graduate studies in chemistry and was a teaching assistant (1948-1950) in the Department of Chemistry, where he taught general chemistry, physical chemistry, and instrumental analysis. In 1950 Brown was a United States Air Force Research Fellow at Northwestern University. Brown was an instructor (1952–1956) in the Department of Chemistry at Denison University. In 1956 he received a Ph.D. in chemistry from Northwestern University and promotion to assistant professor (1956–1960). That year he became a consultant in the Chemistry Department of Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, OH. He rose to associate professor (1960–1968) and professor (1968–1988). Dr. Brown taught introductory chemistry to freshmen and physical chemistry and analytical chemistry to upperclassmen. His wife recalls him as an exceptional teacher. Dr. Brown chaired the Department of Chemistry (1961–1965) at Denison University and oversaw the construction of a new chemistry building. In 1971 he was interim director of Denison University's Howard Doane Library and was for twenty years a faculty marshal. Retiring from the Chemistry Department in 1988, Dr. Brown was a consultant (1988–1994) in the Computer Science Department at Denison University.

Dr. Brown undertook research in the surface chemistry of mercury ion substrates, in oxygen isotopes, and in borohydride hydrolysis. He pursued research in these fields at Denison and during three sabbaticals, the first at Atlas Chemical Company in Wilmington, DE, in 1966 and 1967, the second at the Swedish Institute for Surface Chemistry in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1973 and 1974; and the third at Duke University in Durham, NC, in 1981 and 1982.

Dr. Brown was a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Meteorological Society, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Phi Lambda Upsilon, and Alpha Chi Sigma, in which he served as secretary (1947), vice president (1948), and treasurer (1949–1950).

A participant in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, Dr. Brown helped low income earners prepare their taxes for free. A gardener, he raised peonies and vegetables. Dr. Brown enjoyed woodworking. His wife recalls a rocking horse he made for a niece and the bookcases he made for family and friends.

Jeanie Carolyn (DeGarmo) Brown, his wife and a 1947 graduate of Denison University, survives, the two having married 25 November 1949 in Evanston, IL. She resides in Granville, OH. Surviving also are sons Christopher Paul Brown of Columbus, OH, and Stephen Boutelle Brown of Palm Bay, FL; daughter Margaret Gail (Brown) DeJeger and her husband Dale DeJeger of Naperville, IL; and three grandchildren. Slayer Hall at Denison University flew its flag at half-mast on 18 February 2003 in a sign of mourning at the death of Dr. Brown. His family held visiting hours on 22 February 2003 and a memorial service the next day at First Presbyterian Church in Granville, OH, with Reverend Karen J. Chakrison officiating. The McPeek Funeral Home in Granville was in charge of arrangements. After a private graveside service, Dr. Brown was buried in the College Cemetery at Denison University. Friends may make contributions to First Presbyterian Church, 110 West Broadway, Granville, OH 43023. The office of The Ohio Academy of Science retains on file the obituary "John B. Brown" which appeared in both the Granville Sentinel and Newark Advocate, and a press release dated 18 February 2003 from the Office of the President, Denison University, announcing the passing of Dr. Brown.
Richard Shoots Davidson (1918–2005)

Richard Shoots Davidson, age 86, a retired research biologist, plant pathologist, and former manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment Programs for 31 years at Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, OH, died 13 March 2005 at Riverside Methodist Hospital, Columbus. At Davidson's memorial service, his son Richard recalled two noteworthy scientific contributions made by his father. First, he was involved with the development of a method to mass produce penicillin, an antibiotic that was extremely important in saving the lives of soldiers and sailors who were wounded in World War II. Second, he was among the scientists who conducted the environmental impact statement for the potential route of the Alaskan oil pipeline and to insure its minimal impact on the fragile tundra habitats. Davidson was a member of The Ohio Academy of Science since 1948 and elected a Fellow in 1951.

Born 30 April 1918 near Marion, OH, Richard was the son of Foster A. and Hazel (Shoots) Davidson, who earned their living by farming. Young Davidson attended elementary school and one year of secondary school at Grand Prairie High School in Marion County. He completed his secondary education at Harding High School in Marion, where he graduated in May 1936. After four years of study at The Ohio State University, Davidson received the B.S. in agriculture in August 1940. While an undergraduate, he served during the summer of 1939 as an assistant research technician for the Central States Forestry Laboratory, Columbus. From September 1939 to August 1940, he held an undergraduate assistantship in plant pathology in the University’s Department of Botany and Plant Pathology. In September 1940, Davidson enrolled in graduate school at The Ohio State University and in the winter of 1942 completed an M.S. in plant pathology under the guidance of Professor Arthur L. Pierstorff. Davidson’s thesis, *Anthracnose of Tomato*, discussed a fungal disease that causes the loss of ripe fruits in the field where tomatoes are grown for commercial canneries. It included information on the history and range of the disease, the symptoms as observed in the field, and results of histological studies of diseased tissue. While in graduate school, Davidson continued his appointment in plant histology until June 1941 and, during that summer, he served as a field assistant for J.D. Wilson in plant pathology in the Agricultural Experiment Station at Bowling Green, OH. He then returned to The OSU campus with an appointment as an assistant in the general botany course programs, from September 1941 to March 1942, when he received the M.S. degree.

In April 1942, Davidson enrolled in the graduate school at The University of Minnesota where he was appointed as a research assistant in the Division of Plant Pathology to study potato seed treatment and bacterial soft rot of potatoes. From March 1944 to December 1944, his appointment was changed to research fellow, and he devoted full time to the War Production Board Penicillin Project in the Division of Plant Pathology. He returned to his studies of the bacterial soft rot of potatoes with a research assistantship appointment in January 1945 until June 1945, when he relocated to the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station. There, he worked as an assistant plant pathologist devoting full time to research on potato diseases and the investigation of new products for use as pesticides. In February 1947, Davidson was granted the Ph.D. in plant pathology, for his dissertation, *Factors Affecting the Development of Bacterial Soft Rot of Potato Tuber Initials*, from The University of Minnesota. While in Rhode Island, he was an assistant professor in botany at Rhode Island State College (1945-1947). Davidson returned to The Ohio State University in 1947 as an assistant professor in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology. He was in the Wooster Division of the Department at the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, where he studied cereal crop diseases. He resigned in 1951 and accepted a position as professor in botany at the Alabama Polytechnical Institute (now Auburn University). After one year, Davidson returned to Columbus and was employed by the Battelle Memorial Institute, where he was chief of the Biosciences Division (1952-1965) and director of Environmental Programs (1965-1968).

At Battelle, Davidson conducted and supervised research in the plant and animal sciences, industrial microbiology, biomass conversion, and environmental and ecological research, including assessment and research methodologies. He served as program manager for the Bioenvironmental and Radiological Safety and Feasibility Studies of the Atlantic-Pacific Intercoastal Canal Program, Coal Gasification Program, Industrial Biomas Utilization Studies, DOE Gasohol Study, Coal Technology Assessment Programs, Arctic Gas Pipeline Study, Amchitka Test Site Program, Uranium Exploration Program, and the Darien Gap Highway Study. Davidson represented Battelle at meetings of the Institute of Ecology and the National Academy of Sciences – National Research Council Agriculture Research Institute (NASNRC), of which he was a member of the governing board. Concurrently while at Battelle, he was an adjunct professor in the OSU College of Biological Sciences and served on its Alumni Advisory Board. Davidson authored numerous articles and technical papers.

In addition to membership in The Ohio Academy of Science, Davidson was a member and fellow of the American Association for the
JOHN FRANKLIN DISINGER (1930 – 2005)

John Franklin Disinger, age 74, a natural resources educator and Professor Emeritus in the School of Natural Resources of The Ohio State University, Columbus, died 26 March 2005 at the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital on the OSU campus. John's philosophy of teaching, as expressed by him, was one who helped “students learn to apply their knowledge, skills, and talents in such a way that they will be successful in meeting their goals, and will realize that they have earned their success.” Among his awards were the OSU Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching (1995), Undergraduate Academic Advising Award (1986), President’s Award from the Ohio Alliance for Environmental Education (1984), Walter Jeske Award given by the North American Association for Environmental Education (1985), and later its President’s Award (1991). Disinger became a member of The Ohio Academy of Science (1973), was elected a Fellow (1979), and served as vice-president of the Conservation Section (1977-1978).

Born 7 July 1930 in Lockport, NY, John was the son of Allan Eugene and Grace (Meeks) Disinger. He earned a B.S. in general and elementary education from the State University of New York at Brockport (1952); an Ed.M. in secondary education at the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY (1960); and a Ph.D. in science education at The Ohio State University, Columbus (1971). His dissertation, completed under the adviship of Dr. Victor J. Mayer, was a study of Student Development, Teacher Characteristics and Class Characteristics in Junior High School Science (1971). Disinger’s career began as a teacher of general science, earth science, and physical science in the West Irondequoit Central School District in Rochester, NY (1956-1967). He continued to teach the same subjects while serving as the chairman of its Science Department (1968-1970). John was a National Science Foundation Academic Year Institute Fellow (1967-1968) and a Teaching Associate in the Faculty of Science and Mathematics Education (1970-1971) at The Ohio State University. He studied with faculty Victor J. Mayer, Robert W. Howe, and Arthur L. White in Science Education, and with Professor Robert L. Bates in Geology.

Disinger joined The Ohio State University as a faculty member in the School of Natural Resources and the College of Education (1971). He served the School and the College as an Assistant Professor (1971-1975), Associate Professor (1975-1980), and Professor (1980-1995). During that time in the School of Natural Resources, he also was Acting Director (July 1988-December 1989) and Acting Assistant Director (September 1993-June 1994). He retired as Professor Emeritus (1995-2005). In the School of Natural Resources, Disinger taught courses on the environment, among them the Environment: The American Experience, Evaluation of Environmental Impact, Watershed Resource Evaluation, and Ethical Perspectives on Environmental Issues. He served on various committees in the School, including Graduate Studies, Promotion and Tenure, Public Policy and Management, and Facilities Planning. He was a liaison for the School to the Alumni Society, and the coordinator of the Wayne S. Nichols Visiting Professional Program (1990-1994). As a faculty member in the College of Education, Disinger was the associate director of the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) Clearing House for Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education, serving first as a faculty research associate (1971-1974) and then as associate director (1974-1991).

John Disinger wrote extensively on environmental topics and published nearly 170 papers as follows: 30 peer reviewed papers, 38 technical reports, 66 short papers and news notes, 12 abstracts and notes, 21 book reviews, and since 1977 presented over 25 papers at speaking engagements. The majority of his publications appeared in The Journal of Environmental Education, School Science and Mathematics, Journal of Soil and Water Conservation, The Environmentalist, and The Environmental Education Digest. Several of his abstracts are in The Ohio Journal of Environmental Education. Disinger was the co-editor with Douglas D. Southgate of the book Sustainable Resource in Development in the Third World (1987). The various authors contend that solutions to the developing world’s environmental problems require interrelated evaluation of their technical, social, and organizational dimensions. Focus is given to watershed management, renewable energy projects, and threats to biological diversity.

As an award winning teacher, Disinger was consistently ranked by students as one of the most outstanding teachers in the School of Natural Resources. John was known for the personal interest he took with students and their careers. One student, who was a teaching associate with him for five quarters, noted: “I saw him teach the same course with as much excitement the fifth time as the first. And he always updated his lectures, adding new information.” Another student wrote: “He has the ability to lead students beyond the books, beyond the laws and codes, and into the heart of natural resources management.” As described by a teaching colleague, his knowledge was “a library unto itself.”

In addition to The Ohio Academy of Science, Disinger held memberships in various professional societies: the American Nature Society (Board of Directors, 1987-1988), the International Society for Environmental Ethics, the North American Association for Environmental Education (president, 1985-1986), the Ohio Alliance for the Environment, the Ohio Conservation and Outdoor Education Association, and the Ohio Environmental Council (Board of Directors, 1995-1997). A veteran of the United States Army, Disinger served during the Korean War. He held memberships in the Lakeside Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY, and the Indianola Presbyterian Church in Columbus, OH, serving as an Elder in both congregations.

John Disinger is survived by his wife Norma whom he married 25 June 1960; sons David C. of Columbus and Douglas A. of Herndon, VA; and five grandchildren. Surviving also are his sister Nancy (Thomas) Grassmehr of Thousand Oaks, CA; brother-in-law Donald Vescovi of Le Roy, NY; and five grandchildren. As part of Richard “Dick” Davidson’s memorial service, his son Richard II spoke for the family about his father’s life. The message was titled, “Goodnight Dad,” taken from the television show, The Waltons, of the 1970s. Dick was the eldest son of four children raised on the family farm, but sought a life beyond the fields and labors of farm life. He left the community, but farm life remained with him. In late life, Dick collected farm memorabilia and shared stories about farm life with his family and friends. He was a collector of antiques, stamps, books, marbles, orchids, and magazines. In fact, he had every issue of Life Magazine from 1936 until printing of it ceased in 1972. As part of his responsibilities at Battelle, he enjoyed traveling the world, from which he learned much that was imparted to his children who saw “the world through his eyes.”

Richard Davidson also “collected friends,” but as he aged one of the most difficult aspects was the “loss of dear friends.” Now, after a full life of 86 years, his most precious collection of family and friends, finally, too, had to say, “Goodnight Dad, Goodnight Dick.”

Richard Davidson is survived by his wife, Ruth (Edginton) Davidson of 62 years, whom he met on the campus of The Ohio State University and who were married 30 June 1942. They became the parents of three children, Richard Shoots, II of Columbus, Jo Lynn, wife of Bruce Andrews of Sheridan, WY, and Ann Scott, wife of David Moyer of Madison, WI, and eight grandchildren. Other survivors are sisters deceased. A memorial service was held 18 March 2005 in Burkhart Chapel of the First Community Church. Worship leaders of the church were Rev. James M. Long, Associate Minister, and Ronald J. Jenkins, Minister of Music and Liturgy. Family members participating were son Richard and granddaughter Amy Andrews, eulogists; sons-in-law the Rev. David S. Moyer and Bruce Andrews, soloist. The family received friends following the service, and burial was the next day with a private interment for the family at Grand Prairie Cemetery, Marion, OH. Arrangements were made by the Schoedinger Northwest Chapel, 1740 Zollinger Road. Memorial contributions are to be made to First Community Church, 1320 Cambridge Boulevard, Columbus, OH 43212.

RONALD L. STUCKEY

Advancement of Science, the American Phytopathological Society, and the American Society of Bacteriologists. These and other organizations represented his interests in aerospace medicine, agronomy, pharmacognosy, plant physiology, tropical biology, ecology, entomology, economic biology, and industrial microbiology. He was elected to memberships in the honorary societies, Gamma Alpha, Kappa Sigma, and Phi Epsilon Phi, and also belonged to the Kit Kat Club of Columbus. His church affiliation was with First Community Church of Grandview and Marblecliff Village adjacent to Columbus.

Sherman Lewis ‘Jack’ Frost, age 94, well-known Ohio water expert and environmentalist, died 11 March 2004 at the Whetstone Care Center, Columbus, OH. His career as a natural resources conservationist spanned over half a century. Known to many as “Mr. Water,” Frost tested, measured, and analyzed gallons of water while employed first for the Ohio Forestry Association and then for the Division of Water in the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He was recognized as the foremost water planner in Ohio. Former Governor James A. Rhodes thought Frost “walked on water,” for any time a question arose on water or how it was to be utilized in the state, Rhodes called ‘Jack’ Frost. Throughout his career, Frost received various recognitions: The War Department citation as a commanding officer of the Civil Air Patrol by the Texas Forest Patrol (1946), The Ohio Forestry Association’s “Individual in Government Service Award” (1967), The League of Ohio Sportsmen’s Water Conservation Award (beginning 1967), The Governor James A. Rhodes Award in recognition of outstanding public contribution and service in natural resources management (1970), Distinguished Service Award given by the Water Management Association of Ohio (1974), The Ohio Water Management Hall of Fame (1981), and The Central Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame (1997). As a member of The Ohio Academy of Science since 1971, Frost affiliated with the Section Conservation (1973), was elected a Fellow (1975), and was recognized as one of 25 Centennial Honorees (1991).

Born 22 May 1909 in New Haven, CT, Sherman Lewis Frost attended grammar and high school in West New Haven. He earned the B.S. with distinction at the University of Connecticut, Storrs (1931), and an M.F. from the Yale School of Forestry (1933). From 1936-1948, Frost was with the Texas Forest Service at Texas A&M College in College Station, TX. He was involved with information and education work developing public and private forestry programs with industries, civic organizations, and youth groups. His programs were in cooperation with extension, soil conservation, and vocational agricultural agendas. He helped to initiate special youth and farm leader training programs and camps; also distributed news via radio, engaged in pictorial work, and edited bulletins and various publications.

From 1948-1952, Frost relocated to Washington, DC, and served as executive director of the American Forestry Association, and was editor-in-chief of the Association’s journal, American Forests. During the next two years, 1952-1954, he was a private consultant, researcher, and writer of forestry and conservation topics. He conducted studies for the National Geographic Society, the Conservation Foundation, the Psychological Strategy Board, the East Texas Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations.

Frost came to Ohio and, from 1954 to 1956, he served as a research director for the Ohio Forestry Association, working on a special project to draft a water conservation plan for the State. He also conducted studies for conservancy districts and for watershed programs. From 1956 to 1972, Frost was with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources serving under different directors, first as an assistant chief of the Ohio Division of Water in charge of the Ohio water inventory program. He was the executive secretary of the newly created Ohio Water Commission from 1960 to 1972, an organization of which he was one of the founders. In 1970, Frost also was named deputy director for water, and in 1971 as deputy director for planning and research with the divisions and sections of water planning, environmental assessments, research, geological survey, lands, soil, and water districts, recreation planning, scenic rivers, natural areas, engineering, and real estate. He was also the director’s alternate on the Ohio Water Development Authority and Water Pollution Control Board during 1971-1972. During Frost’s time in Ohio, he assisted in establishing and overseeing the Northwest Ohio water plan, the preparation of the State’s first outdoor recreation plan, and a $100,000,000 resources capital improvement program. He served as secretary of a 100-man citizens’ advisory council on water, and was named to a Commission on Conservation established by the American Association of School Administrators, where he was one of the editors of its textbook, Conservation in the People’s Hands, published in Washington, DC (1964).

After 1972, Frost had part-time roles as assistant secretary-treasurer, general manager, and editor for the Water Management Association of Ohio (1972-1975), as a study consultant on the Maumee River baseline study on agriculture for the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (1974-1975), as a special policy analyst for the Ohio EPA to prepare a report on “Ground Water Contamination in Ohio and a Recommended Program of Action” (1974), and as a lecturer in the School of Natural Resources, at The Ohio State University, Columbus (1973-1975). Frost retired from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in November 1982 but was active in many part-time projects of writing, lecturing, and fishing.

Jack Frost served on numerous committees of the following organizations: Great Lakes Basin Commission (1967-1972), Ohio River Basin Commission (1967-1972), Chairman of the southwest, southeast, and central Ohio sections of the Ohio Water Advisory Council (1967-1972), Ohio Water Commission (1959-1962), Executive Council, the Alumni Association of the School of Natural Resources, The Ohio State University (beginning 1975), Governor’s Advisory Council on Malabar Farm (beginning 1972), Water Resources Committee, Ohio Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America (1972-1975), Chairman, water transportation sub-groups of the Governor’s Transportation Advisory Committee (1973-1975), member of the Ohio Environmental Board of Review.

One of the most widely recognized contributions made by ‘Jack’ Frost is his input with the Ohio Golden Buckeye Card for senior citizens, issued by the Ohio Department of Aging. The program began by allowing senior citizens more access to the Ohio State Parks. One day in a meeting with the Governor, the idea suddenly grew into a discount program involving restaurants, hotels, and pharmacies. Although other people were involved in developing the program, Frost proposed its name and created the program’s symbol of a buckeye leaf and nut.

Among Sherman L. Frost’s books are the following titles in chronological order: Facts on Ohio’s Watershed Studies (1959), Cuyahoga River Watershed Studies, Ohio (1956), Some Principles of Water: Its Uses, Behavior, Problems and Conservation (1958, 1960), Water Inventory of the Cuyahoga and Chagrin River Basins in Ohio (1958), Municipal Water Problems in Ohio (1959), Water Management Planning: Its Key Role in Ohio’s Growth (1966), The Stream of History: An Ohio Water Resources Chronology (1976, 1983), Ohio’s Water Firsts, Volume 1 (1973), Volume 2 (1997), Volume 3 (1999). These last three volumes are, as some of the other titles above, co-authored with Frost. These three Water First books concern sagas of the people and the events that helped make water history in the Buckeye State. All three of these books were edited by Bea Cornelius and published in Columbus, OH. In the book, A Legacy of Stewardship, The Ohio Department of Natural Resources 1949-1989, edited by Charles C. King (1990), Frost wrote the chapter on “How the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Got Its Start,” the history of the “Division of Water,” and an account of the contributions of Director Herbert B. Eagon (1957-1963). As an Ohio writer, Frost gave the state his experience, talent, and interest all of which was devoted to recognizing and preserving the history of water management in Ohio. His books have been given to public, school, and college libraries, as well as special libraries and historical societies.

Since moving to Whetstone Gardens in June 1996, Frost developed and cochaired a program for the residents named “The Environmental World of Whetstone.” The program’s goal is to remind people that one is never too old to care about the environment. He presented lectures with titles: “The Water We Drink,” “Journey Into Spring,” “The Migration of Birds.” As the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame appropriately states, “Future generations owe many debts of thanks to...[‘Jack’ Frost] as a protector of Ohio’s precious resources.” Robert W. Teater, a friend and former Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, under whom Frost worked, spoke of him as having a passion for fishing. He “was loved by his family, and had hundreds of friends across the state. People just liked to be with Jack. He was kind and gentle, but when

Arthur Henry Kuhlman, Jr., age 81, tire scientist at B.F. Goodrich for 38 years, died from heart failure on 9 October 2004 in his home in Cuyahoga Falls, OH. A chemical engineer, Mr. Kuhlman devised the mix of ingredients in the making of tires. He joined The Ohio Academy of Science in 1987, affiliating with Section Plant Sciences and later becoming a fellow.

Born 9 April 1923 in Ashville, OH, Arthur Henry Kuhlman, Jr. was the son of Arthur Henry Kuhlman, Sr. and Hazel (Keifer) Kuhlman. He graduated in 1940 from Lima High School in Lima, OH, and in 1944 received an A.B. with majors in chemistry, mathematics, and physics from Wittenberg University in Springfield, OH. Upon graduation he applied for a commission in the United States Navy. Before the Navy acted on this request, however, Mr. Kuhlman received an induction notice from the United States Army. He reported to Fort McClellan in Fort McClellan, AL, where he trained to be a truck driver. While at Fort McClellan Kuhlman received a commission as an Ensign aboard the destroyer USS Simpson, where he served until his honorable discharge. Mr. Kuhlman used the benefits of the Serviceman’s Readjustment Act (the G.I. Bill) to matriculate at The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH, where he received in 1947 an M.S. in chemical engineering. That year, he joined B.F. Goodrich as a tire scientist as well as renewed his commission in the United States Navy, serving in the Reserves. Following the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, the Navy called Kuhlman to active duty aboard a destroyer that patrolled the Atlantic Ocean between Florida and Cuba. His wife recalls that he worked diligently to master the operation of the electrical components of this destroyer. The transition from steam to electric power, she recalls, posed new challenges to her husband and to other naval officers. Mr. Kuhlman rose to the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade, receiving his second honorable discharge in 1953 with the armistice that suspended the hostilities of the war even though the armistice did not lead to a formal peace accord. Upon returning to civilian life Kuhlman renewed his employment with B.F. Goodrich as a tire scientist, in which capacity he served until retirement in 1985.

In addition to The Ohio Academy of Science, Arthur Henry Kuhlman, Jr. was a member of the Nature Conservancy, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the National Wildlife Federation, the Ohio Forestry Association, the Ohio Historical Society, and the Audubon Society. He subscribed to the Midcontinental Journal of Archeology. At one time he owned all the publications of the Ohio Biological Survey.

Kuhlman had numerous hobbies, not all of which he pursued simultaneously. Rather Mr. Kuhlman undertook each avocation with single-minded passion before moving to the next endeavor that piqued his interest. At one time Kuhlman avidly read science fiction, amassing a large collection of novels, which he stored in an attic. At another time he collected vinyl records of music. His taste in music was eclectic. Mr. Kuhlman did not confine himself to a single type of music though his wife recalls his interest in classical music. At yet another time Kuhlman cultivated an amateur interest in botany. His initial interest in identifying the flora of Ohio broadened to include the flora of the United States. With friends he hiked through the Summit County Metro Parks and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, taking care to identify and collect the plants he encountered. On occasion he transplanted plants to his property and observed their growth and reproduction. He acquired a broad knowledge of plants, and his interest broadened beyond botany to include zoology, archeology, geology, geography, history, anthropology, and climatology. In his curriculum vitae Kuhlman characterized himself as a “general naturalist.”

Edna Mary (Riley) Kuhlman his wife survives, the two having married 11 May 1945 in Springfield, OH. She resides in Cuyahoga Falls, OH. Surviving also are sons John Michael Kuhlman of Morgantown, WV, and Charles Kuhlman of Cuyahoga Falls, OH; and daughters Kathleen Louise Kuhlman of Medina, OH, and Barbara Francis (Kuhlman) Johnson and her husband Andy Johnson of Spearfish, SD. The family held visiting hours 11 October 2004 followed by a memorial service the next day at Clifford-Shoemaker Funeral Home in Cuyahoga Falls. Mr. Kuhlman is buried in Western Reserve Veterans Cemetery in Rittman, OH. Friends may make contributions to the Summit County Metro Parks, 975 Treaty Line Road, Akron, OH 44313-5898. The Ohio Academy of Science retains in its office a curriculum vitae in Mr. Kuhlman’s script.

Christopher Cumo

Ruth Wertenberger Melvin (1909 – 2005)

Ruth Wertenberger Melvin, age 95, outdoor environmental educator and social worker, formerly of Delaware, OH, died 15 March 2005 at the home of her daughter Linch with other family members present, in Denver, CO. Active in numerous local, state, and national environmental organizations, as well as the Ohio Wesleyan University Alumni Board, she resided in Delaware at the Austin Manor. She was the first resident there when the facility opened in 1988 and remained until about 2002. Melvin will be remembered for her tireless energy and love for the people and causes she championed in environmental concerns.

Mrs. Melvin was the recipient of several awards: Ohio Wesleyan University Alumni Award for Outstanding Service (1965); Award of Recognition in Conservation Education by the Ohio Forestry Association (1969); Educator of the Year Award from the Ohio Conservation and Outdoor Education Association (1975); Ohio Conservation Hall of Fame (1975), received simultaneously with her husband John H. Melvin, formerly a professor of geology at The Ohio State University, and who served as State Geologist of Ohio for 10 years and as the Executive Officer of The Ohio Academy of Science for 14 years (1961-1975); Ohioana Library Association Award of Merit in the field of conservation (1976); the First Liberty Hyde Bailey Award of the American Nature Studies Society which recognizes a lifetime achievement in conservation and environmental education (1988); honored for service to the organization and the community by the Delaware, OH, League of Women Voters which embodies the League’s ideal of informed and active citizenship (1997).

Since joining The Ohio Academy of Science in 1967, Ruth Melvin was an extremely active member, was elected a Fellow (1968), served as membership chairperson and vice-president of the Section Conservation (1974), and named an honorary life member of the Academy (1975). As a paid employee of the Academy her work was in the area of editorial consulting and writing of environmental and outdoor education guides. She served as director of the Ohio Science Workbook Program, helped coordinate the Visiting Scholars Program, and lectured on health careers.

In 1977, the Academy established the John H. and Ruth W. Melvin Scholarship Fund, an endowment that provides partial support for outstanding high school students who present their original scientific research on behalf of the Academy at the American Junior Academy of Science. This national organization meets with the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Melvin scholars are selected on the basis of their scientific presentations at the Academy’s Annual Meeting.

Born 5 August 1909 in Wayne County, OH, Ruth was the daughter of Osnow and Sarah (Good) Wertenberger. She graduated from Westfield High School, LeRoy, OH (1927) and earned a B.A. in education, with majors in sociology and geology at Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, OH (1932). Initially, Ruth was employed as a counselor at Harkness Camp, a sociology camp operated by Western Reserve University, at Willoughby, OH (1929-1930) and at Camp Craig in Medina County (1932). She then became registrar of adult education for the Young Women's
Christian Association (YMCA), Columbus, OH, and a probation officer for the Franklin County Probate Court (1932-1933). Ruth was camp director for the YMCA camp for girls in Chillicothe, OH, and served as a case worker for the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Relief Agency (FERA), Columbus, OH (1933-1934). She was a caseworker for FERA, Chillicothe, OH (1934-1935).

Ruth resumed employment and became the executive director of the Council of Social Agencies for Delaware County, OH (1945-1957), served as district advisor for the Girl Scout Council of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, PA (1956-1964), and became the program services director for the Seal of Ohio Girl Scout Council, Columbus, OH (1965-1966). She served as a geology instructor during summers at the National Audubon Camp of Wisconsin (1966-1979), and lectured on geology and geography at Capital University, Bexley, OH (1968-1969).

From 1967-1975, Ruth Melvin was employed as an assistant to the Executive Officer, her husband John H. Melvin, of The Ohio Academy of Science. During this time she directed Academy Projects involving outdoor and environmental education. Her innovative Guide to Ohio Outdoor Education Areas (1970, revised 1976) was published by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The Guide, which described 720 nature field trips, was designed as an aid to teachers in locating appropriate field trip and campsites for school children. In 1973 Mrs. Melvin assembled reference material, visited ecological sites including power plants, recycling complexes, strip mines, cement plants, and areas of historical and cultural interest which was developed into a resource book for the State Department of Education titled Ohio Environmental Education Areas (1974). Each of these books provided biological, geological, historical, cultural, and economic information for more than 800 outdoor and environmental sites in Ohio. The second edition of the Guide (1976) was prepared with grants from the Battelle Memorial Institute and from the Rausenberger Foundation Fund and the Oasias Fund of the Columbus Foundation. These two published reference sources, which represent milestones in outdoor education in Ohio, are totally unique for the United States. Mrs. Melvin’s ability to synthesize and describe the interacting elements of specific areas in the State stands as a landmark effort in environmental writing.


Mrs. Melvin held memberships in numerous organizations, among them were: the Parent Teachers Association in Delaware, OH (president); the American Forestry Association; the Ohio Forestry Association; the Ohio Citizens’ Council for Health and Welfare; the League of Women Voters, Delaware, OH, and Mt. Lebanon, PA; the American Nature Study Society (vice-president, president, board of trustees); the Columbus Audubon Society (board of trustees, field trip chairperson, lecturer on ecology and birds); the Ohio Chapter of the Nature Conservancy (board of trustees); the Ohio Conservation and Outdoor Education Association (president); the Ohio Alliance for the Environment (founder, life-member, incorporator, president); the Ohio Environmental Council (co-founder, secretary-treasurer, chairman of task force on pesticides, executive committee, membership chairperson, task force on land use planning); the Ohio State Department of Education (environmental education advisory committee); Ohio Natural Areas Council and Department of Natural Resources Commission (chairperson); the Columbus Community Chest, now the United Way (executive); the Delaware, OH, Russian Friendship Group; Shakespeare, Irving and Fortnightly Clubs; the First Presbyterian Church of Delaware (deacon and other roles); the Ohio Wesleyan University Alumni Board (alumni recognition committee, continuing education committee, summer week planner and speaker); also the Ohio Wesleyan University Alumni Association of Greater Pittsburgh Area (president), the Columbus Monnett Club, and the Annual Fund Council. She was elected a member of Delta Gamma and Mortar Board.

At Ruth’s Celebration of Life Service, Lynn Edward Elfiner, chief executive officer of the Academy, spoke of her as one whose hands were never idle, for she was a consummate volunteer for many environmental causes. “She was never idle. No stranger ever met Ruth; you soon became engaged in lively conversation and often as not she convinced you to take on some task for the environment or environmental education. Much of Ruth’s influence in environmental education came because she was on a first-name basis with the Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources since at least the 1950s. The Department was the environmental agency in Ohio before the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in the early 1970s.”

Mike Lafferty wrote in the Columbus Dispatch (19 March 2005): “Although she might not have cottoned to the description, Ruth Melvin was the quintessential little old lady in tennis shoes of the Ohio environmental movement. Melvin brought professional panache to the role. A geologist, she worked tirelessly for more than 50 years and was an activist long before the term was coined. She had no compunction about picking up a telephone to bend a bureaucrat’s ear, organizing an effort to save open space, or boosting environmental education.” Guy L. Denny, retired chief of the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, commented that Ruth Melvin had a “wonderful life,” and a “passion for environmental education.” Ruth was engaged in these pursuits “…before it was in vogue. She was way ahead of her time,” according to Denny.     

In the Delaware Gazette (24 March 2005), Sandra Hall, the property manager at Austin Manor, said of Ruth Melvin: “Everyone loved her. She was a very straightforward person. She cared about people, was very energetic and so full of life. She had so much energy. It was incredible.” In the same publication Lynn Elfiner remarked that Ruth “was one of the more intense people in advocating for the environment, but she was always friendly…always had a smile on her face.”

Preceded in death by her husband, John H. Melvin (19 June 1977), Ruth (Wertenberger) Melvin is survived by their six children, John, Judy, Linda, Jane, Michael, and Patricia; their spouses; 17 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren spread across the United States. A Celebration of Life Service was held 18 June 2005 at the First Presbyterian Church, 73 West Winter Street, Delaware, OH, with burial of her ashes next to those of her husband, 19 June 2005, in Chillicothe, OH. Memorial contributions may be made to the John H. and Ruth W. Melvin Scholarship Fund in The Ohio Academy of Science, 1500 West Third Avenue Suite 226, Columbus, OH 43212-2817; the Clara Nelson Student Fund of the National Monnet Clubs, Ohio Wesleyan University; the Wilderness Society in Washington, DC; or to other environmental organizations.

RONALD L. STUCKEY

FREDERICK CHAPMAN ROBBINS (1916 – 2003)

Frederick Chapman Robbins, age 86, University Professor Emeritus and Dean Emeritus at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, died of heart failure 4 August 2003 in University Hospitals in Cleveland. With colleagues John Enders and Thomas Weller, Dr. Robbins pioneered the growing of poliovirus in a test tube. Until then, researchers had studied the virus in monkeys, which were expensive and difficult to handle. By easing the culture of poliovirus, the technique of Enders, Weller, and Robbins hastened the development of the Salk and Sabin vaccines.

The applicability of this technique to the study of other pathogens likewise accelerated the development of vaccines against measles and German measles. Once the scourges of childhood, these diseases now claim only a fraction of the victims they did in the 20th century. For his work Robbins shared with Enders and Weller the 1954 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine. Other honors include the Bronze Star for Distinguished Service from the United States Army (1945); the Award for Distinguished Achievement in Modern Medicine (1963); an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of New Mexico (1968) and from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (1985); the Medical Mutual Honor Award (1969); the Ohio Governor’s Award (1971); an honorary Doctor of Science from the University of North Carolina (1979), from Tufts University (1983), from the Medical College of Ohio (1983), from Albert Einstein College of Medicine (1984), from the Medical College of
Adolph Benedict Schneider, Jr. (1913 – 2004)

Adolph Benedict Schneider, Jr., M.D., aged 90, died 25 November 2004. He practiced family medicine for many years in Cleveland, OH, where also he was an Associate Clinical Professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Dr. Schneider held medical licenses in Ohio from 22 July 1941 and in California from 12 July 1950. He received his board certification from the American Board of Internal Medicine 22 May 1945. In 1968 Dr. Schneider joined The Ohio Academy of Science as a life member.

Adolph Bene dic t Schneider, Jr., born 25 December 1913 in Cleveland, OH, received in 1934 his A.B. degree from Harvard College, Cambridge, MA, and his M.D. degree in 1938 from Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA. He was a student Intern at the Robert Breck Brigham Hospital, Boston, MA (1937-1938); a Medical House Officer at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, in Cleveland, OH (1938-1940); an Assistant Resident of Medicine at the University Hospitals in Cleveland, OH (1940-1942); and a Demonstrator in Medicine at Western Reserve University Medical School, Cleveland, OH (1941-1944). Schneider enrolled in Av iation Physiology and Medicine in the School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph Field, TX (1942 to 1943), and was an instructor in Medicine in the School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph Field, TX (1944-1945). He became Chief in the Department of Internal Medicine at this school from August 1946 to December 1946. That same year 1946, from October to November, he did undergraduate work in electrocardiographic diagnosis at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. From February 1947 to August 1947 he was in graduate work in electrocardiography, Internal Medicine, Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. From 1947 to 1951 Schneider became a practicing physician at University and Saint Luke's Hospitals in Cleveland, OH. The remainder of his career was at Case Western Reserve University as a Demonstrator in Medicine (1951-1954), Clinical Instructor in Medicine (1954-1962), Senior Clinical Instructor in Medicine (1956-1962), Assistant Clinical Professor in Medicine (1962-1977), Associate Clinical Professor in Medicine (1977-1985), and retired as an Associate Clinical Professor Emeritus of Medicine in 1983. Dr. Schneider's hospital appointment at University Hospitals of Cleveland, Cleveland, OH, began in 1951 as an Assistant Physician, which he held until 1966. He then became Associate Physician from 1967 until 1988. At his retirement he became an Honorary Staff member until his death in 2004. Dr. Schneider was associated with Saint Luke's Hospital, Cleveland, OH, first as a Clinical Assistant in January 1948, then as an Associate Physician until December 1979. Finally he was appointed to the Senior Medical Staff (1980 to 1990). From 1990 until his death he was an Honorary Staff member at Saint Luke's Hospital, Cleveland, OH.

Dr. Adolph B. Schneider, Jr., who was in the Military Corps during the Second World War from July 1942 to January 1947, advanced from Lieutenant to Major, serving as a Flight Surgeon with the Army Air Force at Wright Patterson Field, Dayton, OH, and the School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph Field, TX. He was with the Head Quarters of the Pacific Air Command of the United States Army in Guam, Philippines, and Japan.

Wisconsin (1984), from Case Western Reserve University (1992), and from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (1998); an honorary Doctor of Medical Science from The Medical College of Pennsylvania (1984); the Abraham Flexner Award for Distinguished Service to Medical Education from the National Academy of Medical Colleges (1987); the Judge Baker Children's Center Camille Cosby World of Children Award (1988); the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Medical Public Service Award (1989); induction into the Ohio Science and Technology Hall of Fame (1992); the Case Western Reserve University Medical Alumni Association Board of Trustees Award (1993); the Frank and Dorothy Hummel Hovorke Prize from Case Western Reserve University (1994); and the Benjamin Franklin Medal from the American Philosophical Society (1999).

In May 2002 Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine endowed the Frederick C. Robbins, M.D., Professorship in Child and Adolescent Health from $1.6 million in donations from Robbins’ family and friends. In October 2002 the School of Medicine renamed its east wing the Frederick C. Robbins Building, only the third instance in which a building has been named for a faculty member. Robbins joined The Ohio Academy of Science in 1992, affiliating with Section Medicine.

Born 25 August 1916 in Auburn, AL, Frederick Chapman Robbins was the son of William J. and Christine Faye (Chapman) Robbins. Frederick Robbins received a diploma from Hickman High School (1932) in Columbia, MO, and an A.B. (1936) and a B.S. (1938) from the University of Missouri at Columbia, where his father was a plant physiologist, and an M.D. (1940) from Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. Upon receipt of his M.D., Robbins became resident physician in bacteriology at the University Hospitals in Cleveland, OH, and the Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Boston, MA. He left the hospital in 1942 to serve in the United States Army as chief of the Virus and Rickettsial Disease Section of the 15th Medical General Laboratory. Stationed in the United States, North Africa, and Italy, Dr. Robbins studied hepatitis, mumps, typhus, and Q fever, rising to the rank of Major. Upon his honorable discharge in 1946, Robbins resumed his residency at Children’s Hospital, Boston. Completing his residency in January 1948, Robbins held a senior fellowship in virus diseases (1948-1950) from the National Research Council. His collaboration with Enders and Weller dates from this period. In addition to being a National Research Council fellow, Dr. Robbins was a research fellow in pediatrics at The Boston Lying-in Hospital, a associate in pediatrics on the faculty of Harvard Medical School, an associate in the Research Division of Infectious Diseases at Children’s Hospital, Boston, an associate physician and associate director of the Isolation Service at Children’s Hospital, Boston, and an assistant to the Children’s Medical Service of the Massachusetts General Hospital. In May 1952 Dr. Robbins became professor of pediatrics at Western Reserve University (now Case Western Reserve University) School of Medicine and director of the Department of Pediatrics and Contagious Diseases at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital (now MetroHealth Medical Center). He was dean of the School of Medicine (1966-1980) and university professor (1980-2003), the highest academic rank at Case Western Reserve University and a position only four other faculty have achieved in the history of the university. Dr. Robbins was president (1980-1985) of the National Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Medicine and Distinguished Professor (1981-1985) in the Department of Pediatrics at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. In 1985 he returned to Case Western Reserve University as an emeritus in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. In the late 1980s Dr. Robbins collaborated with the National Institutes of Health and Case Western Reserve University in establishing the first research program at Makerere University in Uganda for the study of HIV and tuberculosis. In 1990 he helped launch Case Western Reserve University’s Center for Adolescent Health, which he directed (1992-2000). Robbins focused his research on the viruses of polio, mumps, herpes simplex, and vaccinia.

Dr. Robbins was a voracious reader, recalls his wife. He especially enjoyed reading mysteries and biographies. In addition to reading, Dr. Robbins enjoyed playing tennis, sailing, and working in his yard. Robust in health, Dr. Robbins climbed mountains into his 70s. Former United States Surgeon General David Satcher recalls Robbins from the years Satcher was a medical student at Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Robbins, then dean of the School of Medicine, mentored Satcher, and the two became friends. Their friendship extended decades beyond Satcher’s graduation from medical school. “For me, he was a special mentor and friend from the time that I met him at Case until his passing,” said Satcher in a memorial tribute to Robbins as quoted in the Medical Bulletin magazine.

His wife Alice (Northrop) Robbins survives, the two having married 19 June 1948. Surviving also are daughters Alice Hamlin of Northfield, MN, and Louise of Ithaca, NY, and brothers Daniel H. Robbins of Rochester, NY, and Dr. William Clinton Robbins of Grand Island, FL. The family held a memorial service at Harkness Chapel, Case Western Reserve University, 19 September 2003, and deposited his ashes in Maine. Friends may make donations to Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Office of Development, 10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106-9293 and to Harvard Medical School, Office of Resource Development, 401 Park Drive, Boston, MA 02215. Interested parties may consult an obituary issued by Case Western Reserve University Office of Marketing and Communication and online at www.cwru.edu/pubaff/univcom/2003/8-03/robbins.htm, an obituary in Case Western Reserve University’s Medical Bulletin magazine, and his Nobel Prize biography at nobelprize.org/medicine/laureates/1954/robbins-bio.html. The Ohio Academy of Science retains on file in its office the biography “Frederick Chapman Robbins, M.D.”

Christopher Cumo
Among the societies to which Dr. Schneider belonged were the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland (Fellow); the American College of Physicians (Fellow); the American College of Chest Physicians; the American Heart Association; the American Federation for Clinical Research; the American Medical Association (Fellow); the American Society of Internal Medicine; the American Osler Society; the Aerospace Medical Association; the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States; the International and American Associations for the History of Medicine; the Ohio Society of Internal Medicine; the Ohio State Medical Association; the Royal Society of Medicine. London (Fellow); and the Society of Architectural Historians. He was a founding member of the Musart Society of the Cleveland Art Museum, the Kirtländia Society at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and the Ohio Academy of Medical History (president, 1968). He was a member of the Rowfant Club.

Surviving Dr. Schneider is his niece Mary Disbro Teahan (husband William) of Longmeadow, MA, and the late Sarah Disbro Russell; friend Genevieve Miller of Cleveland; also two grand nieces, two great nephews, and one great-grand nephew.

Memorial contributions in his name may be sent to Hawken School, PO Box 8002, Gates Mills, OH 44040; or to Baldwin-Wallace College, Development Office, 275 Eastland Road, Berea, OH 44017-2088; or to an organization of the donor’s choice. A memorial service was held Saturday, 7 May 2004, at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd, Cleveland Heights, OH. Arrangements were made by the Fioritto Funeral Service. Sources of information for this obituary are retained in his biographical file with The Ohio Academy of Science.

REILDA E. NIEDERHOFER

HANS WILLI ZIMMER (1921 – 2001)

Hans Willi Zimmer, age 80, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at The University of Cincinnati, died 13 June 2001 of melanoma. With interests in both organic and inorganic chemistry, Dr. Zimmer was a scholar, teacher, editor, and internationalist. His honors included the Sigma Xi Distinguished Research Award (1964), Chemist of the Year Award from the Cincinnati Section of the American Chemical Society (1971), Distinguished Scientist Award from the Technical Societies Council (1989), Rieveschl Award for Distinguished Scientific Research (1990), and the Commander’s Cross of the Order of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany (1990). Dr. Zimmer joined The Ohio Academy of Science in 1956, becoming a fellow in 1977 and an emeritus in 1992.

Born 5 February 1921 in Wannsee, Germany, a suburb of Berlin, Hans Willi Zimmer was the only child of Wilhelm and Martha (Schindler) Zimmer. The father was head golf instructor at the Berlin Gold and Land Club, one of whose patrons was Wilhelm III, former Crown Prince of Germany. Wilhelm befriended the Zimmers, becoming godfather to Hans. Wilhelm gave him a gold tiepin and 10,000 gold marks for his college education. Regrettably the worldwide depression that deepened following the 1929 United States stock market crash dissipated the money. Devaluation of the German currency reduced Hans Zimmer’s college fund by the early 1930s to just 88 pennies. Despite this setback his parents created a nurturing and stimulating environment for their son. He took piano lessons as a child, retaining into adulthood the ability to play a melody after only a single hearing. As an adolescent he took pleasure in the novels of German author Karl May. His education began at an elementary school in Wannsee, after which he attended the Herder-Real Gymnasium in Berlin. The wealthy of Berlin sent their children to the gymnasium. Consequently Zimmer met the scions of the upper class. One year he attended a birthday party at the villa of Joseph Goebbels, the propaganda minister of Adolf Hitler, though Zimmer felt no attraction to the Nazis. His courses at the gymnasium included eight years of French and Latin and two years of English, chemistry, physics, and biology. He graduated in April 1939 with an Abitur diploma, a certificate that marked him for a university education. Zimmer could not, however, immediately enroll in a university. In compliance with a law Hitler had passed in March 1939, Zimmer entered that April the German Youth Movement, as did all high school graduates. The outbreak of World War II that September led the German Army to conscript Zimmer along with all members of the Youth Movement. Between 1939 and 1945 he was a navigator of a bomber on the Russian front.

Amid the tumult of war Zimmer managed with difficulty to secure two leaves to study chemistry at the Berlin Technische Hochschule, a university with a reputation for excellence in the study of science and technology. Despite many ordeals including the destruction of the Zimmer home by Allied bombing and his detention as a Prisoner of War, Hans Zimmer returned in August 1945 to the ruins of the chemistry building at the altTechnische Hochschule determined to continue his studies. Zimmer received a Kandidat Ingenieur, the equivalent of a B.S., in 1947 and, under the tutelage of Professor Jean D’Ans, a Diplom Ingenieur, the equivalent of an M.S., in 1948, and a Doktor Ingenieur, the equivalent of a Ph.D., in 1950. Zimmer took all three degrees in chemistry from the Technische Hochschule, with his dissertation entitled “The Effect of Aluminum Chloride and Other Halides on the Fries Rearrangement.” In addition to mentoring Zimmer, D’Ans had in 1947 appointed him Wissenschaftlicher Assistant (scientific assistant), the equivalent of an instructor. Upon receipt of his Doktor Ingenieur, Zimmer became a Plannmassiger Wissenschaftlicher Assistant at the Technische Hochschule. In October 1951 Dr. Zimmer attended the World Chemical Conclave in New York City, a gathering sponsored by the American Chemical Society and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. The event included a tour of 147 chemical plants, 35 universities, 57 government agencies, and 14 research institutions. During the visit Dr. Zimmer met Dr. Ralph Oesper and Dr. George Rieveschl, Jr., both chemists at The University of Cincinnati. The conclave alerted Zimmer to the possibility of advancing his career in the United States, and in 1953 he became a research associate at the University of Illinois in Urbana, IL, a position he held one academic year. Thereafter he renewed his ties with Oesper and Rieveschl, becoming assistant professor of chemistry (1954-1957) at The University of Cincinnati, associate professor (1957-1962), chairman of the Organic Division of the Department of Chemistry (1958-1972), and professor (1962-1991). In addition to his appointment at The University of Cincinnati, Zimmer was a visiting professor of chemistry (1966-1967) at Johannes Gutenberg Universitat in Mainz, Germany, at Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelm Universitat (1967) in Bonn, Germany, at the Universitat Bern (1971) in Bern, Switzerland, at Gmelin Institute of the Max-Planck Society in Frankfurt, Germany, during the summers of 1979 and 1980, and at the University of Stuttgart (Spring 1985) in Stuttgart, Germany. Dr. Zimmer was a consultant to the William S. Merrell Corporation (beginning 1956), to Carlisle Chemical Works (1960-1975), to Gulf Resources and Chemical Corporation (1965-1983), to Cowles Chemical Corporation (1966-1970), to Matheson, Coleman and Bell Corporation (beginning 1970), and to Morton-Thiokol (beginning 1988). Retirement in 1991 did not slow the pace of work. His wife recalls that Dr. Zimmer continued to teach and conduct research until his death.

The author or coauthor of 225 articles and 17 book chapters, Dr. Zimmer conducted research in main-block organometallic chemistry, the chemistry of hydrazine derivatives, organophosphorine chemistry, lactone chemistry, acetylene chemistry, organic polymers, environmental chemistry, the metabolism of drugs, biochemistry, the synthesis of artificial antigens and their role in immunology, and heterocyclic chemistry. This research yielded 16 patents. In addition to research Dr. Zimmer was editor of Gmelin, Methodum Chimicum, Annual Reviews of Inorganic and General Synthesis, and a series of monographs published by George Thieme Company. As a mentor, Dr. Zimmer oversaw the theses of 66 master’s and 78 doctoral students, a number that colleague Dr. William B. Jensen believes to be a department record. To cooperative further research between the United States and Germany, Dr. Zimmer organized in 1966 a symposium on ylid chemistry. The symposium brought European chemists to The University of Cincinnati, among them Dr. George Wittig of the University of Heidelberg in Heidelberg, Germany, whose discovery of the Wittig reaction would win him the 1979 Nobel Prize in chemistry. In 1988 Dr. Zimmer organized a student exchange program between The University of Cincinnati and the University of Stuttgart. In these endeavors Dr. Zimmer was intent on building bridges between people and countries, recalls his wife.

In addition to being a fellow of The Ohio Academy of Science, Dr. Zimmer was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Humboldt Society and a member of the American Chemical Society, the German Chemical Society, the New York Academy of Science, and Sigma Xi.
An interest in athletics led Dr. Zimmer to serve The University of Cincinnati as a member of the Athletics Committee (1969-1971) and as coach of the Varsity Rifle Team (1955-1958). Like his father, Dr. Zimmer had a passion for golf. In addition to these activities Dr. Zimmer from childhood amassed a stamp collection. He acquired so many stamps that he joked of opening a stamp store upon retirement. Dr. Zimmer credited his passion for stamp collecting with teaching him the rudiments of geography and history.

Marlies (Wunsch) Zimmer his wife survives, the two having married 26 October 1946 in Berlin. She resides in Cincinnati, OH. Surviving also is a son Hans Willi Zimmer, Jr. Dr. Zimmer’s parents predeceased him. The family held a memorial service 18 June 2001 at Erden Funeral Home in Cincinnati, OH, after which he was cremated and his ashes interred at Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, OH. In his honor Dr. Zimmer’s son and wife established the Hans and Marlies Zimmer International Scholar Fund, The University of Cincinnati, 2600 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45221, to which friends may make contributions. Interested parties may consult the *Collected Papers of William B. Jensen* for a biographical account entitled “Hans Willi Zimmer.” The Ohio Academy of Science retains on file in its office Dr. Zimmer’s curriculum vitae.

Christopher Cumo