

Marion Minot

June 8, 1931 — August 22, 2004

Professor Marion Minot was a valued teacher, mentor to students and citizen of Cornell University. Dr. Minot's career at Cornell University spans thirty years and reflects the changes and growth of the institution to which she was devoted. She joined the faculty in 1966 as Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Home Economics Teacher preparation. She had received her Ph.D. degree from Cornell in 1966 in Home Economics Education after completing her M.S. degree at Cornell in 1954 in Home Economics, and a Baccalaureate degree from Farmington State Teachers College in 1953. Before joining the faculty of the College of Human Ecology, Marion had served as Assistant Professor of Home Economics at the University of Maine (1958-63). Her many programmatic and intellectual contributions centered on teaching. Ms. Minot felt that educational institutions and their teachers must address the barriers that prevent learners from maximizing their opportunities. As a member of the College of Human Ecology, Dr. Minot rose to the rank of Professor, and upon her retirement, was conferred the title of Professor Emeritus. She served for twenty-two years as Coordinator of Teacher Preparation Program and helped lead the College through the transformation from home economics to human ecology. This transformation included the evolution of four department changes (from the Department of Home Economics Education to Community Service Education to Human Service Studies and now Policy Analysis and Management). During her time at Cornell, Professor Minot served on twenty-two committees, often in the role of chair, providing immense service to the University. Of particular note is her role as co-chair of a major College of Human Ecology study in the mid-80s that deeply involved students and faculty in a reorganization of curriculum, structure and governance.

Professor Minot was well known outside of Cornell University through her work with teachers and schools in the upstate New York region. Marion provided assistance to the New York State Department of Education during two of her sabbaticals in the areas of curriculum development and assessment. She maintained her relationship with former students who increasingly became the core of Home Economics instruction and later the Life Skills movement in public education. She received grants from the New York State Department of Education for in-service teacher education and curriculum development and conducted numerous workshops on curriculum and education policy. Ms. Minot served on the editorial board of the *AHEA Research Journal* and the *Human Ecology Bulletin* and provided technical assistance to the Journal of Home Economics. Dr. Minot was often asked to serve as a member of program review and accreditation teams for many national organizations.

Perhaps most telling about Professor Minot's service to Cornell University is her own values and how they informed her work with students and colleagues. Professor Minot gave freely of her time to mentor many of the undergraduate students and served as a model for a number of female students. Students were drawn to the open and genteel manner in which Professor Minot discussed their concerns. As one student put it, "When I realized Professor Minot thought I was capable, I became capable." A young faculty member was taken aback by the interest and support Marion showed in their family. She often counseled that family responsibilities could not be ignored in the face of professional demands. Her concern for people was enhanced by a keen insight that she attributed to her own Maine background and her upbringing. She was very proud of her roots and her extended family, often sharing the triumphs and successes of nieces or nephews. Marion lived, as she believed; hard work, high standards and a love for family and friends were the basis for a full life. Many students and faculty miss her hallway chats and smile. Her colleagues will remember her as devoted to her students and Cornell University.

Robert Babcock, Andrea Parrot, Donald Tobias