



Gordon F. Streib

July 7, 1918 - February 17, 2011

Professor emeritus of sociology Gordon F. Streib died in Gainesville, Florida at the age of 92. He taught at Cornell for 26 years, retiring in 1975, after which he accepted a graduate research professorship at the University of Florida, retiring in 1988. He was internationally known for his work in gerontology and retirement housing in particular.

Born in Rochester, New York, Streib earned a BA in history in 1941 from North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. During World War II, Streib registered as a conscientious objector and served in various capacities which included building roads in upstate New York, as a cook's helper at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital and volunteering for human hunger experiments. While working at the hospital he earned a master's degree in sociology (1946) at the New School of Social Research. After the war he helped transport horses to Poland for the American Friends Service Committee to help rebuild Poland's agricultural stock.

Streib authored or edited eight books, including *Retirement in American Society: Impact and Process*, with Clement J. Schneider (1971); and *Old Homes -- New Families*, with W. Edward Folts and Mary Ann Hilker (1984), and 150 journal articles.

He was honored by the Gerontological Society of America with the Robert W. Kleemeir award for outstanding research and received the Distinguished Contributor to Sociology of Aging award from the American Sociological Association. He was a founding member of the Southern Gerontological Society that named their Gordon F. Streib Distinguished Academic Gerontologist award after him.

Gordon Streib had an adventurous mind. He successfully administered a survey questionnaire to Navajo families despite the opinion of anthropologists that Navajos would not respond to a structured instrument. Another example occurred in Russia where he was a visiting lecturer. At one point in his talk on retirement housing, he remarked that he probably had nothing new to tell the Soviets in view of their well-known innovations in organizing friendly and productive communities. At Cornell, Streib was a productive researcher and a genial mentor to students.

Ruth Streib, his wife and companion, died just one day later. They lived for seven years at the Oak Hammock Continuing Care Community which Streib co-founded. Their survivors include four children and their families.

Frank W. Young, Chairperson; and Susan Lang