



Thomas W. Scott

November 10, 1929 – August 22, 2019

Professor Emeritus Thomas W. Scott passed away on August 22, 2019 at Kendal at Ithaca, where he had made his home in recent years. He grew up on a dairy farm near Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. His parents were Elsie and John Scott. He received his B.S. degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1952 and then served as a Lieutenant in the Strategic Air Command until the end of the Korean War. Dr. Scott received advanced degrees from Kansas State University (M.S. 1956) and Michigan State University (Ph.D. 1959). He came to the then Agronomy Department (now Soil and Crop Sciences) at Cornell University in 1959, serving in extension and research on the New York State Sugarbeet Feasibility Trial as an assistant professor. In 1965, he was promoted to associate professor with tenure. In 1969, he switched responsibilities to teaching and research in soil science concentrating on soil fertility management. In the preceding years Dr. Scott was the principle leader in the formation of the Empire State Soil Fertility Association, with a term as president in 1962. He was also active in the development of New York Lime Law, and he became active in undergraduate student affairs as advisor of the Agronomy Club and of Alpha Gamma Rho social fraternity.

Dr. Scott's initial teaching responsibility was in Introductory Soils. He was a gifted teacher with the dual attributes of expertise in the subject matter and an obvious rapport and concern for students. One of his goals, which he regularly achieved, was learning the names and recognizing every student in his classes. In 1969, he received the Professor of Merit Award from the students in CALS. He was later selected as the Outstanding Advisor of CALS and received the teaching award of the Northeast Branch of the American Society of Agronomy. Professor Scott advised hundreds of undergraduate students who fondly remember his concern for them as a person as well as a student.

In the late 1960's, Dr. Scott worked with a number of colleagues in CALS to develop an off-campus regional travel course in production agriculture with summer tours in the western states. The outstanding value and results of this approach was transferred to the mid-session course in international agriculture, and that method, spawned in part by Dr. Scott, is still included in the

International Agriculture and Development curriculum. Dr. Scott shared his own skills as a soil scientist with international work in soil fertility in the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Panama, and Costa Rico. He also oversaw research projects in Africa and Asia.

Professor Scott was an outstanding citizen of the Cornell Community as well as the Ithaca community at large. At Cornell, he was Faculty Fellow with the University Residence Life Program in the 1980's. He served on numerous college and university committees including the Academic Achievement and Petitions Committee. He was the University Ombudsman from 1991 to 1994. He was also active as an elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, where he had a leadership role in establishing a school in Ethiopia. As he approached retirement, he worked with Madison Wright and Gary Fick to develop a course in sustainable agriculture and became one of its first teachers. In addition, he was a co-teacher of Soil and Water Management and of Ecology of Agricultural Systems. His retirement plan included volunteer teaching.

Upon his retirement, his family and friends set up the Tom Scott Scholarship Fund for students in CALS. He was preceded in death by his wife Nancy in 1984. At the time of his death, he had four living children, twelve grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. They are blessed to be a part of his family.

Written by Gary W. Fick, David R. Bouldin, and Kathleen C. Howard