



Emil J. Haller

January 5, 1933 – November 20, 2011

Emil J. Haller, husband, father, outdoorsman, and scholar, passed away on November 20, 2011 surrounded by his loving wife and cherished family. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri on January 5, 1933 to Walter and Consuelo Haller. Raised with humble and blue-collar roots, Emil earned his B.S. degree from the University of Missouri in Education and later earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1966. He served his country as 1st lieutenant in the U.S. Army from 1955-1958 and taught middle school from 1958-1963 before earning his Ph.D.

Beginning in 1968, Emil became a professor of educational administration in the Department of Education at Cornell University where he served for 30 years. He was a scholar who didn't suffer fools and relished his role as iconoclast both in his teaching and research. Emil taught undergraduate and graduate students with the same standard and care, and he was not afraid to tell students or colleagues what he honestly thought about their work. A productive and influential scholar of educational administration, Emil partnered often with his colleagues on research and applied policy projects. He is best known for his work on the effect of teacher expectations on student achievement (contradicting widely established beliefs), administrator quality and ethics, and school district reorganization. After 30 years, he retired from Cornell in 1997 with Emeritus status.

Emil was a loving and complex man. First and foremost he was a family man. Emil was not one for maudlin sentimentalities, had little tolerance for nonsense, and was willing to tell you what he thought, but (usually) only if you asked. Every conversation with Emil included at least one story of his wife, his children, and one or more of his grandchildren or great-grandchildren. His pride in his children and eventually his grandchildren and great-grandchildren was profound. He was never boastful, but simply proud to know them and watch them grow and mature. After his retirement from Cornell University in 1997, Emil did not look back. Instead he focused his energies on trips with his wife Ev, visiting his children,

grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and the great natural wonders of the United States. Emil was a graceful man with a well-proportioned body that served him well for many of his passions like fly fishing and jitterbug dancing. He always moved with a characteristic economy of motion.

Anyone who knew Emil knows how much he loved the outdoors. Camping, kayaking, hiking or fishing with family, friends, or by himself, Emil was at peace with the isolation and peace of the woods and waters. Kayaking well into his 70s, he was a wonderfully delightful companion on a lake or trail, but he also enjoyed his time alone with the fish and paddles. Emil introduced a number of his colleagues to canoeing and participated in an annual spring pilgrimage beginning with excursions to the St Lawrence River and morphing into an annual retreat to the Adirondacks – which still continues with a libation to his memory. He was officially designated as the libation selector and wine steward for this annual CU Expats kayaking event. He had excellent taste in wine, bourbon, and scotch.

His love of the outdoors was matched by his love of good literature and good writing. He was often the source of valued recommendations for good books, and he was an excellent critic of academic writing. If one asked him to read over something one had written, an act requiring some courage, one always got back a valuable critique.

Emil is missed and will never be forgotten. Emil left a legacy of care, class, and wit to all who knew him. Emil is survived by his wife of 57 years, Evelyn (Adams), and his four children, Barbara, Deborah, David, and Gregory. He is also survived by his nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

John Sipple, Chairperson; David Monk, Kenneth Strike