

Frank F. Gilmore

June 6, 1911 — January 1, 1992

Frank Gilmore taught in Cornell's Graduate School of Business and Public Administration (now the S.C. Johnson Graduate School of Management) from 1955 to 1974. Previous to 1955 he taught at Washington University and the Harvard Graduate School of Business. In his early years he taught production, but his interests evolved into business policy and strategy.

Coincident with his arrival at Cornell University he became the Director of the School's highly successful Executive Development Program and was one of the most appreciated teachers in that program. After becoming Emeritus he continued to teach in the program for many years after his retirement. Much of Cornell's success in executive education can be attributed to Frank's dedicated efforts.

Frank was one of a group of senior professors who believed in treating junior professors as equals and students as being the School's most important concern. He worked hard to teach effectively and was successful in his efforts.

But all was not smooth as the above implied. To illustrate production operations, Frank had the School buy a large machine tool which was placed in an upper floor classroom in McGraw Hall (the initial home of B&PA). The floor began to tilt, the building and grounds department insisted that the machine be moved to the basement, and Frank shifted his teaching interests to business policy.

Then there was the afternoon party thrown for Bill Carmichael, newly appointed dean, by Frank and his wife, Mary Lee. The day was very hot and everyone drank heartily of the "fish-house punch". Unfortunately, it became apparent later in the afternoon that this was not a fruit punch as the innocents had assumed. It was an impressive welcoming for our new dean.

And then there was the time Frank went to Trinidad to help the University of the West Indies initiate a management development program. The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Dudley Huggins) took Frank for a picnic and a swim in the Caribbean. Frank swam out past the diving raft, and Dudley waved frantically from the beach. Frank's companion swam in to determine Dudley's concern. It seems that where Frank was swimming was the home of unfriendly sharks and, in addition, in a few minutes the tides would sweep him to sea, if he survived the sharks. His exhausted companion (a poor swimmer) swam out to Frank who then started to argue that the swim was perfectly safe. Out

of compassion for his companion (now about to drown), he reluctantly abandoned his exercise and returned to safer waters. Yes, the executive programs conducted in Trinidad were big successes.

Frank was a loyal, generous friend and an outstanding teacher of business policy. He devoted a large percentage of his career advancing the well-being of B&PA (the Johnson School) and he is remembered by his former colleagues with affection and admiration.

Alan McAdams, Seymour Smidt, L. Joseph Thomas, Hal Merman