

# **Martin Wright Sampson, Jr.**

*July 11, 1914 — June 6, 1999*

Professor Emeritus Martin Wright Sampson, Jr., died on June 6, 1999, in Roseville, Minnesota. He was born in Ithaca, where his father was an eminent Professor of English at Cornell. He received the degree of B.S. in Administrative Engineering from Cornell in 1939 and the degree of M.S. from Cornell in 1945, with a major in Industrial Engineering and a minor in Industrial Psychology. His wife, his son, and many other family members also received their baccalaureate from Cornell.

After receiving the B.S. degree, Marty worked for one and one half years as an engineer at the Buffalo, New York Chevrolet Division of General Motors, gaining experience in plant layout, production methods, and industrial organization and management. He started teaching at Cornell in 1941, in the Administrative Engineering Department, which at that time was a part of Sibley School of Mechanical Engineering. This department gradually evolved into the present School of Operations Research and Industrial Engineering, and Marty played an essential role in constructing the new curriculum, teaching a variety of courses. He also played an important role in educating students outside of Cornell. He taught courses in job analysis and evaluation to industrial and labor union groups in several cities in Mexico, aiding about twenty different Mexican firms. He spent a year as a Visiting Professor at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, as part of a program administered by the Cornell Graduate School of Business and Public Administration, under the auspices of the United States Agency for International Development. In addition to teaching courses there, he advised the Department of Business Administration on curriculum revision and teaching methods. Marty also taught courses at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad as a Fulbright Lecturer, and numerous extension and adult education courses for many American corporations. Wherever he gave courses, he was known as an excellent teacher.

In addition to his teaching duties, Marty served on several college and university committees, and for several years before he retired in 1980, he was Director of Cornell's Summer Session.

Marty Sampson had broad interests outside of his academic work. He was active in track and field as a young man, and later officiated at track and field events. He was a vestryman and treasurer at St. John's Church in Ithaca. After his retirement, he served on several committees involved with improving conditions in the Ithaca area.

Marty Sampson was an exceptionally kind and considerate person. After he retired, he was a volunteer van driver for "Gadabout," an organization which transports the elderly and the handicapped to medical appointments and

shops. When students who were sent to Cornell under the accelerated military training program were invited back for the 50th anniversary of the program, Marty was still remembered with affection.

Marty's wife, Anne Beers Sampson, died in 1987. He is survived by his son, Martin Wright Sampson III; daughter-in-law, Ellen Sampson; grandson, Aaron Sampson; daughter, Debbie Sampson; a brother and sister; and nieces and nephews.

*Robert N. Allen, Henry P. Goode, Narahari U. Prabhu, Lionel I. Weiss*