

# Myrtle H. Ericson

*November 5, 1909 — August 28, 2006*

Professor Emerita Myrtle H. Ericson passed away on Monday, August 28, 2006 at St. Benedict's Health Center in Dickinson, North Dakota. She was a long-time Food and Beverage faculty member of the School of Hotel Administration. During her 31-year career at Cornell, her enthusiasm for and knowledge of fine food and food production techniques changed many students' views on dining and how food should be presented. As an academic advisor, she was always available to her students, providing good advice delivered in a sincere and pleasant demeanor.

She was born in Cottonwood, South Dakota, the daughter of Peter J. and Esther Ericson. She received her elementary and secondary education in Vermillion, South Dakota, her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Dakota at Vermillion, and her Master of Science degree from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. She took additional course work at the Culinary School of New York and Columbia University in New York City.

She began her career as an educator by teaching high school in Chester and Beresford, South Dakota and at Sioux City, Iowa from 1931-39. She taught at the University of South Dakota at Vermillion from 1939-44 prior to joining the faculty at Cornell in 1944. She was an Instructor from 1944-47 and an Assistant Professor of Food and Nutrition from 1947-50 in the College of Home Economics. In 1950, she became an Associate Professor in the School of Hotel Administration and taught Advanced Food Production and Menu Planning. Professor Ericson instilled in her students a respect for the quality of the ingredients used in food production and an appreciation for the artistry of food presentation long before these concepts became common in the Restaurant Industry. She focused her research efforts on experimental foods, recipe standardization and fancy foods. Her work on standardization of food production recipes using the metric system of measurement helped the Restaurant Industry produce more consistent products and achieve accurate yields and costs. She was the author of numerous food and beverage related publications, which appeared in the *South Dakota Journal of Food Science*, farm journals, Cornell Extension bulletins, and *The Cornell Hotel and Restaurant Quarterly*. Professor Ericson served as a food consultant to several hotel companies around the world. She also conducted seminars internationally. She was awarded the title of Professor in 1961. She retired from the School of Hotel Administration in 1975.

Professor Ericson was a member of the American and New York Home Economics Association and the American Association of University Women. She was listed in *Who's Who in America* in 1957. She was an avid sports

enthusiast; she liked playing golf, swimming, and bowling. She enjoyed attending athletic events at Cornell and watching sporting events on television in her retirement years.

Professor Ericson was a long-time Hanshaw Road resident in Ithaca. In the mid 1990s, she moved to Dickinson, North Dakota to be nearer family members. She resided at the Evergreen Retirement Center, and served as a consultant for renovations to the Food Service facilities there as well as menu planning.

She is survived by several cousins, and was predeceased by her parents, two brothers and a sister.

*Stephen A. Mutkoski, Chair; George Bantuvanlis, David Dunn*