

# **Robert Henry Crawford**

*October 10, 1924 — February 6, 1998*

Dr. Robert H. Crawford died in Phoenix, Arizona at age 73. He was an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Arts, now Communication, in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences from 1967-81.

Educated at the University of California at Berkeley (B.A., 1951), and at Syracuse University (M.A., 1953; Ph.D., 1967), Dr. Crawford was engaged in publication, consulting, and distribution of publications in missionary Christian church organizations in Indonesia and the Philippines. This experience and background proved invaluable as he guided and advised overseas graduate students in their careers during his time at Cornell. He was faculty advisor to a majority of the foreign and minority students in the department during his tenure. He coordinated graduate studies in communication, including recruitment, admissions, financial aid, graduation requirements and liaison with the graduate school with an exemplary attention and concern for the best interests of the students and the department.

Other responsibilities in the department included extensive teaching of graduate and undergraduate students. Courses included communication in developing nations, news and science writing, communication history and mass media. In addition to teaching and advising, from 1971-74, Dr. Crawford developed and directed the Communication Specialists for Population Affairs (COSPA) program, designed to provide graduate training for use in family planning, population education and related efforts. His students from this program have gone on to useful careers worldwide, and current research projects in the department reflect these early beginnings in an important field.

As the Master of Professional Studies degree was developed in the college in the 1970s, he served the college on the committee and task force charged with setting standards and making recommendations for a new, practical approach to graduate study for those already active in professional fields. At the university level, he served as a member of the Faculty Council of Representatives, and on the Rural Development Committee of the Center for International Studies.

Dr. Crawford's international consulting assignments ranged widely, and included those with the World Health Organization, the Population Information Field Services Program and the East-West Communication Institute.

When he left Cornell in 1981 and moved to California, he became an independent communication consultant, working with students who needed assistance in completing their graduate studies. He is survived by his wife, Alice; daughter, Donna March; sons, Paul, James and Steven; and 14 grandchildren. He will be remembered as a person of strong convictions and missionary zeal in his dedication to help others.

*Chester H. Freeman, Jane E. Hardy, Russell D. Martin*