

Christopher Bull

October 14, 1921 — March 17, 2002

Christopher Bull, Professor of Clinical Medicine, died in Ithaca in the retirement community at Longview, where he had resided for the past several years following the death of his beloved wife, Kittie.

Chris was born and grew up in Ithaca, where his father was a practicing physician for many years. He attended Ithaca High School and went on to attend Cornell University in the class of 1944. After three years on the Ithaca campus, he entered the Medical College in New York and was graduated with his M.D. degree in 1947. He then took a year's internship at the Genesee Hospital in Rochester, following which he pursued residencies in psychiatry at the Pilgrim State Hospital on Long Island and at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

At this point in 1952, Chris entered the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army to complete his obligated service and served as a Staff Psychiatrist at the Osaka Army Hospital for one year. He was then assigned as Division Psychiatrist for the 45th Infantry Division in Korea, during which he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. He then returned to take another year's training at the West Haven VA Hospital, affiliated with Yale Medical School.

For the next ten years, Chris held positions in teaching and research hospitals successively in Hawaii and Illinois. From 1964-66, he was a full time salaried Staff Psychiatrist at the Butler Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island. During this period, he published several research studies, principally related to biochemical correlates of behavior in schizophrenic patients.

Dr. Bull then joined the psychiatric staff of the University Health Services at Gannett Health Center, where he remained as Principal Psychiatrist until his retirement in 1986. As one colleague stated:

"Dr. Bull was a very gentle, kind-hearted man who was widely appreciated for his deep caring for Cornell students. ...this obvious caring and active interest made a powerful positive impression on students who initially arrived at the Clinic feeling frightened, sad, anxious, or alone."

Dr. Bull had a multitude of interests. One of particular pertinence was his collection of tropical fish, for which he maintained, at his own expense, an extensive and variegated aquarium that seemed to fill his waiting room. Although he no doubt enjoyed the display, its real purpose was to entrance the student patients and perhaps to provide a soothing setting for the distraught ones. It was characteristic that he left the aquatic display to the clinic when he retired, yet continued to return on a regular basis to maintain it.

Chris' interest in painting developed after his retirement to Longview. Many of his oils are displayed in the halls there, depicting scenes from his extensive travels to the Indies and to Tasmania.

Chris Bull was a thoughtful, accomplished, gentle man who was professionally and personally at the top of his class.

Joann Basgall, George Miller, Allyn Ley