

Donald Frederick Splittstoesser

August 17, 1927 — December 23, 2001

Don Splittstoesser was born in Tomah, Wisconsin and received his Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate degrees at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Agriculture, Bacteriology, and Bacteriology and Biochemistry in 1952, 1953 and 1956 respectively. Don was a Project Associate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for a brief period of time immediately following his graduate work. He then worked for two years as Chief of the Serology Branch (1st Lieutenant) in the 6th U.S. Army Medical Service Corps at Fort Mason, San Francisco, California. In 1958, Don was hired as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Food Science and Technology at Cornell University. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1964 and to Professor in 1969. Don served as Departmental Chair from 1982-89. In 1995, he was named Professor Emeritus, but continued an active research program as well as his participation on several editorial boards, and as a contributing editor for several books.

Don was active in numerous professional organizations, including: the Institute of Food Technologists, American Society for Microbiology, and the American Society of Enology and Viticulture. He served as President of the Central New York Branch of the American Society of Microbiology (1966), Chairman of the Western New York Section of the Institute of Food Technologists (1970), and Chairman of the Eastern Section of the American Society of Enology and Viticulture (ASEV). In 1984, he was named a Fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists. The Eastern Section of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture honored Don with the Outstanding Achievement Award in 1991 for his wine research and personal contributions to ASEV. In 1994, Don was awarded the William V. Hickey Award by the New York State Association of Milk and Food Sanitarians. He was invited by USAID in 1990 to assist the Indian government regarding the development of their fruit and vegetable industry.

Within a very short time after joining Cornell, Don established himself as a leading researcher in the area of fruit and vegetable microbiology. Don's research focused on the microbiology of frozen fruits and vegetables that has now become the basis for assessing the microbiological quality and safety of fruits and vegetables. Other active research areas included the physiology of heat resistant molds and the preservation and safety of fruit juices, ciders and wines. His research resulted in significant contributions to the food and beverage industry. As a result of his active research program, he published more than 200 research papers as well as numerous book chapters and served as the co-editor for several editions of the internationally recognized, *Compendium of Methods for the Microbiological Examination of Foods*.

Don is survived by his wife, Clara Splittstoesser, a former microbiologist in the Entomology Department at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station; and by his sister, Ruth (Harley) Erbs, who lives in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. He was an avid amateur wine maker and an enthusiastic supporter of the arts.

Don's concern for others, his kindness, his honesty, his quality work and administrative abilities were highly appreciated by his colleagues, his department, the university, and throughout the worldwide scientific community. We have truly lost an outstanding scientist and a dear friend.

Don Downing, Andy Rao, Gil Stoewsand, Randy W. Worobo