

Donald J. Barr

May 7, 1935 — January 24, 2008

Donald J. Barr, Professor Emeritus of Policy Analysis and Management in the College of Human Ecology, died January 24, 2008 in Ithaca, due to complications following a stroke.

Born May 7, 1935 in Geneva, Ohio, Barr earned a B.S. degree (1957) in Social and Earth Sciences at Miami University in Ohio, an M.A. degree (1959) in Sociology and a Ph.D. degree (1964) in Guidance and Counseling, both at Indiana University. Before teaching at Cornell, he taught at the University of Michigan and in elementary, middle, and secondary public schools in Ohio and Indiana. He led numerous workshops and educational programs for such organizations as the Telluride Summer Program and Childhood Program Development.

When he first came to Cornell in 1971, he was the Director of the College's Office of Counseling and Admissions. Later, he moved over to the Department of Human Service Studies (HSS), now called Policy Analysis and Management (PAM). He served a term as chairman of the HSS Department and after stepping down, he spent full time in teaching, outreach and scholarship in the Human Service Studies and Policy Analysis and Management Departments until retirement. He was widely in demand as an advisor to students because of his interest in helping them to succeed at Cornell.

Known as "Don" to all, Professor Barr published numerous articles and a handbook on the topic of power and the way it was used in teaching and in a variety of social programs. His many publications included *Liberalism to the Test: African-American Migrant Farm Workers and the State of New York*, *Transforming Power: A Thirteen-Week Program for Democratic Change in Your Community*, and *Educational Change for In-School Administrators*.

But his great love was teaching, which he did at every level of formal education from elementary school right through the Human Ecology undergraduate program and into the graduate school as well as outside the university. His focus was always on education, the nature of power, racism and social justice and he found opportunities in the local Ithaca community beyond the University, as well as elsewhere in the United States, Canada and South Africa. For almost ten years, with Dr. James Turner, Don co-taught a course in the College of Human Ecology, *Racism in American Society*, which was widely recognized. Barr and Turner also taught an annual racism/multi-cultural training seminar for Ithaca School District staff and administrators.

Professor Barr's interest in teaching led him to participate in numerous workshops and educational programs for the National Teacher Corps, National Training Laboratories, the Summer Institute for the University of Victoria, UNICEF, and the National Executive Service Corps in New York City. Under the auspices of the NESC and local Boards of Education, Don co-taught a series of leadership seminars for public school principals in Schenectady, New York, New York City and Philadelphia. He also spent a summer in Durban, South Africa working with government officials and schoolteachers and principals on how to improve teaching in local schools.

Professor Barr's reputation for teaching excellence was recognized by his receipt of the National Danforth Teaching Award, the Human Ecology Distinguished Teaching Award, the Telluride Association through its Summer Program and the key to the City of Cincinnati for his work on empowerment in low-income communities.

Don was always especially interested in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. He was a leading faculty member in the movement at Cornell to stop investing in companies that operated in South Africa, and he spoke frequently and with eloquence about the injustices of apartheid and the damage it was doing to people of color and to society in general.

Don believed that the improvement of education at all levels went hand-in-hand with social justice. His passion for both served as a model for what a university professor could be. He was always available to help those in need. He will be greatly missed.

His wife Judi and her two children, his own four children, David, Chris, Lori and their children, and his daughter Jana survive him.

Jerome M. Ziegler, Chairperson; Robert Babcock, Andrea Parrot