

Carolyn Olson Boegly

July 29, 1927 — June 6, 2008

Professor Carolyn O. Boegly (Cooperative Extension Administration) passed away at home after an extended illness with cancer. She was born in Camden, New Jersey, the daughter of Caroline O. and William J. Boegly. Her parents and brother William J. Boegly, Jr. predeceased her. She is survived by nephews William G. Boegly (Carla), John R. Boegly and Thomas L. Boegly (Glenanne) of Tennessee; great nephews, nieces and cousins in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Following graduation from high school in Mason, Michigan, she received a B.S. degree in Home Economics from Michigan State University and later, an M.S. degree in Extension Administration from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Additional coursework at North Carolina State University at Raleigh addressed a broadening interest in adult education.

In 1952, she joined the Cornell Cooperative Extension system, first in Rensselaer County, and later in Broome County. There she developed programs adjusted to local economic, social and educational conditions—programs reaching a cross-section of citizens, public and private agencies and organizations. In Broome County, she also served as a “trainer” for new Extension Educators, implementing an intensive educational in-service program, with observations of work in action. She came to the Cornell campus in 1964 as an Assistant Professor in Human Ecology/Assistant State Leader for Home Demonstration Agents (currently Extension Educators). Promoted to Associate Professor in 1971, she served as an Extension Program Leader (1979) and then, Program Specialist in Staff Development (1986) where her leadership skills were needed for staff orientation, in-service planning and counseling. She also received a courtesy faculty appointment in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

As a master teacher and counselor, she was one of the innovators in the design of new statewide programs and in-service education offered by College faculty to Cooperative Extension field staff. She helped maintain two-way communication between Cornell faculty, staff and local citizens that would accompany the changing and growing subject matter base of the College. In essence, she worked effectively with local staff as well as College faculty to match local program requirements with the interests and resources of the College. She led the development of a pioneer media effort initiating Cooperative Extension into Educational Television in the eleven-county Albany area. She earned the respect of both professional colleagues and local citizens as she supervised both urban and rural programs.

Professor Boegly was active in state and national professional organizations: New York State Association of Extension Home Economists (President, 1962), New York State Home Economics Association (Secretary; Advisor/Chair to Student Section). She was also active in the National Adult Education Association and Zonta (Binghamton). The National Association of Extension Home Economists honored her with the prestigious Florence Hall Award in 1961 and a Distinguished Service Award in 1962. She received a Farm Foundation scholarship in 1960 and a fellowship to the National Extension Agricultural Center for Advanced Study at the University of Wisconsin (1963-64). She retired in 1991 as an Emeritus Professor.

A memorial service was held for colleagues, family and friends at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Ithaca.

Bettie Lee Yerka, Chairperson; Barbara Eshelman, Lucinda Noble