

Eleanor Jordan

December 28, 1920 — February 18, 2009

Eleanor Jordan passed away peacefully in her sleep on February 18, 2009. She was living in the home of her daughter, Telly, and her son-in-law. Her son, Temple, lived in the vicinity and had been able to see her often.

We will always remember her as a great colleague, as a brilliant, charismatic, inspiring teacher and, above all, as a warm, witty and caring human being and friend. She first came to Cornell in 1969 as a Visiting Scholar after retiring from the Foreign Service Institute Language School, where she had held the position of Dean of the School of Asian Languages. In 1971, she was granted tenure at Cornell and the following year founded the FALCON Program. She had already become the primary force in the teaching of Japanese, having published the two-volume text, *Beginning Japanese*. For many, many decades, year after year, *Beginning Japanese* topped the best-seller list of Yale University Press and it remains in print today. During her time at Cornell, she published *Reading Japanese*, a revolutionary and highly acclaimed textbook, still in print. Toward the end of her 18 years at Cornell, she began her mammoth work, *Japanese: the Spoken Language*, which came out in three volumes. After leaving Cornell in 1988, she assumed a position with the National Foreign Language Center in Washington, DC, where she published, with Richard Lambert, the comprehensive and important study, *Japanese Language Instruction in the United States: Resources, Practice, and Investment Strategy*.

Only a small sampling of the awards she has received in her lengthy and productive career include: The Order of the Precious Crown, granted by His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan in 1985; The Japan Foundation Award in 1985; The Papalia Award for Excellence in Teacher Education, from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in 1993. She also received four honorary doctorates and served as President of the Association for Asian Studies once and President of the Association of Teachers of Japanese twice.

Robert Joseph Suple, Chairperson