

William Kirby Jordan

May 24, 1923 — October 11, 1988

Bill Jordan was an outstanding teacher, colleague, and friend. A complete Cornellian, he earned all three degrees here before being appointed to the faculty in the Department of Dairy Science in 1950. He was a patient and understanding advisor to many students, both undergraduate and graduate. His teaching was done with precision and effectiveness during his 37 years on the faculty. In all that he did, Bill set a standard of excellence for the department.

Professor Jordan had a long-term interest in the engineering aspects of food-processing. He and his students worked on detecting and describing the fleeting events occurring during operations such as homogenization and direct steam injection heating. His interest in safe processing led to work on the interaction between metal surfaces, food soils, and hydrodynamics of the cleaning solution. Bill enjoyed teaching and research in the area of ice cream manufacture. He was a key element in the expansion of his department from dairy science to the more general food science.

Bill had sabbatical leaves in Sweden, Ireland, England, and the Dominican Republic. He was a member of Alpha Zeta, Sigma Xi, and Phi Kappa Phi. He also served on numerous campus committees and was Field Representative for Dairy Science, 1966-69, and for Food Science, 1984-1987.

Bill's devotion to his profession extended beyond the classroom and the laboratory. Throughout his academic life, he participated in professional societies and associations. A major national commitment was his service on the 3-A Sanitary Standards Committee from 1959. He was chairman of the Central New York Institute of Food Technologists, and president of the New York State Association of Milk and Food Sanitarians. He was recognized for his service to the dairy industry by the latter association by being given the Emmet R. Gauhn Award in 1982.

Bill's first love was his family. He and Esther met as students at Cornell and had an unusually close and loving relationship for over four decades. Their four children reflect the love, humor, and concern for the natural order of things that characterized the Jordan home. His devoted companionship and care throughout Esther's long illness was a beautiful tribute to their love for each other.

Nothing pleased Bill more than the opportunity to relax by spending a few days caring for the land and trees around him. The physical labor of felling a tree or establishing a pond was a welcome counterpoint to the intellectual

demands of the professorial workday. When not working on his land, he could be found tinkering with a piece of machinery. His ancient Volkswagen buses were legendary.

Bill was, above all, a gentleman. He was never heard to say anything disparaging about another person. He saw good in everyone. This trait made him a pleasure to know and a success in his work with others. It also led to a concern for the welfare and progress of others far beyond that for himself.

These were his values. We were fortunate to have shared them.

David K. Bandler, John W. Sherbon