

Herbert Howard Williams

May 28, 1903 — September 29, 1969

Herbert Howard Williams, registrar emeritus and former director of admissions, died September 29, 1969, while on vacation at Watapossett, Cape Cod. He was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., on May 28, 1903, the son of Herbert Howard Williams, Cornell '94, and Mabel Shaw Williams, and grew up in Ithaca.

Mr. Williams was a member of the Class of 1925 and received the degree of civil engineer in February 1926. As an engineer with the Port of New York Authority, he worked on the Goethals Bridge from Elizabeth, N. J., to Staten Island, the Bayonne Bridge, and the George Washington Bridge.

In 1933 he returned to Ithaca to become the first director of the Cornell student placement bureau.

From 1943 to 1945 he also served as assistant to Dean S. C. Hollister of the College of Engineering. In this position he worked with secondary schools and was chairman of the McMullen Scholarship Committee.

After World War II, Mr. Williams was appointed Cornell's first director of admissions. This department was created at that time to handle the large number of returning veterans applying for admission. During his seventeen-year tenure in that position, Mr. Williams instituted numerous innovations, such as the guidance counselor conferences, national school visitation programs, and a unified freshman scholarship program.

In 1962, he was appointed University registrar and to this area of University administration he brought new techniques for storing and retrieving students' academic records.

To each of these assignments, Mr. Williams gave a great deal of himself. His colleagues remember his unusual devotion to Cornell in each of these endeavors, as well as the smile with which he always greeted them.

In all his years at Cornell, Mr. Williams worked with students and, as he himself said, it was work he loved. He enjoyed "working with people" and he gave of his time to students far beyond the confines of his job. He and Mrs. Williams established in their home the Sunday morning coffee hours which are fondly remembered by many alumni.

Mr. Williams served as president of the Middle States Association of Collegiate Registrars and Officers of Admission in 1959 and served on the College Entrance Examination Board in several committee capacities. He was a member of the Eastern College Personnel Officers Association from 1950 to 1962. He was a former member

of the committee on college preparatory curricula of the Association of Colleges and Universities of New York State, and of the New York State Committee on College-High School Relations of the Metropolitan School Study Council.

Mr. Williams held many posts serving the Cornell faculty, among them chairman of the Committee on Registration and Schedules, executive secretary of the University Committee on Academic Integrity, and a member of the National Scholarship Committee, which was formed in 1947.

He was a member of the Rotary Club, at one time of the Chamber of Commerce, a charter member of the Ithaca Yacht Club, an undergraduate member of Psi Upsilon fraternity (and an adviser of the fraternity for thirty years), the Cornell Club of New York, the Cornell Faculty (Statler) Club, which he served as president for one year, and he was a sponsor of Cornell Plantations.

Gardening, sailing, carpentry, and photography were his hobbies. He was especially fond of sailing and he and his wife, Marion, owned with former Provost and Mrs. Arthur Adams a boat named the Four Admirals.

Mr. Williams leaves his wife, Marion Reese Williams, whom he married February 15, 1926, and two sons, Timothy Shaler (1928) and Herbert Howard (1930).

A memorial service was held in Sage Chapel on October 3, 1969. Mr. Williams willed his body to Harvard Medical College.

Robert W. Storandt, R. Peter Jackson, Solomon C. Hollister