

Kathryn Elizabeth O'Malley Visneyi

December 3, 1916 — December 23, 1991

Professor Emerita Kathryn Elizabeth O'Malley Visneyi died December 23, 1991 in Naperville, Illinois. She was born in Perry, Iowa, on December 3, 1916. She and her husband, Dr. George Visneyi, lived in Ithaca until May, 1991.

A graduate of Iowa State University, Professor Visneyi completed a dietetic internship at University Hospitals, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. Then she worked at the University of Chicago Clinics and Cook County Hospital in Chicago and subsequently was director of dining services and instructor in dietetics at St. Joseph's Hospital and the College of St. Francis respectfully, in Joliet, Illinois. Her M.S. degree in institutional management was earned at Cornell in 1966.

Professor Visneyi had a long and productive association with Cornell, beginning in 1942 as assistant manager of Martha Van Rensselaer cafeteria. She took time off from campus life to rear a son and daughter. She rejoined Cornell as an extension specialist in the Department of Institutional Management in 1963. After completion of the M.S. Degree, she was appointed assistant professor in 1966. Professor Visneyi became associate professor in 1971 and retired from the Division of Nutritional Sciences in 1978.

Professor Visneyi was instrumental in the smooth integration of the Institutional Management Department into the Human Nutrition and Food Department when the College of Home Economics was reorganized and became the College of Human Ecology. She spent many hours as a member of the committee that planned the reorganization of the curriculum and helped establish the undergraduate program in the new department. When departmental councils became operative with reorganization, she was elected repeatedly to serve on the council. There she was a valuable and contributing member, one whose ideas were well received by student representatives and other faculty. Professor Visneyi also served on the newly established committee for Public Service and Continuing Education and was chairperson in 1969 and 1970.

Her professional career centered on administrative dietetics. This emphasis included the interpretation and translation of new state and federal legislation concerned with delivery of dietary services to vulnerable population groups. In particular, her efforts focused on the elderly in nursing homes and other long-term health care facilities as well as on children in school lunch, Head Start, day care and camp settings. In 1971, David Knapp, Dean of the College of Human Ecology, wrote in promotion documents that Professor Visneyi "provided a remarkably active

leadership in the program of administrative dietetics as it related to public needs. Most especially, she has worked assiduously in developing programs which related to a number of vulnerable population groups and in these efforts has done much to implement recent directions of the college.”

Professor Visnyei was frequently called upon to speak before professionals on topics related to dietetics and institutional management and to write articles for professional and lay publications. In her writings, she contributed numerous articles concerning solutions to food service operational problems, as well as articles on layout and design of dietary departments. As an editor of the *Bulletin of the New York State Dietetic Association*, her many articles and writings provided authoritative, practical information to all health care institutions in New York State.

With extension and public service as her major focus, Professor Visnyei developed and carried out workshops for administrators of nursing homes and health related facilities throughout New York state. She frequently presented off-campus courses on sanitation in food service to dietary personnel in health care facilities, school lunch programs, day care centers, camps and Head Start Centers. These efforts were reinforced by her editorship of *Highlights*, a quarterly publication sent to nursing home and health care facilities throughout the state.

Professor Visnyei served as director of the annual Cornell Institutes of Administrators of Nursing Homes and Health Related Facilities. She brought to this role not only a broad understanding of administrative dietetics but also her expert knowledge of the complex interrelationships among administration, governmental health care regulations, and patient problems. In addition, she provided leadership in curriculum development for the training of food service supervisors and consulting dietitians working in nursing homes and health care facilities. Off-campus, Professor Visnyei was for many years a member of the Education Committee of the New York Association of Long Term Health Care Administrators and also served on the Health Code Committee of the New York State Health Department, which revises the dietary section of the State Hospital Code.

Professor Visnyei held membership in the American Dietetic Association, the New York State Dietetic Association, the New York State Nutrition Council, and the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions. She was also a member of the Honorary Society, Psi Chi.

Both in her private and professional life, Professor Visnyei exhibited profound interest and concern for other people. Graduate students and her children’s friends were “adopted” as part of the Visnyei family. In her quiet, unassuming way, Professor Visnyei enhanced individual growth through her genuine respect, careful listening, and generous support.

Friends and colleagues remember Professor Visnyei as a gracious hostess and a caring, fun-loving person. Early jazz music, travel, and sports were among her special interests. As an avid sports fan, she kept abreast of winners and losers and thoroughly enjoyed “replaying the games” with family and friends. Professor Visnyei’s broad interests, keen wit and dry sense of humor always added zest to the lively discussions she stimulated and enjoyed. Her personal and professional contributions to the lives of others are appreciated and cherished.

Professor Visnyei is survived by her husband Dr. George Visnyei (B.A. ‘36) DDS, formerly of Ithaca and now of Naperville, Illinois; a daughter and son-in-law Margaret (M.B.A. ‘80) and Jerry Burton of Naperville; a son and daughter-in-law, George (M.B.A. ‘76) and Ellen Visnyei of Redding, Connecticut; and three grandchildren, Catherine, Douglas, and Benjamin Visnyei, all of Redding. She was predeceased by two brothers and one sister.

Marjorie M. Devine, Marcia H. Pimentel, Jerry M. Rivers