



Julian C. Smith, Jr.

March 10, 1919 – August 30, 2015

Professor Emeritus Julian Cleveland Smith, Jr. died peacefully after a short illness on August 30, 2015 at Kendal Ithaca, his home for the last fifteen years.

Professor Smith was born in Montreal, Canada, on March 10, 1919, the last of four children of American parents; Julian C. Smith, Sr. and Bertha Louise Alexander Smith. Professor Smith was educated at Westmount High School and Phillips Exeter Academy before studying engineering at Cornell, taking the his Bachelor of Chemistry degree in 1941 and the Master's degree of Chemical Engineer in 1942. At this point he chose his American citizenship from his Canadian or American options.

During the second World War he worked for the Dupont Company in Wilmington, Delaware on war work, including time on the Manhattan Project. He also met his future wife, Joan Dolores Elsen. They married in Wilmington on June 1, 1946.

He was invited to take up the post of Assistant Professor in Chemical Engineering at Cornell in 1946. He and his new bride moved to Ithaca that year where they remained for the rest of their lives. Joan Elsen Smith died in 2003 after a marriage of 57 years. Julian served as Associate and then Full Professor in 1953. He became Director of Continuing Education for the Engineering College in 1965, and Director of Engineering in 1975, returning to teaching in 1983 and finally retiring in 1986. He was a joint author of the internationally important textbook, Unit Operations in Chemical Engineering and made contributions to another five books as well as authoring 50 technical articles.

Professor Smith was a valued consultant to DuPont for decades, and to various government agencies. In Ithaca, he has served in

leadership roles with the Ithaca Opera Association, the United Way and the Cerebral Palsy Association, to name just a few; he also was an elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, where he sang in the choir for almost 50 years. In retirement, he was a member of many committees, academic, social and charitable, including work on the redevelopment of the Reconstruction Home.

Professor Smith also engaged in a number of hobbies, taking many of them to semi-professional levels. His documented land snail collection is now part of the research materials at the Paleontological Research Institution. His Canadian stamp collection won international prizes. He contributed another volume to the Smith family tradition of writing genealogical works, and, confirmed his early Puritan Smith ancestry by taking part in the Smith DNA project. He had a passion for golf which continued with watching the professionals on television long after he was too unsteady to swing a club. He was almost certainly the oldest member of the Ithaca Country Club. He wrote and published their history, *Breaking Ninety*.

He loved travelling and went on many worldwide adventures, his last being a European river cruise in the spring of this year.

Professor Smith was also a very capable musician, playing classical piano and wrote more than just technical texts. He had a light-hearted side, being a member of the Savage Club while a student and rejoining in his forties, remaining a member to the end. His humorous compositions, both words and music, in the style of Flanders and Swann, were a feature of many a Savage Club performance.

Professor Smith was a Cornell man first and last. His parents were both Cornell graduates, father Julian senior in 1900, and mother Bertha in 1901. At least another ten relatives from the 1860's to the present day have attended Cornell including Professor Smith's son, Brian Smith, and grandson, Daniel Smith.

Claude Cohen, chair, Michael Shuler and William Olbricht

