



IN MEMORIAM

JON LLOYD WILLIAMS (1938-2011)

Jon L. Williams, teacher, scholar, and former associate editor of *The Psychological Record*, passed away in Gambier, OH, on May 11, 2011. Jon's career reflected the true embodiment of the teaching scholar. Students, colleagues, and supporters of the *Record* will miss his intellect and his compassionate nature.

Jon began his career at Kenyon College in 1968 as an assistant professor of psychology. He had earned his bachelor's degree at Oberlin College and his doctorate in experimental psychology at the University of Michigan. At Kenyon, Jon established a distinguished reputation as a teacher, scholar, and contributor to the field of psychology. He published more than 40 articles, monographs, and book chapters, and his research interests were interdisciplinary. His published work focused on animal behavior along the boundaries of learning, ethology, and biopsychology. This interdisciplinary interest led to Jon founding Kenyon's neuroscience program in 1993. He became an emeritus professor upon his retirement in 2004.

Beginning in 1976, when *The Psychological Record* relocated to Kenyon College under the editorship of Charles E. Rice, Jon served as associate editor for more than 25 years. Chuck Rice recalls that Jon was a "counselor I could consult just down the hall from the journal offices. As editor, I relied on Jon for evaluations of the methodology and effectiveness of manuscripts in his field. He was especially valued for his carefully reasoned advice when

making difficult editorial decisions. His judgments reflected a clear understanding of the journal's mission and a motivation to maintain the highest standards possible." Jon was the action editor for a number of the *Record's* special issues, including those on stimulus equivalence research and the experimental analysis of human behavior.

Jon's contributions to Kenyon and to the profession of psychology are memorialized by his accumulation of titles and positions: Samuel B. Cummings Jr. Chair in Psychology, Chair of the Kenyon Neuroscience Program, Chair of the Kenyon Science Division, Associate Editor of *The Psychological Record*, licensed clinical psychologist, and Fellow of the American Psychological Society. His greatest impact, however, was the influence he had as a teacher, mentor, community member, and father of six. As a teacher, Jon was known as a meticulous, highly organized lecturer whose clarity of presentation enabled students to grasp complex material and become interested in the research goals of the profession. His easygoing, collaborative style invited students into the field of psychology. Students found themselves drawn to optional laboratory experiments in animal behavior, out-of-class conversations about how experimental methodology could be employed to answer interesting research questions, and well-mentored independent research. He welcomed undergraduates as collaborators and routinely included them as co-authors in research publications. Jon exerted a gentle influence that helped shape student careers by teaching the value of inquiry-based learning and the love of the liberal arts. His mentoring extended to young faculty members and to the Gambier community, where he coordinated volunteer opportunities for Kenyon students and consulted with public schools and the community center. Asked once what he liked about his job, Jon wrote, "Working with bright and motivated students in a beautiful setting." Those words resonate with those of us who, as former students of Jon, followed his example and made a career of teaching psychology.

Jon's approach to teaching, research, and contributing to the community are well summed up by his answer to the question of what one thing he wished to accomplish in life. Jon wrote, "Pursue novel ideas with enthusiasm, creativity, and integrity." This he did well.

The Psychological Record gratefully acknowledges David Lopatto of Grinnell College for the preparation of this obituary, with information provided by Charles Rice, Emeritus Professor of Psychology at Kenyon College, and Mark Ellis, News Director at Kenyon College.

