



PROF. MELVIN GERSHMAN

ORONO - Distinguished and Emeritus Professor Melvin Gershman, 71, died peacefully at home Saturday, Sept. 12, 1998, surrounded by family and friends. We will remember his twinkling blue eyes, kind and gentle, taking it all in with a full heart, humorously engaging his students with controversial questions of the day, and listening with full attention to their answers, encouraging them to reach their finest potential; a quintessential teacher whose robust thirst for knowledge was irresistibly contagious. He graduated from Ohio State University and completed his graduate work at the University of Massachusetts. He taught at Smith College and then joined the faculty at the University of Maine in 1958, where he taught courses in microbiology, the environment and honors, and was chairman of the Freshman Honors program. In 1977, he received the Distinguished Professor Award at the University of Maine, and dedicated almost 40 years of teaching to three generations of undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Maine and the Bangor Theological Seminary until his retirement in 1992. His many accomplishments include his seminal work in the field of Salmonella Phage Typing used by the Centers for Disease Control, his ecumenical and humanitarian work as worshipful master of the Masonic Lodge in Orono, and his active membership in the Rotary, both in Bangor and Presque Isle. A practiced photographer, he captured on film the warmth and human faces and the natural beauty of his surroundings. We will do our best to continue without his wisdom, inspiration and guidance and will carry on his fierce commitment to speak for what is just. Papa, we were privileged to have seen your humane spirit dance in the face of destiny. He is survived by his wife, Associate Prof. Emerita Elaine S. Gershman; his daughter, Karen Gershman, M.D.; two grandchildren, Havah and Jackie; Miriam Axelrod, M.D., and Cindy, Joel and John Tewksbury, M.D. He was predeceased by a daughter, Melaine