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**In Memoria - Yu Ying Fu Li, 1916-1969; Alfred W. Meyer, 1898-1970; Ben H. Peterson, 1893-1969; Joseph J. Runner, 1885-1970; Lawrence H. Willson, 1885-1970**

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## IN MEMORIA

### DR. YU YING FU LI (1916 - 1969)

Dr. Li, of the Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia, is a recently deceased member of the Iowa Academy of Science.

Dr. Li was a native of China. She took her B.S. degree in Biology at National Chekiang University, and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of Iowa. She joined the Center for Disease Control, in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1963, and was engaged in antibody research. For the past three years, she had been conducting research on the biochemistry of fungi. She had previously been engaged in tissue culture study at Indiana University, research on nucleic acids and

protein at the University of Miami, and radiation research at the University of Iowa.

She was a member of the Society of Sigma Xi, Iowa Academy of Science, The Radiation Research Society, New York Academy of Sciences, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society of Zoologists, International Society for Human and Animal Mycology, and American Society for Microbiology.

Dr. Li is survived by her husband, Dr. Kuang Chiu Li; a daughter, Miss Charlene Li; and a son, Konrad Li.

### ALFRED W. MEYER (1898 - 1970)

Dr. Alfred W. Meyer, Coe graduate and emeritus professor of physics, died April 8, 1970, at Arcadia, California, after a long illness. He and his wife, Virginia, had lived in Arcadia since his retirement in 1964. Dr. Meyer was born in Barlet, Illinois, in 1898. He was graduated from Elgin Academy in Elgin, Illinois, in 1916. During the first World War he served with the Marine Corps in France and elsewhere overseas. He earned his B.S. degree from Coe in 1924, and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Iowa in 1925 and 1931, respectively.

Dr. Meyer taught mathematics and physics at Coe for 39 years, beginning in 1925 as an instructor in mathematics. He became full professor in 1944 and chairman of the joint mathematics and physics department in 1945. During his years of teaching he initiated such supplementary programs at Coe as a civilian pilot training program begun in 1939, which developed out of his own interest in flying. In 1943 he became administrator of the instructional program of an

army aviation unit station at Coe. He was deeply interested in athletics and served on the athletic committee at Coe during almost all of his teaching career. For many years he was well known in Iowa ornithological groups as an active amateur ornithologist.

Dr. Meyer was highly regarded as a teacher and helped along in their careers many students who went on to their doctorates and other successful activities in science. His scholarly inclinations are attested by his membership in Sigma Xi, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Gamma Alpha. He was an Emeritus Fellow of the Iowa Academy of Science. He received the Coe Alumni Award of Merit in 1955. His devotion to his school was exceptional. Upon his retirement President Joseph McCabe said of Dr. Meyer, "When one has been as faithful to Coe College and to the teaching profession as you have been, his influence goes from generation to generation".

### BEN H. PETERSON (1893 - 1969)

Dr. Ben H. Peterson was born in Macedonia, Iowa, June 6, 1893. He was graduated from Coe College in 1918 and earned his doctorate at the University of Iowa. He began teaching at Coe in 1920, and was soon made chairman of the department of chemistry. He retired from this post in 1961, as Emeritus Professor of Chemistry. He died September 13, 1969, after a prolonged illness.

During his 40 years as professor and chairman of the chemistry department, Dr. Peterson exemplified the professor who understands the word "educate" in its best meaning—"to draw out or develop the mental powers of another". He was an eminent teacher, thrilled by his subject and able to convey that excitement to his students. More than 40 of his majors at Coe went on to become leading scientists. It is fitting that the new science building at Coe is named Peterson

Hall in his honor.

Dr. Peterson's service included election to the Cedar Rapids school board in 1952. He served during World War I with the A.E.F. at Base Laboratory No. 1, in St. Nazaire, France.

Dr. Peterson had published many scientific papers and was accorded many honors during his long tenure at Coe. He was president of the Iowa Academy of Science in 1944, and an Emeritus Fellow of the Academy. He spent 21 years as an examiner on the Iowa Basic Science Board, and was granted the 1958 Award of the American Chemical Society for meritorious achievement in teaching and research. In 1954, he was named to the Coe Alumni Association's Award of Merit. He was a member of Sigma Xi, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Phi Beta Kappa, and Phi Kappa Phi.

**JOSEPH J. RUNNER**

(1885 - 1970)

Over fifty years of dedicated service to the Department of Geology, University of Iowa, terminated in the recent death of Joseph J. Runner. Numerous alumni will remember Dr. Runner as the versatile instructor who introduced them to phases of Geology ranging from mineralogy through economic geology to the summer field course. Colleagues will recall a loyal friend who cheerfully accepted a disproportionate share of the teaching load and other faculty assignments.

Joseph James Runner was born on July 17, 1885, in Aurora, Illinois. In 1907, he received the A.B. degree in Mathematics and Economics from the University of Nebraska. Graduate studies were pursued, from 1907-1914, first in Astronomy and subsequently in Geology, at the University of California (Berkeley), University of Washington and University of Chicago. Several years of professional employment intervened before award of the Ph.D. in Geology, by the University of Chicago, in 1924.

Dr. Runner's first permanent appointment was at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, where he served as Professor of Mineralogy from 1914-1919. Brief industrial experience with the Texas Company and tenure as Acting Professor of Geology at the University of Chicago preceded appointment as Assistant Professor of Geology at the University of Iowa, in the fall of 1919. This affiliation at Iowa was maintained until his death, on August 29, 1970. Dr. Runner was promoted to Associate Professor in 1929 and to Professor in 1939. His retirement in 1953 and appointment as Professor Emeritus had little effect on his work habits, and he continued a regular academic schedule until onset of the terminal disability one year before his death.

A leave of absence from the University of Iowa enabled Dr. Runner to serve as Acting Professor of Geology at Stanford University during 1928. Similar arrangements permitted his appointment as Senior Geologist to the United States Geological Survey, from 1942-1946. During that interval he was engaged in the search for strategic minerals, especially in the copper province of the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan.

Dr. Runner's main research was in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming, and his studies and resulting publications involved all aspects of the geology of that area. Subjects of particular concern included the petrology of the Precambrian metamorphic rocks, mineralogy of the pegmatites and ore deposits, stratigraphy of the sedimentary succession, and relationship of the late Tertiary gravels to the uplift of the Hills. Interest in the Black Hills was initiated during Dr. Runner's tenure at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. It developed over the thirty years during which he utilized the area as site for the University of Iowa Summer Field Camp, and endured throughout his productive life. After retirement, he continued to devote a considerable portion of each summer to research in the Deadwood area.

For many of his years at Iowa, Dr. Runner had sole responsibility for instruction in mineralogy, igneous and metamorphic petrology, structural geology, economic geology and the summer field course. He was thorough and current in his preparation, and enthusiastic in presentation. A common teaching device was to present students with a major problem; his delight grew progressively, first as students began to understand the nature of the problem and finally as they achieved a solution. Dr. Runner's vigor in the field was legendary. Upon returning from a long active day of field work, weary students were often shocked by the sight of their instructor hurrying off for a round of golf before dark.

Dr. Runner was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and the Mineralogical Society of America. He was a Member of the Society of Economic Geologists, the American Geophysical Union, Iowa Academy of Science and the University Triangle Club, and served as Educational Advisor to the Geological Institute of America.

Dr. Runner is survived by his wife Jessie, Oaknoll Retirement Residence, 701 Oaknoll Drive, Iowa City; a son, Dr. Kenyon R. Runner of Conshohocken, Pennsylvania; and a daughter, Susan Ann Christen of Arlington, Virginia.

**LAWRENCE H. WILLSON**

(1885 - 1970)

Lawrence H. Willson, who joined the physics staff of Iowa State College in 1919, died March 25, 1970.

He was born September 30, 1885, at Delat, Ohio, the son of a Methodist minister. He received his A.B. degree at Valparaiso University, and a B.S. degree at the University of Chicago. He took additional graduate work at the University of Chicago. From 1909-1912 he served as a high school principal at Mulberry, Indiana. From 1915 to 1918, he taught physics and chemistry at the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery and the Chicago College of Dentistry (Now Loyola University). The following year he taught physics at the University High School in Chicago, and then joined the Iowa State College staff. He was promoted to assistant pro-

fessor in 1920. Until his retirement in 1955, he participated in the teaching of undergraduate and graduate courses offered in the department.

He married Ruth Belle Hamilton in 1922, and had one son, who was killed in World War II. Mrs. Willson died in 1958.

Lawrence Willson was known to be an excellent teacher and a well-read scholar. His death is mourned by colleagues and friends in Ames, and by former students throughout the country, who testify of the inspiration they received from him as a colleague and teacher.

*Culver-Stockton College  
University of Missouri-Columbia*