Obituaries: William Harker Rhodes and Robert Jesse Rutman
William Harker Rhodes

Dr. W. Harker Rhodes, 85, passed away on September 29, 2010 at the Coatesville VA Medical Center in Coatesville, PA. Born on April 26, 1925 in Trenton, NJ, Dr. Rhodes served as a radiology technician in the US Navy, after which he attended and graduated in 1951 from New York University with a Bachelor of Arts degree. In 1955 he graduated with a VMD from Penn Vet, followed by three years of radiology training at the medical school with a Master of Medical Science in radiology from the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine. From 1955 until his retirement in 1985, as Professor Emeritus of Radiology, he was a faculty member at Penn Vet with a joint appointment in radiology at the medical school.

He received the school’s first Lindback Teaching Award in 1965, and was a frequent lecturer at numerous state and national veterinary meetings. Dr. Rhodes played a major role in the development of veterinary radiology that included a founding member and past president of the Educators in Veterinary Radiologic Science (the first veterinary radiology organization in US) and then the American Veterinary Radiologic Society, a member of numerous AVMA and AAHA advisory committees and the New York Academy of Science. He was a charter member and chair of the Organizing Committee for the American Board of Veterinary Radiology (the first clinical specialty approved by the AVMA), now the American College of Veterinary Radiology. He was also a founding member of the International Veterinary Radiology Society.

Among his national and international recognition, Dr. Rhodes earned the Distinguished Service Award from the American College of Radiology in 1999.

In addition to his professional pursuits, Dr. Rhodes was an avid horseman.

Robert Jesse Rutman

Dr. Robert Jesse Rutman, biochemist, humanitarian and emeritus professor of biochemistry at Penn Vet, died peacefully at age 91 on September 20, 2010 in Phoenix, AZ. Dr. Rutman, a dedicated cancer research scientist and activist for Global Peace, Civil Rights and Women’s Rights, worked at Penn Vet for more than three decades.

Born on Long Island, NY to Eastern European Jewish immigrants, Dr. Rutman was an only child and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry from Penn State University in 1940. In 1942, he married Julia Zubroff of Minersville, PA whom he later divorced.

Dr. Rutman served in World War II in the US Army Corps of Engineers in Galveston, TX. While there, he was assigned to the Manhattan Project and witnessed the development of nuclear weaponry.

In 1954, Dr. Rutman joined Penn as a research associate in the Department of Zoology. He then moved to the Department of Chemistry where he spent five years as a senior research associate before becoming associate professor. In 1968, Dr. Rutman joined the Department of Animal Biology at Penn Vet as an associate professor where he remained until his retirement in 1987. He served as an emeritus faculty for several years.

During his time at Penn Vet, Dr. Rutman was instrumental in setting up an exchange program between the Vet School and the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. Dr. Rutman’s life and career included many accomplishments, including authoring a myriad of scientific articles, working with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on desegregation and serving as Secretary of Scientists Committee on Biological Warfare.

When Gerrie, Dr. Rutman’s second wife, whom he married in 1970, died from Multiple Myeloma in 1980, his efforts intensified in cancer research and the study of cancers in people of color, especially women. He received the Philadelphia Tribune Centennial Front Page Voice Award in 1984, and is listed in 200 World Community Leaders and 200 Intellectual Leaders of the World.

With Dr. Rutman’s great influence, daughter Rose Rutman, step-children Stephen Johnson (Med Sch.) and Ellen Kafalas, attended Penn. Two of his six grandchildren are currently enrolled at Penn.