

Obituaries

WALTER A. COOK, S. J. (1922–1999)

Father Walter A. Cook, S.J., professor of linguistics emeritus at Georgetown University, died April 27th at 7:00 P.M. at Georgetown University Hospital as a result of complications following surgery for an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

Father Cook was born February 17, 1922 in Washington, D.C. He studied philosophy at Woodstock College, Md., theology at De Nobili College in Poona, India and at St. Mary's College in Murseong, India. He was ordained at St. Mary's on November 12, 1952. He also studied at St. Stanislaus College, Hazaribagh Dr., India. While in India, in addition to his pastoral work, he studied Sanskrit and the local languages.

In 1962 he returned from India and enrolled in the newly established doctoral program in the Institute of Languages and Linguistics, completing his doctorate in 1965. He taught in the department until 1993. As a professor of linguistics Father Cook taught courses in syntax and semantics and excelled as an expositor of theory and as a linguist who managed to give all these theoretical models practical applications.

Father Cook wrote numerous articles, books, and manuals that served as standard textbooks in linguistics. He had the uncommon ability to simplify the complex and reduce vague and obscure processes to digestible diagrams. Research in and the teaching of linguistics defined his professional life. He was a very popular teacher, devoted to his students. During his tenure in the Department of Linguistics, he was twice elected chair.

May he rest in peace.

CATHERINE N. BALL
Georgetown University

BRUCE L. FENNER (1944–1999)

Bruce Fenner died in his sleep in the early hours of March 20, 1999. He had taught full time at DePaul University from 1980 until ill health forced an early retirement in 1994. Over the last nine months of his life, however, he regained strength. He asked if he could teach a course in the Spring Quarter of 1999 and his request received swift approval. He deeply relished the prospect of returning to the classroom.

With characteristic efficiency Bruce completed his syllabus and packet of course materials with time to spare. He handed those to the department secretary for photo duplicating on March 9. Regrettably, the same day he suffered a fall that presaged a swift decline in his condition. Even so, he continued to be alert, determined, and optimistic to the end.

Bruce Fenner received his Ph.D. in Southeast Asian History from Cornell University in 1976. He taught as a visiting professor at Northern Illinois and Delaware State Universities as well as holding an administrative post at the College of William and Mary. After the life of an academic nomad, DePaul offered Bruce a home. As in a home, it was an association based on mutual trust and affection.