Shelby Jett Boardman

Shelby was born on November 7, 1944, to William J. Boardman and Nancy Jett Boardman in Akron, Ohio. He died at home of natural causes on January 19, 2007. Shelby was the third of four brothers, William, John, and Robert Boardman. He graduated from Miami University (Ohio) with a BA degree and from the University of Michigan with a PhD degree in geology.

Shelby is survived by his wife, Jean, his sons and daughters-in-law, Steven and Karen, and Dave and Michelle, and grandsons Grant (3), Sam (18 months), and Abe (13 months). His parents, William and Nancy Boardman, and his wife’s parents, Victor and Catherine Anderson, preceded him in death.

Shelby’s profound devotion to his family was obvious to all who knew him. His last two days were spent with his grandsons and he was thrilled when Sam and Abe called him Papa and Grandpa for the first time. He felt incredibly blessed by his beloved family.

Shelby taught geology at Carleton College for 35 years. He joined the faculty in 1971 and after many years of teaching, he was named associate dean of the College in 1994 and acting dean of the College in 1997. He was dean of the College from 2002 to 2005. Following a yearlong sabbatical in 2005–06, he returned to teaching geology this past fall.

According to the Dean of the College, Scott Bierman, Shelby was proudest of his accomplishments as a teacher, enlightening generations of Carleton students on the intricacies and wonders of geological science. “His commitment to education, his generosity of spirit, and his powerful intellect were on best display in the field with his students. With a rock in his hands and surrounded by eager students, he was a wizard,” Bierman said.

“Shelby embodied the finest qualities we hope our faculty possess—the deepest integrity in all matters, an unwavering devotion to teaching, and the creativity and doggedness to produce influential scholarship,” said Carleton President Robert A. Oden Jr. “He was a trusted mentor, confidant, and role model for hundreds of Carleton faculty members.”

Memorial gifts can be directed to the Shelby Boardman Memorial Fund at Carleton College,
Gift Accounting Office, One North College Street, Northfield, Minnesota, 55057.

A Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for the life of

Shelby Jett Boardman

November 7, 1944 – January 19, 2007

Skinner Memorial Chapel
Carleton College
Sunday, February 11, 2007
6:30 p.m.