

**R**onald Harry Gooding, professor emeritus at the University of Alberta passed away on 29 December 2019.

Ron, born 18 October 1936, grew up in Edmonton and attended the University of Alberta, obtaining his BSc in 1957. He received an MA from Rice University in Texas and ScD from Johns Hopkins, then spent two years as a research associate at Vanderbilt. Ron returned to Edmonton in 1966 as an assistant professor in the Department of Entomology, where his research initially focussed on digestive processes in mosquitoes. His distinguished career included five years of administrative duty as Department Chair from 1989 to 1994. He guided his Department through interfaculty negotiations that resulted in the merger of Entomology with Zoology and ultimately the creation of the Department of Biological Sciences. Ron continued his teaching and research in the new department, maintaining a long-term study of tsetse flies until retirement in 2002. His tsetse research began with their digestive physiology and biochemistry and moved later to their genetics, receiving international recognition in multiple fields. He loved meeting people and was always learning from new experiences.

Ron enjoyed teaching and is fondly remembered for his courses on insect biochemistry as well as medical and veterinary entomology, the latter being legendary among his students. Each lecture had a story associated with it. In one of these, as an undergrad working bare-chested in the hot sun at Lethbridge, Ron was observing tethered warble flies thinking he was dealing with *Hypoderma lineatum* rather than *H. bovis*. With *H. lineatum*, the eggs are laid in a line on a recumbent host and are easily detected whereas *H. bovis* lays eggs singly on an active host. The way Ron told the story, when his supervisor noted the fly eggs on his chest, he told Ron he would need to walk around with a hand held above his head. Since the grub normally burrowed to the highest point in the back of a cow, he would need to either remove the eggs immediately or devise a way to convince the grub not to end up in his brain. Ron's matter-of-fact delivery of that lecture impressed generations of students with the importance of knowing the species identity, not just the genus, of one's study animal.

Ron was also active in service contributing to the Entomological Society of Canada as Director-at-Large and to the Entomological Society of Alberta since his student days, as well as serving as President in 1987. He became an emeritus professor at the University of Alberta in 2002 and continued to be active in the local entomological community and as a reviewer.

While he was Chair of Entomology, Ron became a serious practitioner of Tai Chi, later crediting this focus with giving him the necessary strength and balance to help him through the challenging merger period. He also enjoyed time with his wife Sheila, son Rick, daughter-in-law Elizabeth and his three granddaughters, Anna, Claire and Grace.

Janet Sperling and Bev Mitchell (Professor Emeritus), Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta with appreciated input from Rick Gooding and Sheila Gooding.



**Ronald Harry Gooding  
(1936–2019)**