Dr. Samuel Gordon Campbell died on September 29, 1997 at age 63 years. He was born on the west coast of Scotland in Oban and was raised in the small town of Crieff where he learned and developed a liking for the rural life — especially animal agriculture, and particularly sheep husbandry. He chose veterinary medicine as his career and graduated from the School of Veterinary Medicine at Glasgow University at the young age of 22; after an internship at Glasgow University, he earned a Master of Science degree in Microbiology at the Guelph campus of the University of Toronto, Canada. He was then required to serve in the military in Britain and was posted as an officer of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps to a dog-training unit stationed in Malaya. Gordon then decided to pursue an academic career and came to Cornell University in 1961, obtaining his Ph.D. degree in Microbiology in 1964. Except for three years as a member of the faculty at the University of Melbourne, Australia, the rest of his career was spent at Cornell University, where he became an Assistant Professor in 1967 and achieved the rank of full Professor in 1978. He also held the post of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the College of Veterinary Medicine for five years; following this appointment, he became Director of International Programs. Thus, his contributions to Cornell University span over 30 years and incorporate a breadth of responsibilities including administration, research and teaching, for which he was given a distinguished teaching award in 1994 by the Agriculture Honor Society, Gamma Sigma Delta. This was not surprising since Gordon's lectures were spellbinding affairs richly decorated with amusing but relevant anecdotes. His research expertise encompassed the disciplines of bacteriology and immunology and he was always most interested in the practical application of his science. In fact, he engaged in a fair bit of sheep extension work in his own time and on top of his formal responsibilities. Gordon became involved in international affairs in part due to his experience in Malaya, and in part because small-ruminant husbandry represents a particularly important part of agriculture in developing countries. Always a supporter of the less privileged, he worked for many international aid organizations including the World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

This catalogue of achievements does not define the personality of the man. Gordon’s Scottish heritage (of which he was very proud) and his determination to retain and embellish his Scottish dialect (and harp and bagpipe skills) were combined with other Scottish traits such as being forthright in communication and requiring honesty and integrity from those with whom he interacted. As a member of the Cornell community, the needs of students were
foremost on Gordon’s personal agenda, as was the need to have representation of the faculty in the major decisions concerning governance of the university. Gordon served with distinction (often as chair) on many college and university committees. At meetings of the faculty of the college, his Scottish brogue was heard loud and clear as it rang around these halls with forcefulness and passion, and his subtle sense of humor. Gordon’s great wit and personal charisma also made him an excellent raconteur, and he was much in demand as an after dinner speaker.

He loved his profession and practiced it beyond Cornell, living on a farm in Dryden called “Hickory Ridge” with his wife, Elizabeth (Beth) and their sons, Rory, Kyle (Cornell 1990; Veterinary class of 2000), and Scott. He raised sheep, cattle and Border Collies, and bred and trained Collie sheep dogs. He was chairman of the Tompkins County SPCA and therefore practiced his profession to the ultimate level. Gordon and Beth Campbell were active in community affairs, and he was the founding president of the Rotary Club of Dryden. He enjoyed working with young people and on the day of his death had played soccer with some of the young men of the community. Thus, the Cornell and the Tompkins County communities have lost a person of great intellect, energy, enthusiasm and moral strength. However, he leaves a recorded legacy in the published minutes of the meetings of the faculty for future generations to emulate. In addition, the students, staff and faculty of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, have planted a red oak tree in Gordon’s memory at the entrance to the Veterinary Medical Center.

_Hollis Erb, David Robertshaw, Roger Avery_