

FACULTY OBITUARIES

LARRY D. ATWOOD, 55, a School of Medicine professor of neurology and School of Public Health professor of biostatistics, on June 1, 2012.

Atwood earned bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematical sciences from the University of Texas at Dallas. In 1986, he received a doctorate in computer science from the University of North Texas and spent the next four years in postdoctoral training in statistical genetics at the Louisiana State University Medical Center.

After his postdoctoral work, Atwood joined the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio and later the Division of Epidemiology and the Institute of Human Genetics at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

In 2001, Atwood joined the Framingham Heart Study in Boston as a senior geneticist. The multi-generational epidemiological study, begun in 1948 by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has been run by BU since 1971 under NIH contract.

He later cochaired the Framingham Genetics Steering Committee and was director of both the Framingham Genetics Data Management Group and the Framingham Genetics Laboratory. He also was codirector of SNP Health Association Resource (SHARe), a project to search the human genome for genetic variants affecting hundreds of traits that have been measured in the Framingham participants since 1948.

Atwood's primary research interest was the genetics of complex diseases, particularly obesity.

Madeline Rosenberger (COM'14)

JOHN W. BRACKETT, 75, a College of Engineering professor emeritus of computer systems engineering, on September 9, 2012.

Brackett had been a member of the ENG faculty since 1987. He also was a visiting professor in the Graduate School of Management, teaching courses in systems and software

requirements definition, software architecture for distributed systems, and information technology project management.

Before embarking on an academic career, Brackett spent 17 years in industry, advancing major computer-based systems. He was one of the founders of SofTech, a Boston-based software company, which in 15 years grew from a staff of 5 to more than 700, with offices in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Japan. As vice president of software production, he managed the company's software development projects for large commercial and government clients. He later was SofTech's president and CEO and a director of the company from 1976 to 1984, and was vice president of the business products division of Infocom, Inc.

"John was a dedicated instructor with a vision to develop a PhD program in software engineering," says David Castañón, an ENG professor and chair of the electrical and computer engineering department. "He joined the Wang Institute of Graduate Studies and subsequently Boston University to instantiate this vision, and he created a graduate curriculum of professional software engineering courses. For his efforts, he was nominated for the Metcalf Award, BU's highest recognition for excellence in teaching.

"John became an emeritus professor in 1999," Castañón says, "but continued contributing to the department's software engineering efforts by teaching part-time. He remained passionate about his curricular vision over the years, participating in a national effort, the Integrated Software & Systems Engineering Curriculum Project, to develop a graduate curriculum for teaching software engineering."

Beyond BU, Brackett delivered lectures on software engineering and project management for the master's program in engineering management at Tufts University, the National



JOHN W. BRACKETT

KALMAN ZABARSKY

Technological University, the Software Engineering Institute, the Association for Computing Machinery, and several companies in the United States, Europe, and Japan.

Brackett also worked with software companies as

an interim manager and consultant. His consulting clients included Alcatel Communications, Computer Sciences Corporation, the Federal Aviation Administration, J. P. Morgan, Lockheed Martin, Rockwell International, Science Applications International Corporation, and the Software Productivity Consortium.

He earned a BS from MIT in 1959 and a PhD from Purdue University in 1963 and was a postdoctoral research associate at MIT's Laboratory for Computer Science. *Mark Dworzan*

ROBERT F. SLECHTA (GRS'55), 84, a College of Arts & Sciences professor emeritus of biology, on December 17, 2012.

Slechta was born in New York, N.Y., and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Clark University and a PhD from BU.

During his early research work at the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology, he contributed to the development of the birth control pill, according to the *Bedford Minuteman*. At Boston University, Slechta focused on reproductive physiology. He retired in 1991.

A 50-year resident of Bedford, Mass., Slechta was a prominent figure



BU PHOTOGRAPHY

ROBERT F. SLECHTA

IN MEMORIAM

1930s

TERESA M. HARTWELL (COM'33, SMG'33) *Amherst, Mass.*

NATHAN O. HERMAN (SMG'33) *Boynton Beach, Fla.*

ROBERT J. TIEWS (CAS'38, GRS'39) *Ann Arbor, Mich.*

NICHOLAS J. FIUMARA (MED'39) *Belmont, Mass.*

1940s

HAZEL O. B. BUNDY (SED'42) *Juno Beach, Fla.*

ELIZABETH J. CAMPBELL (CAS'42) *Boston, Mass.*

JULIAN GANAK (SMG'42) *Charles Town, W.Va.*

ROBERT L. BATES (CAS'43, LAW'49) *Great Bend, Kans.*

LILLIAN S. PEARLSTEIN (CAS'43, GRS'48) *Swampscott, Mass.*

WILLIAM H. WAUGH (CAS'43) *Greenville, N.C.*

SEYMOUR R. SHALEK (MED'45) *Jamaica Plain, Mass.*

JUNE N. GIBBS (GRS'47) *Middletown, R.I.*

MILTON STANZLER (LAW'47) *Cranston, R.I.*

DONALD H. CLAPPERTON (SMG'48) *Sarasota, Fla.*

RICHARD J. GORDON (COM'48) *Darnestown, Md.*

RUTH F. MERRILL (SED'48) *York, Maine*

GEORGE MICHAELS (LAW'48) *Naples, Fla.*

MELVIN H. BRIGGS (SMG'49) *Southwick, Mass.*

THOMAS F. CARROLL (SMG'49) *Portsmouth, N.H.*

CAROL LECHTHALER HILLS (COM'49) *Kennebunk, Maine*

RAYMOND F. LARAMIE (LAW'49) *Saint Louis, Mo.*

KATHERINE C. MCELANEY (SED'49) *West Falmouth, Mass.*

MOIRA DAVISON REYNOLDS (GRS'49;52) *Cincinnati, Ohio*

ELLEN L. STEVENS (CAS'49, GRS'50) *Cambridge, N.Y.*

ROLLIN C. WILLIAMS (SSW'49) *East Lyme, Conn.*

1950s

ISABEL ELLA DEMMON (SON'50) *Fitchburg, Mass.*

GEORGE IRVING HAYNES (SMG'50) *Port Huron, Mich.*

MARGARET NEVIN (SON'50) *Virginia Beach, Va.*

LOUIS M. PELOSI (SED'50) *Saugus, Mass.*

FRANKLIN P. TAPLIN (CFA'50) *South Hadley, Mass.*

ROBERT J. BULLOCK (CAS'51) *Sharon, Mass.*

JANE COOKSON (SON'51) *San Bernardino, Calif.*

LOUIS G. MAGLIO (SED'51;53) *North Andover, Mass.*

ERNEST R. PENDLETON (SMG'51) *Melrose, Mass.*

LOIS H. RICHARDSON (CFA'51) *Williamsville, N.Y.*

RUTH K. SIMONS (SED'51) *Marblehead, Mass.*

ELENA M. VOLANTE (CAS'51) *Newtonville, Mass.*

JOHN O'SULLIVAN FRANCIS (SMG'52) *Cambridge, Mass.*

DUDLEY WHITTLESEY HALL (CAS'52) *Wayland, Mass.*

EARL D. HAYWOOD (STH'52;58) *Concord, Mass.*

LEROY KLEIN (GRS'52;58) *Chagrin Falls, Ohio*

MARY E. CORKERY (SED'53) *Dunstable, Mass.*

DWIGHT D. DARRAH (STH'53) *Tulsa, Okla.*

HELEN MORIARTY (SED'53) *Hyannis, Mass.*

BARBARA J. RITTENBURG (SED'53) *Sharon, Mass.*

ANDREW M. BROWN (CFA'54;55) *Monticello, Ky.*

KENNETH FULLER (ENG'54) *Amesbury, Mass.*

ROBERT B. GOODSPEED (DGE'54) *Fort Myers, Fla.*

MARCO J. LANDON (SED'54) *Fitchburg, Mass.*

DAVID S. MACNEILL (DGE'52, COM'54) *Framingham, Mass.*

DONALD M. ROTHBERG (COM'54) *Washington, D.C.*

WILLIAM A. CHAMBERLAIN (STH'55) *Fulton, Mo.*

STEPHEN J. CUCINOTTA (CGS'55) *Norwood, Mass.*

RUTH A. DANFORTH (CAS'55) *Ipswich, Mass.*

LINWOOD W. DUTTON (SMG'55) *Augusta, Maine*

JOHN STEPHEN MULLEN (COM'55) *Feeding Hills, Mass.*

JOSEPH W. BACHAK, JR. (CFA'56) *Merritt Island, Fla.*

ROBERT S. YAMANE (SMG'56) *Wailuku, Hawaii*

WILLIAM T. JACKSON (ENG'57) *Wilmington, N.C.*

CONSTANCE G. LOYNES (SED'57) *Westport, Conn.*

VICTOR L. MACNEIL (CAS'57, GRS'58) *Hingham, Mass.*

JOHN F. O'CONNOR (MED'57) *North Falmouth, Mass.*

KIVA SKOLNICK (CAS'57) *Beverly, Mass.*

THOMAS F. BRODERICK (SMG'58) *Winsisquam, N.H.*

JOHN F. DONAHUE (LAW'58) *Springfield, Mass.*

VIVIAN FOX (GRS'58;69) *Brookline, Mass.*

RICHARD D. ZONIS (MED'58) *Scottsdale, Ariz.*

JAMES C. BRAID (STH'59) *Hartland, Mich.*

RALPH GEORGE LUBITZ (CAS'59) *Stevens Point, Wis.*

JOHN D. MCKINLAY (SMG'59) *Bloomfield Hills, Mich.*

CHARLES N. WANOSKY (SMG'59) *Stamford, Conn.*

JOSEPH A. ZAITCHIK (GRS'59;65) *Wayland, Mass.*

1960s

GAIL ELINOR MOLLOY (SAR'60) *Cotuit, Mass.*

GEORGE M. MURPHY (SED'60) *Barkhamsted, Conn.*

JOHN L. QUINN (CAS'60) *Mercersburg, Pa.*

RALPH E. CHAMBERS (SED'61) *Dennis Port, Mass.*

JAMES J. DOTY (COM'61) *Wellesley Hills, Mass.*

RICHARD J. TROY (CAS'61, GRS'62) *Everett, Mass.*

JACK I. ZALKIND (LAW'61) *Boston, Mass.*

MARCIA D. BELLERMANN (CAS'62, SED'64) *Fitchburg, Mass.*

HAVEN L. BRESLAW (CAS'62) *Brookline, Mass.*

AGNES TERESA MEANY (SON'62) *Emmitsburg, Md.*

RICHARD M. PALANZA (GRS'62) *North Easton, Mass.*

HENRY MORTON ROBINSON (CAS'62) *Chelmsford, Mass.*

C. ALAN ANDERSON (GRS'63) *Holiday, Fla.*

JOHN RUSSELL DUGGAN (LAW'63) *Dedham, Mass.*

JOHN G. STRANZ (CGS'63) *Guilford, Conn.*

JOHN THOMAS (SED'63) *Brockton, Mass.*

JOHN FITZPATRICK (CAS'64) *Fort Pierce, Fla.*

JAMES E. WHITE (GRS'64) *Orange City, Fla.*

GERARD F. ARMSTRONG (SMG'65) *Waltham, Mass.*

ROBERT M. FRANCIS (SED'66) *Palm Coast, Fla.*

FRANCIS X. PROUT (CAS'66, GRS'69, GSM'71) *Norfolk, Mass.*

GENEVA S. HAMILL (STH'67) *Lynn, Mass.*

ROBERT E. HUGHES (STH'67) *Issaquah, Wash.*

MARY MALONE SULLIVAN (SED'67) *Lake Worth, Fla.*

DANIEL J. ABRAMSON (CAS'68) *Jupiter, Fla.*

DOROTHY B. PARKER (SED'68) *Lynnfield, Mass.*

SHIRLEY A. WAGONER (SED'68) *Huntingdon, Pa.*

MARY CHANDLER DUNCAN (SED'69) *Boothbay Harbor, Maine*

ALBERT LOUIS ELIAS (CAS'69) *Jupiter, Fla.*

BARBARA A. LYONS (SON'69) *Pensacola, Fla.*

JOHN A. RAABE (GRS'69;77) *East Hartland, Conn.*

1970s

DOUGLAS LEE BURWICK (LAW'71) *Shrewsbury, Mass.*

LYNN E. HARVEY (CFA'71) *Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

ANNIE POLCARI (SED'71, SPH'72) *North Falmouth, Mass.*

ERNEST PUGLISE (CFA'71) *Milford, Conn.*

ROBERT CHANDLER (LAW'72) *Delray Beach, Fla.*

VARINA M. STEUERT (CAS'72) *Darien, Conn.*

KENNETH M. WORTMAN (SDM'72) *Tamarac, Fla.*

FRED E. ALLEN (SED'73) *Dennysville, Maine*

DOROTHY J. MULCAHY (CAS'73) *Bridgewater, Mass.*

OPHELIA PHILLIPS-SCOTT (SED'74) *Williamsburg, Va.*

JAMES E. HARRIS (LAW'75) *Little Rock, Ark.*

TERRY LEVIN (SED'75) *Framingham, Mass.*

JOSEPH E. PARIS (MED'75) *Marietta, Ga.*

CHARLES M. LYONS (SED'78) *Scarborough, Maine*

NILDA M. MIRANDA (SED'78) *Miami, Fla.*

DAVID W. FAULKNER (COM'79) *Buzzards Bay, Mass.*

1980s

DIANNE C. MCCLAVE (SON'80) *Kennebunk, Maine*

JAY M. PALERMO (SED'80) *Salem, Mass.*

HELEN BRAY-GARRETSON (GRS'83;85) *Sheffield, Mass.*

JONATHAN SAMEN (LAW'83) *Lexington, Mass.*

IRENE GOOD (CAS'85, GRS'86) *Westwood, Mass.*

MAUREEN S. BRYDON (GSM'87) *Dayton, Maine*

JULIE L. MANDARINO (GSM'87) *Cambridge, Mass.*

CHRISTOPHER DAVID WALSH (CAS'87) *Malden, Mass.*

IAN REED AXELROD (SMG'89, GSM'89) *Syosset, N.Y.*

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1990s

ROBERT BROADBENT (ENG'90) *Quincy, Mass.*

GERARD M. MELUSO (GSM'90) *Colorado Springs, Colo.*

COLETTE PARSONS (COM'92) *Baldwinsville, N.Y.*

LORRAINE RUBY (CFA'92) *Norton, Mass.*

ELIZABETH J. PENTLETON (MET'93) *Watertown, Mass.*

2000s

MERCEDES RAMIREZ-NEWKIRK (SSW'02) *Worcester, Mass.*

VIVIAN LIN (SMG'05) *Oakland Gardens, N.Y.*

BRIDGET (MOONEY) SPENCE (CAS'05) *Sudbury, Mass.*

ELIZABETH WOLF (SMG'05) *Ambler, Pa.*

in town, and he had a keen interest in preserving its history. He was a member of the Historic District Commission, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Friends of the Bedford Free Public Library. He also served as president of the Bedford Historical Society from 1994

to 1997. Much of his involvement in the town was centered on the Old Burial Ground. According to the Bedford Historical Society, Slechta helped secure grants from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to repair and restore broken gravestones and tombs. He also was the guide for

Bedford's third graders during the annual Walk of Historic Bedford. In 2010, Slechta was named Bedford's Citizen of the Year. "He was always learning something new," his son Marc Slechta told the *Minuteman*. "He really enjoyed the historic part of our town." *Casey Rackham (COM'13)* ■