FACULTY OBITUARIES

of railroading,” he said, “but I listened in fascination as Sam would descant upon the history of railroading.”

McCracken also had an interest in camera collecting, “as an intellectual study of the history of lenses, shutters, and so forth,” said his wife, Natalie Jacobson McCracken, retired editor in chief for development and alumni publications at BU. The two met as undergraduates at Drake University, on the first day of their Shakespeare’s Chronicles class. She was struck by his prodigious memory.

“Without having tried to memorize them,” she recalled, “Sam knew the dates the monarchs were born, deposed, reinstated, perhaps deposed and reinstated again, and died.”

“He was quick and encyclopedic,” his daughter, Elizabeth McCracken (CAS’88, GRS’88), told the Boston Globe. “I’m not sure if you could call it photographic, but he didn’t seem to ever have forgotten a fact that he learned from a book.”

James Brann, a College of Communication professor emeritus of journalism, who was chairman of COM’s journalism department from 1973 to 1980, said he was often called upon to give speeches in the mid-1970s. He made a habit of checking his facts with McCracken, who could summon the answers from memory. “Sam was my Google before Google was invented,” Brann said.

McCracken was born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1935. After graduating from Drake, he earned a master’s in English from the University of Connecticut and did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and the University of London.

The McCrackens were married in 1959, and in 1963, Sam McCracken became an English instructor at BU. Four years later, he joined the faculty at Reed College, then returned to BU in 1974 as assistant to the president. “He and John Silber had great respect and affection for each other,” his wife said.

“It was a working relationship, but also a real friendship,” his son, Harry McCracken (CAS’86), told the Globe. “It was just the ideal job for someone like my father.”


Vita Paladino, director of the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, said McCracken believed in “improving everything in his world. This would include notifying us when he found a factual error in an exhibition label. He was more worried about your making yourself look foolish than he was about making himself look smart. He wanted us to look good.”

Paladino (MET’79, SSW’93) described her friend as remarkable, amazing, and funny. “You are lucky to meet one Sam McCracken in your life,” she said.

WILLIAM R. CRANLEY (MED’68), 70, a School of Medicine clinical professor of radiology and associate professor of pediatrics, on May 18, 2013.

An expert in pediatric radiology, Cranley spent his entire medical career at Boston City Hospital, now Boston Medical Center (BMC).

He earned a bachelor’s degree from Villanova University and a medical degree from MED. After completing his training in pediatrics at Boston City Hospital, he served for three years as a major in the Air Force, stationed at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, S.C.

After opening a private practice in pediatrics, he soon became enamored with radiology and went back to BU for training. He would spend the next 35 years in pediatric radiology.

In 1997, Cranley was appointed vice chair of MED’s department of radiology. He was for many years a member of the school’s admissions committee.

Cranley was passionate about treating children and mentoring students and residents, according to an obituary in the Boston Globe. “Dr. Bill,” as he was affectionately known, was beloved for his leadership, his knowledge, his teaching, his dry and unflagging sense of humor, but mostly for his dedication to the care of children and the education of hundreds of medical students and residents,” according to the Globe.

He was honored by BMC with the Jerome Klein Award for Physician Excellence as well as the Jack O. Haller Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Society for Pediatric Radiology, which recognizes those who have demonstrated an “outstanding ability to educate trainees (medical student, resident, and fellow) and...shown sustained substantial excellence in mentorship skills.”

Outside the classroom and the hospital, Cranley’s favorite place was his family’s home on Bow Lake in New Hampshire. MR

LEWIS R. WEINTAUB, 79, a School of Medicine professor of medicine, on August 18, 2013.

Weintaub, an award-winning teacher of hematology, was known for putting patients at ease and helping future medical students become the best in their field.

Weintaub graduated from Harvard Medical School when he was only 23 years old. He interned at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and became a resident at the University Hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich. He began the study of hematology during a fellowship at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. He served three years as a captain in the Army Medical
Corps, working as assistant chief of hematology at Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington, D.C., where he worked with pioneering hematologist William Crosby and where he conducted research on iron metabolism.

Weintraub began his career in academia at Tufts University School of Medicine in 1965; he joined the MED faculty in 1972. He was the chief of hematology at Boston Medical Center (BMC) for more than 25 years, working full-time well into his 70s.

He was honored by the medical center with the 2011 Jerome Klein Award for Physician Excellence. "Lewis has a gentle approach to educating and mentoring his students, and he makes sure patients always receive the ultimate care," said Rabin Davidson, a MED professor of clinical cardiology and BMC chief medical officer, at the awards ceremony on January 31, 2012. "Thank you for what you have given us and our patients."

Weintraub also was nationally known for his research, according to David Seldin, a MED professor of medicine and microbiology and chief of the section of hematology-oncology at BMC, who told the Boston Globe that Weintraub was "a giant of hematology from a different era in medicine."