In the preface to her final book, *Shakespeare’s Tragic Skepticism* (Yale, 2002), Millicent Bell stated her ambitious aim: “I have tried to mark out a pathway across a trampled field.…But in the case of Shakespeare, there is always something true and important that seems not to have been said before.”

In her scholarly life, Bell, a College of Arts & Sciences professor emerita of English, demonstrated this same fusion of intellectual boldness, passion, and generosity—traits she inspired her students to discover in themselves.

Bell died on August 6, 2015. She was 95.

At age 15, Bell enrolled at New York University and went on to earn an MA and a PhD at Brown University. She joined the English department at BU in 1963 and taught English and American literature at CAS and the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences until she retired in 1993. Awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Senior Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Fulbright Travel Grant to France, she was also a visiting professor at universities in France and Italy.

Among scores of journal articles, Bell penned classic essays on Melville’s *Moby-Dick* and on the “Fallacy of the Fall” in Milton’s *Paradise Lost*. She wrote several critically acclaimed books on Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edith Wharton, and Henry James, as well as *Marquand: An American Life* (Little, Brown, 1979), which was nominated for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. Her elegant and penetrating literary criticism also appeared frequently in the *New York Review of Books*.

Bell’s teaching interests were equally boundless, ranging from the medieval epic and romance to the modern novel. She was my undergraduate and graduate advisor at Boston University in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and her classes sparkled with excitement. Whether presenting an academic paper, teaching, or conversing, she was effervescent—an endearing quality that kindled classroom discussions and a devoted following.

And Bell loved her students. She and her husband, renowned MIT biologist Gene Bell, hosted memorable gatherings for her classes, first at their handsome brownstone off Beacon Street (which one English professor described as “something out of a Henry James novel”), and later at their Commonwealth Avenue home near the Charles River Campus.

Devoted to the life of the mind and imagination, Bell did not consider herself a social activist, but her empathy and sense of justice were keen. On the morning after the killings of four students at Kent State on May 4, 1970, when BU canceled final exams and hordes of students roamed around campus in grief and rage, several gathered around Bell on Bay State Road. She spoke quietly through tears about having seen one of the victims, Allison Krause, on TV putting flowers in the barrel of the gun of an Ohio National Guardsman. After the death of her...
Musicologist Joel Sheveloff focused his scholarship on composers Domenico Scarlatti, Modest Mussorgsky, and Igor Stravinsky. But he loved J. S. Bach.

Bach is “our Shakespeare, our Pushkin, the greatest mind ever to write music,” Sheveloff, a College of Fine Arts professor emeritus of music, musicology, and ethnomusicology, said in a B.U. Today profile just before he retired in 2010.

He also loved his students. When asked in the profile if he will miss them, he said, “Oh, yes, terribly. I’m very proud. My students have spoiled me rotten.”

Sheveloff, who taught at B.U. for 46 years, died on November 8, 2015.

In a message to the C.F.A. community, Richard Cornell, director ad interim of the School of Music, described Sheveloff as “a great spirit.”

“He could spin a yarn.”

Sheveloff graduated from the City University of New York, Queens College, then earned a master’s and a doctorate from Brandeis University. He published numerous articles on the music of Mozart, Ravel, Scarlatti, Mussorgsky, and Stravinsky; at Boston University, he developed and taught more than 50 courses on subjects that included medieval keyboard compositions and music in the former Soviet Union. He was known to add an hour to class descriptions to weed out students who weren’t sufficiently serious about the course matter.

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Donations in honor of Joel Sheveloff may be made to the John Daverio Memorial Scholarship Fund, Boston University College of Fine Arts Office of Development, 855 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215.