



Cornell University  
ILR School

## ILR Memory Book Series

From time to time, on-line memory books are made available on the web site of Cornell University's ILR School as a way for past students, colleagues, and friends to post their recollections of faculty and distinguished staff members.

This series collects the comments left by visitors to these memory books.

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### Martha Smith

Retired March 2004

Martha Smith said goodbye to her long withstanding career as Associate Director of ILR's Office of Career Services. Smith earned a B.S. in Business Administration from California State University, Hayward in 1969. In 1976, she came to Ithaca when her husband was a Ph.D. student at Cornell, and in 1978 Smith became a temporary assistant to Professor Larry Williams. Shortly after, Smith was offered a permanent position in the Office of Career Services where she advised and befriended students for over 26 years.



After retiring, Smith plans to devote more time to her community and her church. When reflecting upon her career of assisting and nurturing in the development of ILR students, Smith said, "They come in as caterpillars; they evolve, and then they leave as butterflies. They have to learn to be students - it isn't always easy, but they always manage. As they open up, we all learn that we are more alike than we are different and together we learn to appreciate the likenesses and the differences."

She wishes to thank everyone for good wishes following her surgery in 2004.

*Visitors to the memory book for Martha Smith made the following comments between February 5, 2004 and June 11, 2004.*

I will always remember Martha strolling down the hall, serenading us with her beautiful voice. In addition to her musical talents, Martha has a real knack for remembering and telling jokes. She has shared many, and together we've laughed a lot over the years. I wish Martha nothing but complete happiness in her retirement.

- Barbara McPherson, Barton Feb 5 2004

Thank you for always saying yes whenever MILRSO needed a favor. From resume critiques to Fireside chat preparations, your help has been crucial to this organization's and its members' success! We love you and wish you many blessings during your retirement.

- Keisha Latimore, Ithaca, NY Feb 8 2004

I feel selfish saying how much we'll miss your membership in our dysfunctional Cornell Career Services family. Of course it's time for you to relax and to challenge yourself in new ways. Best wishes.

- IJK, Cornell A&S Career Services Feb 9 2004

I offer my best to Martha as she moves on to this next great opportunity. She has a heart made of pure gold, and shared it with everyone, equally. Few in the world have her humility. Her time in ILR will be remembered by her great deeds, and by her warmth and genuine concern for others. As a colleague she taught me a lot about working for and with others. She is wise, appreciating both teaching and sharing, but also being a student in the field - learning where the opportunities presented themselves. Her longevity in the field speaks volumes about the capacity of her heart, and importance she placed on networking and relationship building. Her work will resonate in the lives of all who came into contact with her. Blessings.

- Barry Taylor, Princeton, NJ Feb 10 2004

I have IMMENSELY enjoyed working with you over the past few years. I've always been amazed at your ability to be calm, cool, and collected during some of our most hectic days and some of our most "out-of-the-ordinary" situations. Because of working with you I can now consider myself enlightened about "falling out", "the real meaning of F-I-N-E", and "getting down". I will miss you! Enjoy your retirement...you've more than earned it!!

- Dottie Carlson, 201 Ives Hall Feb 11 2004

Martha was so helpful to me as a student as well as an alumni. A great asset to ILR school will be moving on. Best wishes in retirement.

- Russell Roman, Marblehead, MA Feb 15 2004

Martha has been such a wonderfully positive influence at ILR for her whole career. She always had a smile for every struggling student and never let the wild days get to her. Enjoy your next career Martha knowing you have touched so many. Thank you.

- Kimberly "Miller" Bocian, Dayton, OH Feb 16 2004

Martha, you are truly a gem. Your sincerity, guidance, and wisdom have meant more to us than you will ever know. Congratulations on your retirement!

- *Laura Bass Penn, Farmingville, NY Feb 17 2004*

Martha, you were a coach, wardrobe consultant and therapist for so many of us during what otherwise would have been a far more stressful time in our lives. Thanks so much for your time and commitment - your retirement is a loss to future classes!

- *Tannia Horodeczny, Philadelphia, PA Feb 19 2004*

Martha, you always took the time to work with students (even in their freshman year) and help give them the skills to find the right employment opportunity. Your support provided real-life value to an ILR degree. Thank You!

- *Itai Dinour, New York, NY Feb 22 2004*

Martha - like a star in the sky, you shine. I have appreciated you so much more after having graduated from Cornell. You made the return to Ithaca on recruiting trips, so enjoyable. Thank you for truly caring, sharing your wisdom and being a light. Your role may be filled by someone else, but you will never be replaced.

- *Connie Gruenwald, Minneapolis, MN Feb 23 2004*

May God continue to bless you.

- *Willie Davon Smalls, South Carolina Mar 15 2004*

Martha, It has been a pleasure knowing you all of these years. I do wish you the best and hope that your retirement is full of happiness and contentment.

- *Sandy Jordan, Candor Mar 15 2004*

Martha - Some of my fondest memories of the ILR School revolve around getting to know you from working on the WISP program. Your balanced perspective on life and wry sense of humor kept many students and staff sane during stressful times. All my best to you.

- *Karen Osofsky, Seattle, WA Mar 19 2004*

What a sweet, unassuming woman with the voice of an angel! Martha, it has been my pleasure to work at ILR with you. Your work ethic, style and personality make you a valued employee and a very special person. Have a very happy and long retirement. I know that you will be keeping busy making other people's lives special too.

- *Jean Gustafson, Liverpool, NY Mar 22 2004*

Martha: I can still hear you singing as you walked through the halls and oh that wonderful smile. Enjoy your retirement and never stop singing.

- *Mary Ann Pratt, Watkins Glen, NY Mar 25 2004*

The halls of ILR will not seem the same without Martha in them. From her beautiful singing voice to her infectious smile she is a very upbeat person and nothing seemed to let her down. What an inspiration that is to me. She will be sorely missed. Wishing you the very best and much happiness!!

- *Kathy Roberts, Candor, NY Mar 26 2004*

Hi Martha, I am embarrassed by all the years that have passed, however I have thought of you often and with fond memories of how much help and support you were. You were one of the first people that helped me set the standards for excellence and dedication. I have been in touch with Michael Ried over the years and we always recall with pleasure the fun we had working with you. I now run an executive search firm and have been married 12 years and have a beautiful 7 year old daughter and 5 year son. If in your spare time you find yourself traveling to San Diego we would love to see you. In the meantime I wish you health, joy, and all that you dream of in your retirement and again many, many thanks for all you have done for me and all ILR students. Fondly, Steve Hochberg

- *Steve Hochberg, San Diego, California Mar 27 2004*

Martha, I will never forget how you sharpened your pencil and transformed my "blah" resume into something worth sending to employers! You were always available to your students - that will never be forgotten. Enjoy your time off - you earned it! -Sonia (Class of '95)

- *Sonia (Malhotra) Cunningham, San Francisco, CA Apr 1 2004*

I can vividly remember the day I contacted Martha's office for getting some help with my resume. Martha gave me a sample of some great resumes so that I can work on improving my resume. And then she said: "once you are done, we will have fun, fun, fun editing the resume." It was indeed fun as Martha and I worked on making my resume look professional. I loved the enthusiasm with which Martha worked on my resume. Even today, when I have to update or modify my resume, Martha's "fun, fun, fun with resume" rings in my ear, and make me more enthusiastic about my resume.

- *ritz, New York Apr 23 2004*

Martha, my first memory of you was your velvet voice on the telephone. Many years ago, when I first started out in Career Services, you always made me feel special and important, especially when you would call just to see how I was doing. You have been my role model as I have learned that it's the small things that make a difference; it's how you treat others, and just a smile and a hello might be all it takes to lift another. Thank you for being such a wonderful friend. Jo-Lynn

- *Jo-Lynn Buchanan, Erin, NY Apr 23 2004*

Martha, I will always cherish the time we spent on the Outreach Team together. You made our meetings exciting and fun. I will never forget your great earrings and “glitter” at the holiday party. You will truly be missed. I wish you all the best in life and hope you thoroughly enjoy your retirement. Warmest Wishes, Jennifer DeRosa

- Jennifer DeRosa, Ithaca, NY Apr 23 2004

Martha, you were absolutely one of the most positive and helpful people in ILR. Your wonderful attitude, helpfulness, along with your zest for life will truly be missed. Enjoy your retirement and keep on singing.

- Cheryl, 393 Ives Hall Apr 23 2004

Dear Martha, Your genuine enthusiasm and optimism have always amazed me. These qualities made you successful at ILR and in life down the road. Thank you for your great contributions. You will be missed. All my best, Rano

- Rano Burkhanova, Ithaca, NY Apr 23 2004

Dear Martha - Much love and God's blessings to you on your “re-wirement”! Our relationship goes back 20 years (Ohmigosh!). I still remember your support, nurturing, guidance, and thoughts as I navigated the halls of Ives and the wonderful world of HR work. “Thank you” seems so inadequate, but know that I mean it sincerely. I think a true testament to your spirit is that even though we have known each other for 20 and see each other infrequently, I still feel like your support and caring is just as genuine today as it was in 1985. You are truly a special soul. Susan J MILR 1985.

- Susan Johnson, Stamford, Connecticut Apr 23 2004

Dear Martha, Your smile and disarming charm always created immediate connections with even the most frazzled students. It was a joy to work with you. I wish you all the best as you begin the next chapter of your life.

- Jodi R. R. Smith, Boston, MA Apr 23 2004

Dearest Martha, I wish you health and happiness. Just remember that now you are retired, every day is like a Saturday. Saturday Monday, Saturday Tuesday, etc. I'll miss all the laughs we've shared so keep me in mind if you have a good chuckle. When I first came to Career Services, it was you that made me feel so comfortable and safe in this strange big place called Cornell. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Wow, I still can't imagine ILR Career Services without you. Best Wishes on this next chapter.

- Norma Cancellari, 203 Barnes Apr 23 2004

Happy Retirement...We will miss you!

- Dio, College Town Apr 23 2004

Martha, thank you for selflessly sharing your wisdom and experience with me over the years. My visits to campus just will not be the same without you. Thanks for caring for my plant for so many years after graduation and for allowing me to benefit so greatly from your journey!

- *Scott Sherman, Oak Park, CA Apr 24 2004*

My dear Martha - the most important lessons I learned at Cornell were not from lectures or textbooks. They came from working with you in the Office of Career Services for four years. You taught me the meaning of professionalism, responsibility and how to treat all with dignity and respect. You are a role model to working women and mothers. In a word, you are an inspiration. Thank you for everything. My love to you - Mitchell.

- *Karen M. Mitchell, Manhattan Apr 25 2004*

Martha, you were an essential part of career services and Cornell, and will be missed by many. Thanks for all of the help and wisdom you gave for so many years. Best of luck in your retirement.

- *Tiffany Herrick, Boston, MA Apr 27 2004*

Martha, I can't believe enough time has passed for you to be ready for retirement. Though you may not remember, I remember well the way you used to joke about my deep voice. It made me laugh and comforted me as I anticipated my next on-campus interview. Each interview seemed like it might have a profound impact on the rest of my life. Your familiar presence was reassuring. It relieved the pressure and boosted my confidence. Many of my peers and I felt like we had someone rooting for us. Like the home team in a sporting event, someone rooting for us, gave us an edge. I hope your replacement offers the same support for future students as you did for me. Thank you and good luck.

- *Earl Exum, West Hartford, CT May 3 2004*

If you recall, we were introduced standing at the bus stop. So many times we meet and greet people while waiting on the bus and go for years never knowing each others names. I'm glad I know yours. We have had some good conversations on the bus. Your soft, quiet voice strong and ensuring always putting one at ease. Your cool calm and collective manner has often made me wonder if anything ever bothered you. But have learned over the years, it's just the way you accept everything, good or bad that comes across your path. God has chosen you for greatness, Be blessed in His holy spirit.

- *Pat Cooke, Ithaca, NY May 3 2004*

My dear friend. You came to ILR not long before I graduated, and I have been the better for it. It's hard to believe that it's been 25 years. I will miss going to ILR functions and not seeing you, which means you have to come anyway! You have been a friend and a beacon of light for these many years. Congratulations.

- *Dean Burrell, Downingtown Pa. May 4 2004*



Dear Martha, Best Wishes as you begin your next adventure - retirement. In the words of Arthur Ashe: "From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life". We are among your numerous friends in Ithaca who thank you for giving 26 years of excellent support and assistance to not only the students at Cornell University, but also to countless youth and young adults in our community. With sincere appreciation, admiration and LOVE! Roger & Arlene

- Dr. Roger and Arlene Richardson, Ithaca, NY May 5 2004

Martha, It's funny, but destined how the first two letters of your name are more than the all encapsulated image of Mom or, more appropriately "Ma" to me and many others who had the absolute blessing of having you become a part of our lives :)!!! Our emergence on campus signaled the start if not completion of when so many empty nests were created at home that our respective parents had to adjust in our absence. You simply...effortlessly made your nest bigger to accommodate our presence. Even though you had a family (Thank you Jerry, Mya and Lloyd for sharing and understanding) that needed you more than I did, your door was always open either at work or at home. I never considered myself anything less than another family member. Your patience and enhanced perspective on appreciating the warmer side of life and people has assisted me to this day on making decisions both personally and professionally. 'High above Cayuga's waters'- where earth and heaven meet, resides an angel who also happens to be the professor emeritus in the school of Individuality in the pursuit of Learning to love life Resulting in a life well lived (ILR) for those of you who didn't hit the curve the first time :) Martha, Thank you for being you. Your presence has impacted my life to make me a better: student, manager, man and human being. May the best of your past be the absolute worst of your future. I LOVE YOU!!!! "Your Don"

- Don Estill II, Detroit, MI May 7 2004

Martha: I wish I could be there to celebrate your retirement. You brought so much joy to my life. I remember having so many belly laughs with you. Thank you for helping me to laugh, for being patient, for providing other ways of looking at things, for coming to my first wedding in Philadelphia. You are a terrific human being. I admire and thank you for your spirit, patience, great sense of humor, laughter, nurturing capability, and your presence. You will be missed by many and I hope you have a FANTASTIC second chapter of your life. And come and visit me in Arizona. It is so much fun out here and I would love to see you. My e-mail is lamms279@msn.com Lots of love, Sharon Lamm

- Sharon Lamm, Cave Creek, Arizona May 8 2004

Martha - You have touched so many lives with your warm and gentle presence; one pair of footsteps among many in our sand, yet a pair that has left such a lasting impression. You have been an inspiration with your giving spirit - and I am so glad we had the opportunity to meet, get to know one another, and stay in touch over the years. I wish you a wonderful new beginning... Warmest Regards, Kim

- Kim Nino, Acton, MA May 11 2004

Dear Martha - ILR will never be the same without you. Your smile will always be one of the things I will remember. That, and your singing in the hallways. You are such a wonderful, caring person that you make everyone around you feel special. I hope your retirement is everything you always dreamed of. Best wishes.

*- Sharon Reeves, Genoa May 11 2004*

Dear Martha, Thank you for all the support you have given to the ILR Staff Organization over the years. I know that it would not have survived through the years without dedicated staff like yourself. When you reminisce think about Frank Heroy and Terry Brace. What a pair!!! Remember Sue Willower's husband. Easy on the eyes for sure!! Peter Nero was a ray of sunshine to ILR while he was here. It has been a privilege and honor to know and work with you. You will be missed by everyone!!! You take care. I wish you health and much relaxation during your retirement. Fran

*- Fran Secord, Burdett New York May 11 2004*

Martha, Praise GOD for the blessing HE has enabled you to be to everyone. If it had not been for the LORD in your life, where would you be? Thank you for sharing your "Flower" with me in Jim McPherson's career development class in summer 1992. To GOD be the glory, great things HE has done! GAB

*- Gerald A. Beechum, Sr., Kansas City, MO May 13 2004*

Dear Martha, I am very happy for you and at the same time very sad that you will be leaving. It is tough for me to imagine walking into the Career Office and not seeing you or hearing your welcoming voice. I will miss you! Love, AY

*- Alex Yaroslavsky, New York May 14 2004*

Martha, It has been a great pleasure to know you. You have been an inspiration to so many people with your singing and smiling face in the halls, which has cheered at least myself up even when I would be down. The Lord has blessed you and I hope I can send a little of your positive aura out to other people like you have done. May your retirement be as fulfilling as your life at ILR has been. ENJOY!!!!!!!!!!

*- Carol Foster, Candor, NY May 14 2004*



Martha, Martha, Martha....there is just no other like Martha. You are unbelievable. Your kindness, thoughtfulness and positivity is contagious. Thank you for making my experience at Cornell ILR unforgettable. I will forever remember our extensive conversations after a long day, your encouragement right before an exam, our "Jackie Time"...I had to make special appts for those times :-). Even upon graduating and returning during recruiting seasons, my trips were never complete unless I saw you to get some positive energy, spiritual upliftment and laughter. You have created a huge impact on my life and I will be forever grateful. Continue to keep in touch and I'll do the same. As you close this chapter in your life, and start a new chapter, I leave you with this quote from a wise man... Continue to find joy within and express it in your face. When you do that, wherever you go a little smile will surcharge everyone with your divine magnetism. Everybody will be happy! -Paramahansa Yogananda Enjoy your "Martha Time"

*- Jackie Butler, Silver Spring, Maryland May 17 2004*

Martha--I learned so much from you and feel lucky to know you. Best wishes as you go on to make so many more people smile. Love, Stepper!

*- Lori Stepp, Atlanta, GA May 17 2004*

Martha - I have enjoyed having you as a colleague. Your wit and wisdom has enlivened and informed many an all-staff meeting. My very best wishes for a healthy, enjoyable, and satisfying retirement. You will be missed, Judy

*- Judy Jensvold, Ithaca, NY May 18 2004*

Martha -- I can't tell you how often kids ask me how I went from studying Industrial and Labor Relations in college to being a TV Weatherman....My response is standard: I tell them that when I was in school and trying to sort through what my life's path might be, I tried to surround myself with people who helped me believe that I was capable of doing anything with the right combination of determination, hard work, luck, and humility. You provided me with that kind of encouragement from the day I first walked into the basement at Ives -- and for that matter - every day since. I hope you know how many people you've had that same impact on. I am blessed for having met you at a time when that kind of support was so important. ...by the way...I forever wonder why you weren't the one who replaced Frank Rhodes! - Love, Dave

*- Dave Price, New York, New York May 19 2004*

Martha--Our years together span a quarter of a century+. You have always been there for me in mind, body, and spirit. Continue being the sweet, courteous person you have always been. All I can say is make your retirement the most enjoyable phase of your life. God has another plan for you. Quoting one of your famous quotes - "You will be as busy as a frog on a freeway".

*- Pam Jenkins-Smiley, Ithaca, NY May 20 2004*

I miss you Martha!!! I think you will always remember me by telling you (with my accent) how much I had missed you after being away from school for a couple of days or a long weekend...and now that I am really gone I still do!! Martha, you touched my life in such a particular and special way. Thanks for all your support and guidance through my stage at ILR grad school, and then some. You are one of those people that come into one's lives and remain with them forever. Enjoy your retirement and don't ever stop smiling and transmitting all your peace and love to others. I miss you! Maria

- *Maria Mejia, Cleveland, Ohio May 21 2004*

Dear Martha, It has been a real pleasure working with you in Career Services for over 20 years, and I have always appreciated your positive attitude and warm sense of humor. You have inspired countless ILR students who have benefited greatly from your guidance as they planned for life after Cornell. All the best for a bright and fulfilling future and please stay in touch with your CCS colleagues. Jane Levy

- *Jane Levy, 129 Westview Lane, Ithaca, NY 14850 May 21 2004*

I will write what I couldn't say today at your beautiful retirement party. You have touched my life in so many ways. Whenever I needed a hug or a smile, you've always given it to me. You have been courageous this past year and you have realized that every sunrise and sunset is a gift from above. Always take real good care of yourself and I know you will now forever be happy. Love and hugs to you forever...

- *Theresa Woodhouse, Genoa, NY May 21 2004*

Martha, I wish you joy and happiness in your retirement. Thank you for the warm smiles and kind words of encouragement that you bestowed upon me and so many of my colleagues as we ventured into Career Services. It's hard to come to grips with the fact that the memories I have of nervously waiting for interviews and wondering where things would lead were almost twenty years ago - yet your sympathetic ear and undying support remain foremost in my memories of Cornell ILR. I have looked back often on the picture you stumbled across and sent to me several years ago, of the young man I was, and all I can say is "thank you" for your contribution to the not so young man I am today. Love Reggie

- *Reginald Odom, Brooklyn, NY May 24 2004*

Martha, Did you win the lottery, I remember you told me that you would retire if you won the lottery. Now, if you did win the lottery, you have to share some of that. :) In all seriousness, you have touched my life in so many ways. I thank you for your 4 years of mentorship at ILR, and 3 years at OCS. I am sad that you are leaving, but glad that you will be able to have more free time to spend with the family and your other interests. I wish you all the best in your retirement! Fung-mix-a-lot

- *Fung Lin, New York, NY Jun 11 2004*