

Cornell University
ILR School

ILR Memory Book Series

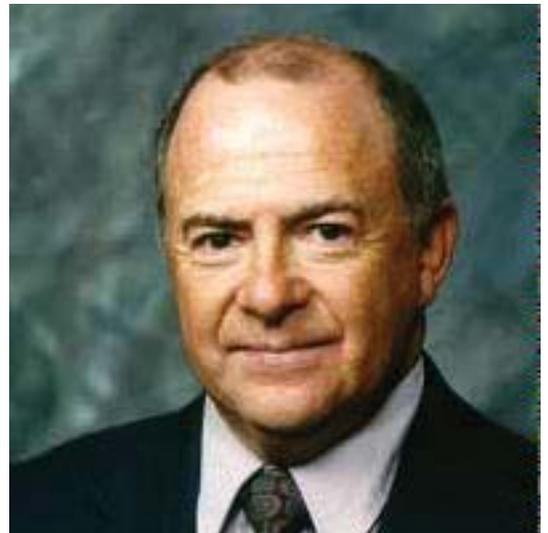
From time to time, on-line memory books are made available on the web site of Cornell University's ILR School as a way for past students, colleagues, and friends to post their recollections of faculty and distinguished staff members.

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

Allan Lentini

Allan Lentini is retiring from his position as Director of Administration for the School of Industrial & Labor Relations on October 26th, 2007. His responsibilities include those offices of Fiscal Operations, Facilities, Capital projects, Technical Services and Web Services. He was appointed to the position in September 1977.

Allan has had a 32 year career at Cornell University --- starting in May 1975 as the Director of Administrative Operations (probably the first position to be later known at Cornell as "College Administrative Officer") for the College of Architecture, Art and Planning (including Fiscal, Human Resources, and Facilities (for 5 years); then as the Director (same title, increased responsibilities) for the University Library System (for 5 years); then as Assistant Dean of Administration for the Hotel School (increased scope of responsibilities + Capital Projects and Computer Operations / Systems) for 5 years; then Assistant to the Senior Vice President and Interim Director of University Human Resources (a total of 3 years); then University Space Planner, working for various VPs --- including Ron Ehrenberg as the last (and best) of the VP supervisors, for 3-1/2 years, and; then his position at ILR for 10+ years.



During his employment at Cornell, Allan has worked for a total of five Deans, a Library Director, a Senior VP and three VP's. He has been College Client Representative and/or Project Manager on more than a half-dozen capital projects, including the Statler Hotel & Conference Center and the Hotel School, and the various Phase I, II and the currently in progress Phase III projects at ILR.

During Allan's "Space Czar" days in Day Hall, he was charged by the Provost to organize, budget and implement a plan to relocate the 11 different academic and administrative programs & departments that resided in Sage Hall before the renovation of that structure. The target date of two years set by the Provost to accomplish these relocations and start the renovation of Sage was (barely) met.

Allan received the George Peter Staff Achievement Award in 2005. Prior to arriving at Cornell, Allan earned a BEE (Electrical/Nuclear Engineering), an MBA, a Masters in Personnel Psychology and a Doctorate in Education.

Prior to Cornell, he held positions as a high school teacher (Algebra/Calculus/Computer Programming), assistant professor (Mathematics/Statistics/OB) and as a college Dean of Students.

Allan and his spouse, Denise, will be celebrating 40 years of marriage --- and 30 years of sailing --- in 2008. Their three sons and spouses live in the Seattle and Cleveland areas. Marc [BILR and MILR] and Matthew [MILR] are graduates of this School and work in related fields. Paul is a 10 year veteran of the Coast Guard.

The following submissions were made by visitors to the memory book from September 20, 2007 to October 18, 2007.

It has truly been a pleasure working with you over the past several years. Life won't be the same in Fiscal, without you coming in and "rearranging" my desk. I wish you and Denise total happiness in the next chapter of your life. I know that you'll enjoy sailing more often than you get to now. If you're ever traveling through North Carolina, please come visit Jack and I. Our home is right off exit 102 on route 95. The town is so small I'm sure you'll be able to ask anyone where we live.

- Barb McPherson, ILR Fiscal Operations Sep 20 2007

I have really enjoyed working with you, Allan. I hope you get to enjoy spending more time with your family and friends. You have worked long, hard hours for many years and you deserve to be able to relax, travel, go sailing and do whatever it is that makes you happy. I will never forget when you and Ted sang "Oh Donna" at the farewell luncheon for Donna's "retirement". Hopefully Donna will be singing at your retirement party!! Take care, and hopefully you will stop by to see us occasionally.

- Renee Orak, Fiscal Office Sep 20 2007

Dear Allan: I guess we have known each other since I was the Den “Mother” to the Cub Scout Troop that your son and mine participated in so many decades ago. I have observed and appreciated your contributions at CUL and ILR for many years now. No doubt there are many hard working, dedicated administrators at Cornell but you have been certainly one of them. Thank you particularly for all you have done to make ILR a better place for all of us.

- *Richard Strassberg, Ithaca Sep 20 2007*

Allan, Congratulations on your retirement! Thank you for all you have done for the School and also for making our recent building transition go much smoother than anyone could have hoped. Best of luck in the future.

- *Brad Bell, Ithaca Sep 24 2007*

This school will not be the same without you. You have worked so hard and those long hours you put in (not many would be in their office at 6am and sending e-mails at 10pm)!! You are truly one outstanding person in so many ways. I hope you enjoy your retirement and do some of the fun things you probably have put off for 31 years. Please keep in touch with us here. I know I will miss you. Take care and enjoy!!!

- *Colleen Clauson, Alpine Sep 24 2007*

May the wind carry you into a wonderful retirement! Wishing you all the best.

- *Lisa Rose, ILR Human Resources Sep 25 2007*

My Dear Friend Allan, You have been a dear and wonderful friend to me during our time together at ILR. I am so happy for you that you are retiring. May your life be full doing the things you want to do. Smooth Sailing!!!

- *Sandy J, Candor, NY Sep 28 2007*

Dear Allan: I have very much enjoyed knowing you in the last six years since I joined Cornell. I appreciated your help professionally and also enjoyed our occasional cup of coffee together. You will be sorely missed but I am glad that we will still get to see you in NYC during the conference center renovation. With best wishes to you and your family for health and happiness. Adel Hussein, NYC

- *Adel Hussein, NYC Sep 29 2007*

Dear Allan Thanks for all your wisdom and help. I hope this next phase of your life will be rewarding for you and your family and that you have glorious sailing. Barbara

- *Barbara Viniar, ICCD Oct 1 2007*

Dear Allan, I would imagine that you are continuously smiling, with your retirement just over the horizon. I know you are going to enjoy retirement just as much as I do. I want to thank you for being a friend at ILR. It was my pleasure to work with you and to know you. I wish you much happiness in your retirement years. As ever, Fran

- Fran Secord, Burdett NY Oct 1 2007

To one of the finest people I've ever had the privilege to work with. Allan, not only were you excellent in your position - hard-working, knowledgeable, smart - you also have a wonderful way of dealing with people. Thoughtful, respectful, sensitive. You have made a big impact and leave a terrific legacy. I'll miss you around here. With very best wishes. Fred

- Fred Kotler, Trumansburg Oct 2 2007

Allan, It has been a great pleasure to have worked with you in ILR over the years. I want to thank you for the many wonderful conversations and advice you have given to me. You are a very special person with a wonderful sense of humor and a warm heart. You will be sorely missed and I wish you smooth sailing into your retirement. Cheers, Kathy

- Kathy Roberts, ILR Social Statistics Dept. Oct 2 2007

Dear Allan: The ILR School owes you a huge debt of thanks for the work you have done so professionally and in such a dedicated fashion, even in the last few years when you have faced the challenges of a serious illness. I marvel at what you have done to mold the fiscal component of ILR into an office that provides timely information to the dean's office and willing help to faculty and staff -- all while accomplishing the difficult task of merging the Extension and Resident fiscal offices. You have also been critical to the smooth functioning of the School during years and years of construction-related disruptions. I am not sure how many people realize just how superb your work has been, because those who toil mostly behind the scenes are most noticed when they FAIL to do something well. You have been a pleasure to work with, and I shudder to think of life here over the past decade without you. Thank you, and I hope you and Denise enjoy a well-earned retirement!

- Robert Smith, Ithaca Oct 2 2007

Allan, you will be missed dearly. You have put in more than your share of time and now it's your turn to sit back and enjoy! Best wishes for a long, healthy, joyous retirement.

- Bonnie, Newfield Oct 4 2007

All you will be missed. I have enjoyed working with you from the time we first met at AAP till now. Please take care and enjoy. Henry

- Henry Crans, Newfield Oct 4 2007

Allan, I want to thank you for all the good guidance and career growth opportunities you provided to me when I worked for you when you were the ADBA and college officer at the Hotel School. You were instrumental in guiding the Hotel School through the construction of the 150 Statler Hotel and the

extensive renovations of the School. It has been my pleasure to remain in contact with you even when you moved on and I no longer worked for you. When I think of the many departments in which you have served, Cornell owes you a BIG THANK YOU! Have a wonderful retirement and enjoy the extra time you can now spend with Denise and your family. Regards, Kathy

- *Kathrynne Teeter, Hotel Administration Oct 4 2007*

Allan, We will miss you! We appreciate all the institutional committees you were willing to serve on and your valuable contributions throughout the years! Enjoy your retirement and all your upcoming trips you have planned. I'm jealous! Joanne

- *Joanne DeStefano, Ithaca Oct 4 2007*

Allan, You are a wonderful and very pleasant person and I have enjoyed dealing with you as a College Business Officer over the years. I wish you happiness in your future years. Debbie Spencer

- *Debbie Spencer, 260 Roberts Hall Oct 5 2007*

Allan- Boy it's been a lot of years and a lot of projects, shuffles and reorgs. We first met when you were with Libraries, hmm, Sheppard was gone and Seznec was director. But we really got together, along with Jane and others in the Sage Shuffle...moving on to inventory issues, and indirect cost and how to do same space planning....perhaps an impossible task. It seems everything you worked on came out terrific. Hope you have the time and health to take your boat south. Regards, Steve

- *Steve Little, Under the Smokestacks Oct 5 2007*

Allan, Thanks for being a wonderful colleague, boss for a short time and friend. Your smiling face and campus wisdom will be missed. Enjoy retirement.

- *Pete Tufford, Human Resources Oct 8 2007*

Allan, Although our paths never crossed much, when they did it was always a pleasure talking with you. Your knowledge and warm personality will never be replaced. I wish you much happiness in your new relaxing life!

- *Karen Brand, Ithaca, NY Oct 10 2007*

Allan, You had the hardest job in the world when you were Director of Space Planning for the University, but boy did I appreciate having you in that position. You instinctively knew what I needed to know before every meeting I had with the President and Provost and because of you I never was in the position of not knowing an answer to a question they asked. So you will fully understand why when Ed asked me if it was okay to talk to you about coming to ILR I had mixed feelings; I couldn't stand the thought of not having you to work with but I really cared about the welfare of ILR. Within 5 seconds, I realized what the right thing was to do and the rest is all history. ILR has been so lucky to have you.
Ron

- *Ron Ehrenberg, Ithaca Oct 10 2007*

Allan, It has been a pleasure working with you here at ILR. You will be missed greatly. Having you stop by our offices each morning to say hello was a wonderful start to the day. I wish you well on your retirement and like the others have said..HAPPY SAILING. PS: You still work here?

- Jo Hagin, Ithaca Oct 11 2007

Sincere best wishes on your retirement. It's been a pleasure to work with you and your team - particularly during the design period of the EDI space in the Extension Building - the glass conference room is a real success story !! Here's to a long and happy retirement - you deserve it !

- Sharon VanCampen, Ovid, NY Oct 11 2007

I'd rather be sailing, too! I wish you stiff breezes and warm waters.

- Michael Gold, Ithaca Oct 11 2007

Allan: Your professionalism, aplomb, and good humor never ceased to amaze as you consistently dealt with incredibly complex and demanding tasks - and sometimes people - with such apparent ease. You stand as a role model for us all and, believe me, you will be sorely missed. Happy sailing, Lee

- Lee Dyer, Ithaca Oct 11 2007

Allan: Many thanks for your friendship, guidance and support. Best wishes and warmest regards, Ed

- Ed Acevedo, Bay Shore, NY Oct 12 2007

Dear Allan, What a fantastic array of positions you have held over the years! I am happy to have met you and to have had the opportunity to interact with you in one of your positions. I was in one of the small offices you had to relocate out of Sage Hall. From my perspective, as a staff member who had to pack up the office, everything went smoothly. I remember thinking at the time, I was a bit sad to leave the building because I had a fireplace! Even if it was a non-working one, it was fun to decorate in December. It didn't matter that the snow blew in through the window around the A/C unit, I had a fireplace in my office! It was a cozy little office; however, the building needed to be renovated. Congratulations on your retirement! I look forward to seeing you at IYC in the season, and if you need a hand with your sailboat, I'd be happy to help. Continue to take good care of yourself ... and get to the things you WANT to do. It is your time - enjoy it to the fullest the best you can. Sincerely,

- Jeannette Little, Cornell Staff member and Friend Oct 14 2007

Dear Allan, It was a pleasure working for you. We're going to miss all the good conversations. Hope you enjoy retirement. You certainly deserve it. We will really miss you, though. Take care of yourself and enjoy everything you do! Claire & Alexa

- Claire & Alexa, Ithaca & Newark Valley Oct 16 2007

Dear Allan, It was such a pleasure meeting you and working with you on the redevelopment of the upper ILR Courtyard. You saw a need and had a vision. You stuck with that until it became a reality even in the face of all odds. I truly admire your perseverance, patience and tenacity. And, I really like the funny emails you bestow - they are the best! Come to think of it, you will now have more time for that kind of stuff so keep them coming! Have a great retirement Allan and may the wind always be at your back.

- *Laurene Gilbert, PDC Oct 16 2007*

Dear Allan, I am sad to have only had the chance to work with you for 5 years. I have benefited from your wisdom and advice with things. I'll always appreciate the approach you took with me regarding our Commencement Planning woes just a few years ago because of Lynah Rink being under construction and unusable for our regular activities. We discussed things and worked on alternatives the old fashioned way; good old sit down communication and planning. I appreciated the old school approach, as I tend to lean that way with most things. I'm not sure you know how much that meant to me. Now you do. I'll miss our conversations about hockey and other things, but hopefully those won't go away all together. You have been a good friend and someone I can look up to. Thank you for that. I'll miss your presence in ILR. I wish you and Denise the most amount of happiness and fulfillment possible in your retirement.

- *Kevin Harris, Ithaca, ILR-OSS Oct 17 2007*

Dear Allan, Congratulations on your retirement. We have worked together on several projects over the last few years but the most enjoyable for me was the Garden Avenue renovation project. Your leadership of the project team resulted in a product that we are all proud of and the project retreats on Cayuga Lake were the best! Thank you for your many contributions to the ILR School. I wish you and Denise a wonderful retirement.

- *Cathy Mooney, Etna, NY Oct 17 2007*

Dear Allan, As I've said before, I could not have asked for a better boss for the past four years. You've inspired and supported me in the pursuit of the big challenges, and you've helped me through some very rough patches - both on the job and off - and I really appreciate that. I've learned so much from you, and I use it every day - not the least of which is knowing how to get out of people's way and let them do their own job and make their own mistakes. And then to help them get back on the horse and keep moving forward. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with you. It was short, but very full. Under your direction I had to make some of the hardest decisions of my career as a supervisor, and you did not try to make them for me, but you literally stood by me and gave your unconditional support as I made them and carried them out. And in better times you shared in the celebration and always gave me your full and undivided attention, encouragement, and wisdom. I deeply value your humanity, your generosity, your sense of humor, and your friendship. I've learned from you and I won't forget. I wish you, Denise, and your growing family the very best as you take a well deserved break and start on the next chapter of your already very full life. Keep your eye to the horizon, have courage, and keep moving!

- *David DeMello, Ithaca, NY Oct 18 2007*

Allan, I've really enjoyed working with you at ILR. Your wisdom and humor always make any situation better. I also feel very privileged to call you a friend. Relax and enjoy your retirement; you've more than earned it! I hope to see you around the school when you have time to drop by. Take care.

- *Jean Gustafson, Liverpool, NY Oct 18 2007*

Allan, I'm glad I overlapped with you at ILR for the last couple of years. You're a down-to-earth and sensible person, and you truly care about everyone here. Enjoy your retirement and do the things that make you happy.

- *Caroline Hecht, Hector, NY Oct 18 2007*

Allan, Congratulations on your retirement. Our dock will soon need to open our own chapter of AARP!!

- *Marian & Bob Hansen, Endicott Oct 18 2007*

Dear Allan: Where do I possibly begin! I have so very thoroughly enjoyed and highly valued our working partnership and friendship here at Cornell, which extends over many years at this point. I wish you and your family the best in the years ahead as you move into retirement.

- *Bob Blakeney, Danby, New York Oct 18 2007*

I can think of many things to say, Allan, like: you expect me to have that statistical report completed by tomorrow?; and, do you see it is raining and we are still going sailing?; then, what do you mean you are going to retire?; but, most of all, I just want you to know how much I am going to miss you. You are one of a rare breed in this day and age - a fair and honest person. I feel privileged to have had the wonderful opportunity to work with you under your tutelage. The project team challenges especially the opening of the conference center - I don't know how many times I revised that business plan. It was worth the changes, especially to see how it formulates with our first three years of operation. As a conference center Team you were always there for us. We truly appreciate all you have done to make the conference center a fine venue for ILR and Cornell. You believed in us and gave us the privilege of building our reputation knowing we would abide by what we had set forth during our many meetings. You made sure we had what was needed to make this venue promising - sometimes it took a little longer to get it all together, but it did come together, beautifully. As we told you the day we walked in the door, we would make you proud of this fine facility. You did a fabulous job, Allan, and as they say, we couldn't have done it without you! Thank you for being a fine facilitator, dedicated mediator, sound contractor, strong statistician, and a nice gentleman. Please remember we will always have a chocolate chip cookie and fresh fruit salad here at the conference center just for you, our dear friend. You will be sorely missed by all of us, and especially me. Godspeed,

- *Ann, Ithaca, NY Oct 18 2007*

