



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.

Linda Young

Linda Young is retiring at the end of June 08 from her position as administrator in the Catherwood Library director's office. She has nearly 34 years of service at Cornell. Most of Linda's career has been devoted to work in the library and archival field beginning with her first position a month out of high school in 1965 in Olin Library. A year later, she moved over to the Kheel Center processing the pamphlet collections. Shortly after her marriage in 1968, the couple moved to Virginia where Jim was in the Navy at the time. In 1977 she returned to Olin Library for a short time until she accepted the position of department secretary in Uris Library in 1978. Shortly thereafter, she was recruited back to Catherwood and ultimately succeeded to the position of executive staff assistant to the director upon Ellen King's retirement in 1987.



Linda manages a budget of nearly \$2 million dollars and over the years has a near perfect record of restraining the library director's natural inclination to overspend the accounts. Given the varied intervals during which both domestic and international publishers produce an invoice for purchase of materials, always being able to come in on budget year after year is a high art. Linda has mastered that, and all other aspects of her job, perfectly.

Several years ago, Linda and Jim built a brand new log home in the Owego area. In late spring, summer, and early fall, they spend weekends at their camp on Oneida Lake enjoying the water and fishing for perch and walleyes. (Linda reels them in and Jim's role is to throw them back in the lake.) Both enjoy hunting and not only on their own estate of seventy-three acres near Owego but also in Colorado (elk and deer).

Linda and Jim have two children, Michelle and David, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Jim retired from Human Ecology's Division of Nutritional Sciences in February 2007.

Linda exemplifies the type of individual at Cornell which makes this a great university. She has worked tirelessly, readily accepts responsibility, and deserves as much credit as anyone on our staff for the fact that our library is an exceptional resource and one of a kind in North America. She has so much corporate memory of the university, school, and library stored away upon which we have relied all these years.

We wish her a well deserved retirement and will miss her profoundly.

The following submissions were made by visitors to the memory book from May 9, 2008 to July 17, 2008.

Dear Linda, There are several people I automatically think of when I think of the Catherwood Library, and you are one of them. Whenever I needed an answer, you were there to give it, quickly and accurately. And, whenever I came to campus, you were there to greet me and tell me where I could find Gordon! Your presence in the Catherwood gave me, and I'm sure many other people, a sense of stability and confidence, the feeling that all the details were in order. I hope you have a wonderful retirement in Owego, Colorado, and wherever else your interests and family take you. Good health and happiness! Donna

- Donna L. Schulman, Forest Hills, NY May 9 2008

Hi Linda. Congratulations on your retirement. I'm sure you'll never forget all the strategic planning meetings we did in Catherwood. Just think you won't have to attend any more planning workshops. Instead may you find an abundance of health and joy during your retirement. Thanks for all you did to serve Catherwood and Cornell. All the best to you. Chet

- Chester C. Warzynski, Organizational Development Services May 12 2008

Linda, How exciting that you're retiring. I know you and Jim have a lot of hobbies that you can enjoy - as well as your family. You've done an exceptional job here. Do enjoy your retirement! Best wishes!

- Joan Roberts, May 12 2008

Linda, thanks for all the years. You certainly earned a happy retirement. Best, David

- David Block, Kroch May 12 2008

Been a long time since those days in Kardex hasn't it? There are so few of us left, and now with you retiring, there's even one less. I hope to be joining those ranks soon, but until then I envy you, and wish all the best for a happy and healthy retirement. Joani

- Joan M Brink, Lansing, NY May 12 2008

Linda: Congratulations on your decision to retire. It is the greatest thing on earth, well, almost! Don't believe them when they say you will "have all the time in the world" to do what you want to do. Since Bill and I retired, it seems we have more places to go, people to see and things to do. The thing is we DO have the time to do these things. Perhaps we will see you around town more now also. It was a pleasure working with you when I was back in the Library. We could always come up with a solution to the problem and get the job done. ENJOY, ENJOY, ENJOY.

- Jackie Morris, Berkshire, NY May 12 2008

Linda, You were working in our libraries before I came to Cornell and you have outlasted me (I retired last year) so I want to thank you for your many years of service to the ILR School. The Catherwood Library and the Kheel Center are the "jewels in the crown" of the ILR Library as all of us on the faculty are keenly aware. You have been one of the reasons why. Best wishes in your retirement.

- Vernon Briggs, Ithaca, NY May 12 2008

Linda - Thanks for all your great service. You are one of the people I remember being in the Library when I was here in 1987. It was good to return to ILR and work with you. Best wishes for your retirement. Joe Grasso

- Joe Grasso, May 12 2008

Linda - Best wishes to both you and Jim. May your retirement years be the best yet!!!!

- Lisa Rose, ILR Human Resources May 13 2008

Dear Linda, Congratulations on your retirement decision! You will find it is one of the best decisions you will have ever made. It has been my privilege to have worked with you and to have you as a friend. I wish you much happiness and good health in your retirement years. As ever, Fran

- Fran Secord, Burdett NY May 13 2008

Linda, I am glad to see you are finally going to enjoy retirement with Jim. After all, he needs someone to take care of him....that is to keep him out of trouble! Best of luck to both of you.

- Bonnie Hockenberry, Newfield May 13 2008

Dear Linda, So very happy to see that you are retiring! Wishing you the very best and hope that you will have a long time to enjoy your family, grandchildren and great grandchildren!! Best of luck to you and Jim.

- Jo Jaynes, Ithaca, NY May 13 2008

Linda: You're beating me by one month! I'm retiring at the end of July. It's been just over 25 years ago that I left Catherwood --- driving my Pacer with a U-Haul behind it and a "Missouri or Bust" sign on the side that you and Mary Ann taped to the side of it.... Doesn't seem like it's been that long! I have many (many, many, many) very fond memories of working with you and the staff at Catherwood. Best of luck to you in your retirement!

- *Harold Way, Overland Park, Kansas May 13 2008*

Linda, Congratulations on your retirement! "34 years --- where did they go?" You have truly been a dedicated ILRie and Cornellian and have given more than 150% to both. Linda, you will be missed, but truly enjoy your next exciting chapter, this one in the book of retirement life. We will leave a donut in the Cafe for you! Blessings, Ann

- *Ann Herson, Ithaca, NY May 14 2008*

Linda, Congratulations on your achievement! Enjoy that beautiful log home of yours. I wish you a very happy and healthy retirement.

- *Jackie Dodge, Candor May 15 2008*

Linda, Even though our paths just recently met it certainly has been a pleasure. I wish you all the best in the next chapter of life and certainly hope you can find time to take a walk around our block together. Congrats and best wishes.

- *Cindy Sweet, Orwego, NY May 15 2008*

Dear Linda, Congratulations and best wishes for a happy retirement! Working with you has been a real pleasure. I will miss you! Patrizia

- *Patrizia Sione, Cortland, NY May 21 2008*

I can't believe you are really going to retire. What will they do without you? We have been dear friends for 43 years and the time has just flown by. You are going to love this new time in your life. Hugs!

- *Mary Ann Pratt, Watkins Glen, NY May 21 2008*

Linda, Another of the "old guard" retiring. Soon there won't be any of us left. I have many fond memories of our times together as part of the "5th floor gang." What I will always remember is how helpful you were to me. It seemed as if you always had the answer to my questions, some of which you probably thought were trivial. What comes to mind clearly is the annual CCD Grant Application process and, more importantly, keeping a close watch on the materials budget. I don't think it ever ended up being overspent. Even though I may have been responsible you certainly deserve all the credit for keeping it on target. You will be missed by your colleagues. It is now time, however, for you to do those things that you didn't have time for. Welcome to the club and enjoy your retirement years! Phil

- *Phil Dankert, Ithaca, NY May 25 2008*

Linda, It has been a pleasure to have known you, even though we did not work together. Your assistance as a notary public was greatly appreciated when I needed to have papers signed. Wishing you the very best on your retirement. Enjoy!

- *Kathy Roberts, Candor, NY Jun 6 2008*

Hi Linda, I'll miss you but I'm glad that you're retiring with so many projects and plans and, now, plenty of time to enjoy them! I'll hear your calming voice in my head as we continue to struggle with the annual statistical report without you. Best wishes for a long and active retirement.

- *Barb Morley, Alpine, NY Jun 13 2008*

Dear Linda, Just as you have been looking forward to retirement (I could tell from the look on your face every day over the last few years), I have been deep in denial. The reason is simple. Your corporate memory of our organization, your marvelous attention to detail, your remarkably conscientious approach to everything that you do, and your uncanny ability to know when I am going off the deep end . . . all of these things have made you indispensable. This is the foremost library of its type in North America, maybe in the world, and a generous portion of the credit for that ranking belongs to you. Linda, you are an exceptional person, and we will miss you so much.

- *Gordon Law, Ithaca Jun 16 2008*

Congratulations Linda, I hope you have many, many years of health and enjoyment ahead of you. Everyone who has retired claims it's the best part of all the years of hard work. We expect a full report after you have tried it for awhile. :) Enjoy!

- *Marcia Clark, Locke, NY Jun 17 2008*

Dear Linda, It has been so nice getting to know you and to work with you these past couple of years. I wish you all the best in your retirement. Laura

- *Laura Robinson, Sheldrake Point, New York Jun 19 2008*

Hi Linda, Just wanted to congratulate you on your upcoming retirement. I know you will be keeping busy and enjoying yourself. It will seem strange not to see you holding the fort in the office when I visit ILR. It seems like the end of an era. Best wishes for a healthy and happy new phase of your life. Keep in touch, Constance

- *Constance Finlay, Jun 20 2008*

Hi Linda, Congratulations on your retirement!! It has been a pleasure working with you over the years. I hope you fully enjoy your retirement, you deserve it.

- *Ann Crowley, Auburn, NY Jun 23 2008*

Linda, I know you will be as busy as ever, but doing what you want to do and when! It is hard to imagine Catherwood without you. I'll miss your sage advice and experience - you are always the one to turn to for answers. Best wishes on your retirement.

- Mary Newhart, Trumansburg NY Jun 24 2008

Linda- Congrats! Relax and enjoy your new life.

- Melissa Holland, Brooktondale, NY Jun 24 2008

Linda, It's been very nice working with you. Enjoy your retirement and come back to visit often.

- Jean Gustafson, Liverpool, NY Jun 24 2008

Dear Linda, I do not even want to think about you leaving much less write about it, but only because I will miss you and I will also miss all the wonderful help you have given me since I have been here at ILR. Totally selfish reasons when I know you will thoroughly enjoy your retirement in your beautiful home. I also am pretty sure you will not miss the long drives to work in some of the crazy weather we get and the added high gas prices, but it is sure hard to picture the Library without you. So I guess I will just wish you all the best with continued good health and be thankful you are not completely out of the picture yet. Hope retirement is all that you hope for and then some. Always the best, Angie

- Angie Wagner, Groton, NY Jun 25 2008

Linda, Congratulations on your upcoming retirement! I understand from most retirees that they're busier now than when they worked a full time job. Relax and enjoy!! Barb

- Barb McPherson, Jun 25 2008

Linda - Congratulations! I know you will enjoy this new phase of your life. You will be missed at ILR. Enjoy your "new" time and your family - you will have no regrets! Best to you, Claudia

- Claudia, Newfield NY Jun 25 2008

Linda, Congratulations! I hope your retirement will be even better than you anticipate. Randall

- Randall Miles, Candor, NY Jun 25 2008

Linda, Congratulations on your achievement! I hope retirement is as good to you as you were to the ILR School. You were always so helpful! I never minded having to go to the Library for a Venda Card - it was always a pleasure to see you. I hope you enjoy retirement to the fullest. Cheryl

- Cheryl Noble, Oswego, NY Jun 25 2008

Dear Linda: I wish you only the best in your future years of retirement. I remember our gigs and all the practices with our singing group -- The Poinsettias -- those were the days, huh? Take good care of yourself and always be happy. Theresa Woodhouse

- Theresa Woodhouse, Genoa, NY Jun 25 2008

Hi Linda, Thanks for all your help and support over the years. I don't know if you remember, but I first met you in Uris Library, when I was participating in a cross-training effort between Olin and Uris - remember when they were two different libraries? Anyway, you were really helpful to me and I was really happy to see you and to be put in your charge on my first day at Catherwood (August 1980). You and Mary Ann showed me Room 136 and told me about the traditional Catherwood 1/2 hour morning break - a tradition I have always kept! You have continued to be a rock for me and for many others. I hope that you really enjoy your retirement and find time to be good to yourself. I'll keep seeing you for two days a week for a little while at least, but I hope that we will always be in touch. Susan LaCette

- Susan LaCette, Catherwood Library Jun 25 2008

Linda, It's hard to believe your time at Catherwood is ending, but after 34 years you deserve a fantastic new life in retirement bliss. Considering all the countless times you've given me help, "thank you" doesn't seem adequate somehow- nevertheless, I appreciate everything you've done for me over these many years. We've been incredibly lucky to have you-- now, go out there and have some fun!

- Kevin Miller, Ithaca, NY Jun 25 2008

Linda, I have so many "yet-to-be-asked" questions that I know you would have been able to answer happily and quickly. I will be very sad to no longer have your expertise as I deal more with budgets, statistics, and endless details -- your specialties! While I'll miss you, I'll also be wishing for you much happiness and health in your retirement. -Suzanne

- Suzanne Cohen, Catherwood Library Jun 25 2008

Linda, Congratulations on your retirement. It sounds like you're well on your way to knowing how to enjoy it! It's obviously well deserved. I wish you and your family many happy years to come with all of your interests and hobbies. Enjoy your retirement! Lorie Anderson, ILR OSS

- Lorie Anderson, ILR-OSS Jun 26 2008

Linda, Right from the start, you have always been my "go-to" person when I had questions about Catherwood, the school or even life. You have also graciously acted as a sounding board for me, when I needed a reality check. You are unfailingly cheerful and one of the hardest workers I have ever known. Since moving up to the 5th floor, we have had a great time, with lots of laughter and many shared experiences. One of my favorite poems has this definition of success: "To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;" To me, you have more than succeeded! I will miss you. deb

- Deb Lamb-Deans, Catherwood Jun 30 2008

Dear Linda, Hope your retirement is filled with a lot of good times and happy memories. Now you have no excuses, you can finally "stop and smell the roses". I know we did not get to know each other well, but I will miss our hellos while passing in the halls and walkways! All the best, Shelia

- Shelia Smith, Cayuta^{ville} Jul 17 2008