

Irving Fishman



H-R *January 17, 1999*
Irving Y. Fishman, 78, professor emeritus of biology at Grinnell College, died Sunday, Jan. 10, at his home in Grinnell.

A memorial service was conducted Tuesday afternoon at the Smith Funeral Home, with Rabbi Debra Brin officiating. The body was cremated, and burial will be at a later date.

The son of Ike and Dora Fishman, he was born Sept. 12, 1920, in Ardmore, Okla. He was a 1938 graduate of Ardmore High School.

He received a B.S. degree in physiology and an M.S. degree in physiology and zoology from the University of Oklahoma and a Ph.D. in physiology and biochemistry from Florida State University.

He was married to Sara Mayer July 5, 1942, in Oklahoma City. He moved to Grinnell in 1948 and began his career in the Biology Department at Grinnell College as an instructor. He became an assistant professor in 1955, a full professor in 1971, was named the V.G. Stone professor of biology in 1979 and

moved to emeritus status in 1991.

While at Grinnell, he was chairman of the department for 13 consecutive years; a recipient of several awards and honors; and was the author of numerous publications relating to his field.

He conducted extensive research on taste in mammals and in the general field of neurophysiology, receiving numerous research grants from the National Science Foundation and participating in international symposia.

Dr. Fishman served as the director of the Grinnell-Rush Medical Studies Program from its inception in 1974 until the program was discontinued in 1982.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during World War II. He was discharged from the Army Reserves as a lieutenant colonel in 1967. He received 16 military awards.

His professional memberships included the American Physiological Society, Sigma Xi, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society of Zoologists and Iowa Academy of Sciences. He participated in the Federation of Societies for Experimental Biology, the American Institute of Biological Sciences and the Iowa Academy of Science.

He was also president of a local stamp-collecting club.

Survivors include his wife; two daughters, Paula Rosenstein of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Elaine Sherp of Dallas; one sister, Ida Yaffe of Ardmore; and five grandchildren. His parents preceded him in death.

Memorial contributions may be made to Family Outreach of America, 1329 Seventh St., Suite B, Corpus Christi, Texas 78404.