Wayne Denny

Wayne Belding Denny, 90, professor emeritus of physics at Grinnell College, died Wednesday, April 7, 2004, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center. His body was deeded to the anatomy department at the University of Iowa. Services are pending.

He was born in Oberlin, Ohio, the son of Walter Bell Denny, a Congregational minister, and Mabel Stevens Denny. He graduated in 1935 from Oberlin College and after teaching stints at Emory University and Oberlin, the latter of which involved teaching physics for the United States Navy V-12 program until the end of World War II, joined the physics department at Grinnell College in 1948 having completed post-doctoral work in physics at Western Reserve University while teaching at Oberlin. He was married to his wife Clara, a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory, while completing work for his doctor of philosophy degree at Yale University.

In Grinnell he was a member of the United Church of Christ-Congregational and Fortnightly Club. He pursued research in the field of acoustics and published articles on acoustics and audio engineering, and held a lifetime membership in the Audio Engineering Society. He worked for the Atomic Energy Commission at Argonne National Laboratory and taught physics for the National Science Foundation summer institutes at various sites from Grand Forks, N.D., to Guwahati, India.

Sharing his wife Clara's love of music, he recorded music performances at Grinnell College for over three decades. The couple taught music and physics together during sabbatical years in Istanbul, Turkey; Dumaguete City, Philippines; and Ahmednager, India. Following retirement the couple traveled extensively in the United States, Europe and Asia.

He is survived by two sons, Walter Bell Denny of Amherst, Mass., and John Guerry Denny of Afton, Minn.; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife Clara in November, 2002.