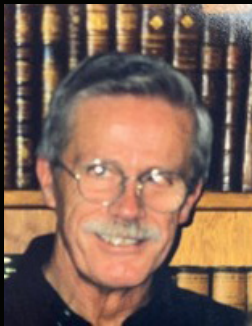


DR. FREDERICK BAILEY '52

PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF ENGLISH



Dr. Frederick Bailey, 89, of Princeton, passed away Sunday, November 17, 2019. Born May 22, 1930, in Princeton, he was the son of the late Everett Dale Bailey and Fannie Chlorine Burk Bailey.

He was a graduate of Princeton High School, received his bachelor's degree from Concord College, master's degree from West Virginia University, and his

doctorate in English from the University of Tennessee. Dr. Bailey served his country proudly with the U.S. Navy. Dr.

Bailey retired from Concord University after teaching for 47 years in the English Department.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his loving wife of 65 years, Lavonne Ruth Pennington Bailey, along with his two siblings, Garnette Erb and Jack Bailey. Those left to cherish his memory are his three children, Pamela Jean Bailey and husband Wes, Sally Bailey Deskins and husband Tim and Dr. Dale Frederick Bailey and wife Jean; four grandchildren, Nolan Dempsey and wife Stephanie, Jake and Bailey Deskins and Carson Bailey; two great-grandchildren, Molly Dempsey and Amanda Walker; and two great-great-grandchildren, Lilly and Jack Walker.

DR NORMAN I. PLATNICK '68

CURATOR EMERITUS AT THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



Dr Norman Ira Platnick, Curator Emeritus at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), New York, passed on April 8, 2020 in Philadelphia, PA, after a tragic accident. He married the late Nancy Stewart Price in 1970 and is survived by his son, William Durin Platnick, and daughter-in-law, Rebecca Ehrlich.

Norm was born on December 30, 1951, in Bluefield, WV. Getting what he called a 'precocious start', Norm became a college freshman at the tender age of 12, receiving a BS degree at 16, MS at 18, and PhD at 21. He has remarked that he lacked 'a high school diploma, having made it only through grade 7!'

The world authority on spiders, Norm's

lifelong interest began serendipitously while a teenager, majoring in Biology at Concord College as a direct consequence of meeting his future wife, Nancy, 'at Concord on October 12, 1967.' Nancy, also pursuing a BS in Biology, had taken a course on arthropods and become fascinated with millipedes. Norm accompanied Nancy on her searches so that he could spend time with her. He was less successful at finding millipedes but collected spiders in abundance and tried to identify them back at the college. The rest is history.

After graduating from Concord in 1968, Norm moved to Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, where he was advised by Richard Sauer and graduated with a MS in Zoology in 1970, and finally to Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, where he was advised by Herbert Levi, and graduated with a PhD in Biology in 1973.

He was appointed Assistant Curator in the AMNH Department of Entomology the same year, received tenure and promotion to Associate Curator in 1977, and promotion to Curator in 1982. He was awarded an endowed chair as Peter J. Solomon Family Curator of Spiders in 1998 and served in that capacity until retiring, whereupon he became Senior Scientist in Residence at the AMNH Division of Invertebrate Zoology (2010–2013).

As an AMNH Curator, Norm took over stewardship of the Collections of

Arachnida and Myriapoda from John Cooke, building on the legacy of Willis J. Gertsch to continue developing the spider collection into the world's largest and most taxonomically comprehensive, a global resource with over a million specimens and 4,000 types. Norm's arachnological expeditions to Chile, as well as Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, New Caledonia, New Zealand, and Panama, were supported by \$4.3 million in research grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Geographic Society, and other foundations. As Chairman of the Department of Entomology (1987–1994),

In addition to his position as Curator at the AMNH, Norm served as adjunct professor at City College, City University of New York (1978–2014), and Cornell University (1988–2014), and as adjunct senior research scientist for the Center of Environmental Research and Conservation at Columbia University (1999–2014). Norm was a prolific scientist, publishing almost 12,000 pages in 338 printed publications, including 42 monographs, eight books and two edited volumes over the course of his four-decade career.

This exceptional body of work fundamentally affected several fields. His early works were instrumental in disseminating Hennigian tree-thinking and phylogenetic classification, profoundly influencing systematic biology, historical biogeography,

and evolutionary biology more generally. In arachnology, the study of spiders and their kin, Norm laid the framework of spider classification and the Tree of Life early on, along with introducing new techniques, such as scanning electron microscopy, and character systems, such as spinneret morphology, which forever changed the course of spider systematics. His prodigious monographic revisions and many smaller papers, on most of which he was sole or lead author, added 158 new genera and 2,023 new species of spiders.

In recognition of his contributions, Norm was made Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2003 and received the Pierre Bonnet Award for Devoted Service to the Advancement of Arachnology in 2007, among other honors. Four spider genera, *Normplatnicka*, *Platnickia*, *Platnickina* and *Platnicknia* (= *Modisimus*) and 48 species of spiders, other arachnids, and a millipede are named after him. The Concord University Alumni Association honored him with the Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2003.

Keenly aware of the threats facing biodiversity, Norm was actively involved in initiatives to address the 'taxonomic impediment' by accelerating the pace of species discovery and description, including programs such as Systematics Agenda 2000: Charting the Biosphere. This vision culminated in the Planetary Biodiversity Inventories (PBI) and Revisionary Syntheses in Systematics

programs which he co-developed during his tenure as Program Director for Biodiversity Surveys and Inventories in the NSF Division of Environmental Biology (2002–2003).

In 2006, Norm put these approaches into practice on a global scale with his PBI grant on the megadiverse, microdistributed goblin spider family Oonopidae, involving more than 45 collaborating scientists in 12 countries worldwide. Over the course of eight years, using custom-built cyberinfrastructure, 1056 new spider species were described in 88 papers, increasing global spider diversity by 2.5% and moving Oonopidae from the 21st to the 8th most speciose family of spiders.

In addition to his role as fellow, president or councilor of numerous scientific societies, several of which he was instrumental in founding, and his service on copious editorial boards and scientific panels, Norm leaves a rich legacy in education. He advised or served on the committees of over 20 students and postdoctoral fellows, many of whom went on to illustrious careers in arachnology and systematics, around the world, and delivered about 100 scientific lectures in the US and abroad. The original spider man, Norm promoted the old adage 'if you wish to live and thrive, let a spider run alive' via diverse media, including the highly successful *Spiders Alive!* exhibition (2012–2013, and again in 2015), two children's books on spiders, several popular

magazine articles, and online videos, such as 'Seeking Spiders – Biodiversity on a Different Scale', where he notes: 'if we wish to conserve as much biodiversity as possible, then we need to pay attention not just to the things that are easy to see, but also to the ones that are not so easy to see and tell us much more about the planet.'

In his spare time, Norm enjoyed 'another life' as an art aficionado. While frequenting antique shops with Nancy, who collected vintage eggbeaters, mixers and other mechanical kitchen devices, Norm became interested in the art of magazine covers, advertisements, and articles from America's 'Golden Age of Illustration' (1905–1920), ultimately amassing a collection of over 6,500 pieces. Between 1998 and 2020, Norm wrote 27 full-color books and three articles on the work of various artists from this period, a labor of love, demanding considerable time and energy to self-publish, and was planning 'at least as many more.'

Norm's generous personality, fierce intellect, and indomitable can-do approach won friends and admirers across the globe. His motto, 'The best is none too good,' long hanging on his office wall and still seen on his Facebook page, speaks volumes about his attitude to his pursuits.

Information provided by Lorenzo Prendini
Curator of Arachnida and Myriapoda
American Museum of Natural History

JOHN "JAY" WRIGHT

DIRECTOR OF UPWARD BOUND



John "Jay" Wright passed away on December 23, 2019 in St. Marys, WV, while he was home visiting for the holidays. Born in Wetzel County, WV on October 5, 1966, he graduated from Paden City High School in 1984. In 1994 he graduated from Marshall University with a master's degree

in Counseling, with specialization in student personnel. He touched many lives throughout his career and his life.

Jay spent the majority of his professional career investing

himself into the lives of his students and colleagues. He served the TRIO Community not only on a program level, but also through his service as the President of the WV TRIO Association and the MEAEOPP Region. He fought passionately for TRIO through various advocacy efforts including his annual attendance at the Council for Opportunity in Education's Policy Seminar. His passion for the rights of his students was heartfelt and contagious.

In addition to his grandparents, he is preceded in death by his parents Karen and Lee. He is survived by his sister Jodi Wright Keller, brother-in-law Allen Keller, sister Pam Croasman, nephew Justin Nichols (Suzie), niece Tara Kaye Kent (Chris), and his very special great-nephews and nieces, Ryan, Easton, Brooklyne, Madeline, Jaxson and Harlyn.