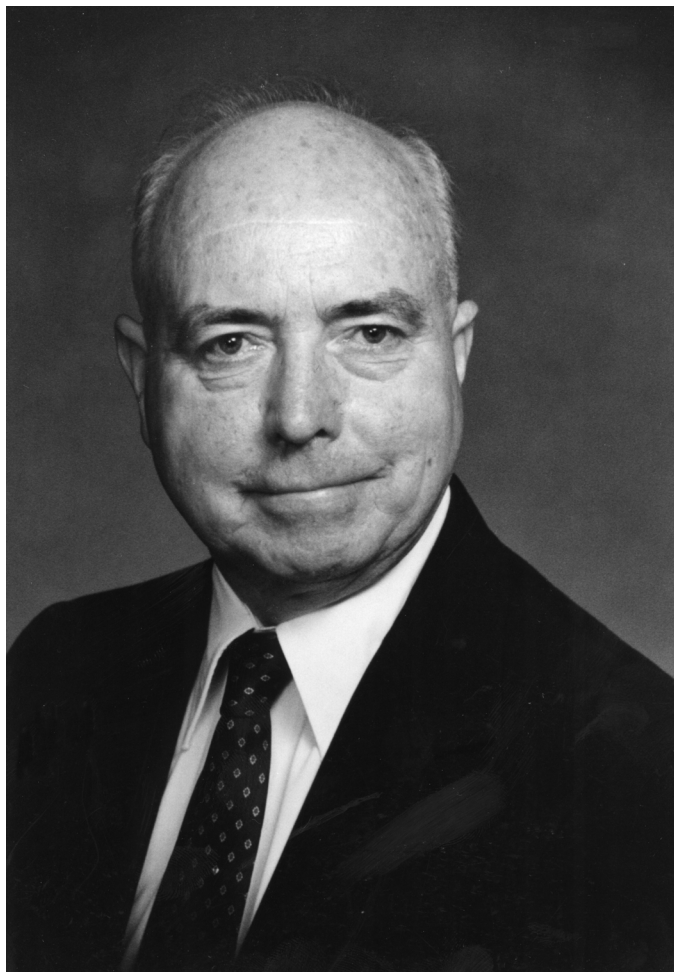


Donald M. Kinsman, 1923—1998: A Brief Biography

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Donald M. Kinsman was born and raised on a small, diversified livestock farm in Framingham, MA, on May 20, 1923. He gained additional agricultural experience in dairy, market farming, pomology, maple sugaring, and livestock production on nearby farms. His interest in agriculture was matched only by his love for teaching and his appreciation for baseball and basketball. He played both games at the college level and in his later years fondly recounted playing against the first baseman

of the opposing Yale team, George Bush, who later became President of the United States.

Don was attending the Massachusetts State College at Amherst as a freshman in 1941 when Pearl Harbor was attacked. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in January of 1943 and was sent into action in the South Pacific a few months later as a Private First Class. He participated in assault landings on Ennubirr Island of the Marshall Islands on January 31, 1944, Saipan on June 15, and Tinian on July 24. It was here that he was wounded by shrapnel from mortar fire and evacuated to receive extended medical treatment at Espiritu Santos, New Hebrides Islands. Once recovered, he returned to his original outfit for additional training and maneuvers prior to the next campaign. In early December, he was notified that he had been selected to return to the United States for Officer Training School at Dartmouth College. The war ended in 1945, providing the officer candidates the option of continuing in the service or returning to civilian life. Don received the Presidential Unit Citation, the Pacific Theater ribbon with three stars, the American Victory medal, and the Purple Heart. He chose to return to the Massachusetts State College to continue his education. He wrote that “freedom is not free, and opportunity and privilege must be earned and respected, as they too are available only at a price that someone before us paid.”

In 1949, Don married Helen Bailey and earned his B.S. from the University of Massachusetts. They then moved to the University of New Hampshire, where Don became an instructor while pursuing his master’s degree. Helen and Don had their first child, Elizabeth, in 1951 and he received his M.S. He served as an instructor at the University of Vermont (1951–1952) and assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts (1952–1956), where he was also farm manager responsible for dairy, sheep, beef, swine, and horse herds plus crops, machinery, and personnel. Don joined the Department of Animal Science, University of Connecticut (UConn) in 1956. During that time, he and Helen increased their family by two—David in 1954 and Martha in 1957. While teaching, Don continued his graduate education and received his Ph.D. in 1964 from Oklahoma State University. Don’s greatest dedication was to his family. His children and then his four grandchildren would bring a twinkle to his eye when he told them, “one should whistle when picking strawberries at a pick-and-pay so the owner will know the berries are going in the container instead of one’s mouth.”

He served on the faculty of the Department of Animal Science at UConn until his retirement 32 yr later, in

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1988. He was a caring and effective teacher who served as a mentor to many. His memory for students was one of the characteristics he was best known for among his peers. Don could recall a showman from a 4-H show that he judged 25 yr earlier. In addition to the student's name, he often would be able to recite the judging class in which the student showed, relative placing, and hometown. At UConn, he remembered virtually every student's name, the year in which they enrolled in his class, and the year of graduation. Don provided his students with many educational opportunities through project work in the meat lab and travel to foreign countries.

Don taught 15 courses in animal and meat science to more than 5,000 students. He developed teaching aids that were utilized widely in the classrooms of 30 American universities and abroad. He provided leadership for the teaching profession by developing and conducting an undergraduate teaching improvement forum for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, by chairing the College Teaching Excellence and the Courses and Curriculum Committees.

He introduced and directed a program that has enabled UConn students to study around the world. More than 87 graduate and undergraduate students visited a total of 20 countries while gaining international experience in the meat and animal science industries. He visited more than 30 countries and helped attract some 40 international animal and meat scientists to UConn. His contributions to both developed and developing nations also were made through the Heifer Project International and the Foreign Agricultural Organization of the United States.

A U.S. Senate-appointed member of the National Organic Standards Board from 1992 to 1996, Dr. Kinsman was a widely quoted spokesman for the group when the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released new standards in 1997. He was the board's principal authority on livestock production and products.

He was the author or co-author of more than 75 articles published in professional journals. He was co-editor of "Muscle Foods: Meats, Poultry and Seafood Technology," published in 1994 by Chapman and Hall of New York. His International Meat Sciences Dictionary (American Press Co.) has been translated into nine languages, and his International Sausage Book, published in 1981, is used in more than 40 countries. He was also the Editor of the International Ham Book and the Directory of International Meat Scientists. Don carried out research to improve production practices, to enhance the quantity and quality of animal products, to improve humane animal slaughter, to define criteria associated with meat quality, to characterize microbial growth on meat, and to develop methods for controlling pathogenic bacteria.

He served twice as a director of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) and as its president in 1978–1979. He was chair of the ASAS Meats Research Committee, chair of its Teaching Committee, and a member of its International Committee. He also served with the

Northeast Section of the ASAS, the Council of Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), the New England Livestock Conservation, Inc., and the Connecticut chapters of Gamma Sigma Delta and Phi Kappa Phi. He was an advisor to the University's Block and Bridle Club for 31 yr and the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity for 30 yr. He was on the ASAS Biographical Sketch committee from its inception until his death.

He was a member of the university senate from 1971 to 1974 and from 1980 to 1988. In 1984–85 he was chairman of the senate's Executive Committee. At the time of his death, Kinsman was a member of the University senate growth and development committee.

Dr. Kinsman was the recipient of numerous awards, including: AMSA International Award, Teaching Award, Signal Service Award, and R. C. Pollock Award. From ASAS, he received the International Award, Teaching Award, Fellow Award and, from the NE ASAS Section, the Distinguished Service Award. He also received the Distinguished Service Award from Gamma Sigma Delta-UConn, the Honorary State Farmer Degree of the Connecticut Future Farmers of America, and the Centennial Honor Roll of Alpha Zeta, which identified him as one of the 100 top agricultural leaders in the nation. He was cited as a person who dedicated his entire life to the education of students and service to humanity on a global basis.

On a personal level, Don enjoyed pitching horse shoes (he was polite but merciless) and baseball (it was always going to be the Red Sox's year). He often quizzed students on palindromes and the state capitals, birds, flowers, trees, year of statehood, year of founding the state Land Grant University, and so on. Cocoa and apple cider were best served hot and root beer, cold. Few things tasted better than a frankfurter roasted over the dying embers of a January brush burning. There was always enough time to add a special touch; greetings and a good-bye were never hurried.

Kinsman was a founder and a director of the Mansfield Retirement Community (a \$3.2-million, 100-unit complex), and, from 1985 to 1994, he was a board member of the Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (a \$10-million, 90-bed facility). A long-time member of the Storrs Congregational Church, he was a deacon from 1966 and chairman of the church council in 1967. At retirement, Don and Helen established an Excellence in Teaching Award for junior faculty of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Donald M. Kinsman died on January 29, 1998; he was 74. He is survived by his wife, Helen (Bailey) of Storrs, CT; two daughters, Martha Kinsman of Vernon, CT, and Elizabeth Keefe of Reston, VA; a son, David B. Kinsman of Arlington, VA, and four grandchildren.

"Nothing ventured, nothing gained" was an axiom frequently offered to his students, friends, and colleagues. He took his own advice and lived life to the fullest. Don Kinsman truly touched those with whom he came into contact.