CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

CNS Mourns Two Valued Colleagues

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We are very sorry to report the loss of two valued and memorable men from the CNS family: Dr. Ralph Gordon Selfridge and Mr. Robert A. (Bob) Smith.

Dr. Ralph Selfridge

Dr. Selfridge passed away Sunday, August 31, 2008. He was a director of the UF Computing Center (UFCC) which was a precursor to the Northeast Regional Data Center (NERDC) and now the Computing and Networking Services (CNS) department of UF. For most of his career (1961-2002), he was a professor of mathematics and computer science at the University of Florida.

In his life away from UF he was a cave diver, mountain hiker, airplane pilot, past-president of the Gainesville Pilots' Association, negotiator for the United Faculty of Florida (UFF), and a community theater actor.

Robert A. "Bob" Smith

Bob Smith's expertise was in MVS storage and in MVS statistical and graphical applications. He retired from CNS in 2001 after 38 years of service. He succumbed to the effects of a major stroke on June 16, 2008, and is survived by his wife, Alberta Smith.

He was fluent in French, having majored in French and engineering. He belonged to a speleological (caving) society and he appeared annually at the club's meeting cave and at work as Wonder Wart-Hog [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wonder_Wart-Hog]. He and Alberta were accomplished square dancers and performed a commemorative square dance at one point on our new computer machine room floor.

Bob was a natural historian. He studied and supported the study of Gainesville history and he served informally as one of the CNS/NERDC historians. If you had a question about the department or the university, Bob could probably answer it -- and provide supporting documentation from his own personal collection.

We Miss Them.

Ralph and Bob contributed tremendous talent and helped to build computing at the University of Florida. We miss them both.

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all CNS documentation. Please send your comments to:

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