

Daniel Franklin Millikan III, 1918 to 1996

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Daniel F. Millikan, professor emeritus of Plant Pathology at the University of Missouri, Columbia, passed away on 22 May 1996. Dan had been in failing health for several years, but he continued to work daily in the department, where he interacted with faculty and students and kept up an active correspondence with his many friends and colleagues.

Professor Millikan was born on 31 May 1918, in Lyndon, IL, to Daniel F. Millikan II and Harriet Parmenter Millikan. Dan grew up on a dairy farm and graduated from Lyndon High School in 1936. He enrolled at Iowa State College, Ames, but in 1941, he interrupted his studies to enlist in the U.S. Army. Dan served in the Pacific Theater during World War II and was on Guadalcanal. After his release from the service in 1945, he returned to Iowa State, where he obtained his B.S. degree in horticulture in 1947, with an emphasis on pomology. Dan came to the University of Missouri, Columbia, during May of the same year as a graduate student in the Department of Botany, where he worked with C. M. Tucker. He obtained his Ph.D. degree in 1954 and was appointed assistant professor of Horticulture. Dan became a charter member of the Department of Plant Pathology in 1967, where he remained until his retirement in September 1988.

Although Dan's area of professional expertise was virus diseases of woody plants, he also was actively involved in improvement of walnuts and butternuts and in enhancing the cold hardiness of peaches. A botanist of the classical mold, Dan was a fountain of knowledge about fruit- and nut-bearing trees of temperate zones. He knew the cultivars, their characteristics, and their origins, and he worked for decades to strengthen ties between the department, state agencies, and forestry and horticultural commodities in Mis-

souri. His colleagues all learned that a question about a species or a cultivar would inevitably bring a bundle of seedlings, usually in great quantity. Many of these have now grown to become graceful trees that surround the homes of his friends.

Professor Millikan was active in Sigma Xi, Gamma Alpha, Gamma Sigma Delta, the Missouri Academy of Sciences, the American Society for Horticultural Science, and the American Phytopathological Society. He served as secretary of the APS North Central Division from 1964 to 1968, as division vice president from 1971 to 1972, and as division president from 1972 to 1973. Although Dan's appointment was primarily in research, he was always fond of students. He usually set the trap by employing them as summer helpers on his tree farm, where he could use the long hours of labor to talk about science, plant pathology, and life in general. Many of these young people chose to attend the University of Missouri, and several obtained graduate degrees under Dan's direction. Dan also forged extensive collaborations with fruit pathologists in Eastern Europe, particularly with the Research Institute of Pomology at Skierniewice, Poland. Dozens of Polish students and postdoctoral associates studied in his laboratory during the 1960s and 1970s. These activities were recognized formally in 1976, when Dan was elected a foreign member of the Polish Academy of Science.

Humble and self-effacing, Dan Millikan was a true gentleman. When he retired in 1988, his colleagues arranged for a small ceremony to plant an oak tree on the lawn in front of the building that houses the Department of Plant Pathology. He tried to escape through a side door of the building, but we escorted him to the spot, where the living memorial was duly placed in the soil. In spite of recent hard winters, the tree is thriving. A simple plaque beneath it reads: "This tree planted in honor of Professor Dan Millikan, Missouri Plant Pathologist, October 19, 1988." We will all miss Dan very much.