

As reported at the meeting, Carl J. Sillman died on Tuesday, December 7, 2021. Carl was a Torch Club member for five years and was elected treasurer last year. He was 67 years old and had retired as Senior Lecturer in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB) Department in Penn State's Eberly College of Science. Carl had a dedicated teaching career starting in 1984, winning both the BMB Department's Paul M. Althouse Teaching Award and the College's C.I Noll Award for Excellence in Teaching. While he taught courses in microbiology, molecular genetics, cell biology, immunology, and biotechnology, he was also well known for developing and serving as director of the CSI Summer Camp – an outreach program for elementary-school students in forensic science. He served several roles in advising and instructional development in science and his students considered him a caring and always-available mentor. They respected him; felt his classes were difficult, but universally said they would take them again.

As we saw in Torch, Carl had many interests, especially English Setters. He was president of the Brandywine English Setter Club, AKC, and his own setters Scout and Emma reached grand champion status in the show ring. He was renowned for his knowledge of the history of the breed, and he had an extensive collection of photographs, memorabilia, and historical records, on which he drew for a series of historical articles on the history of English Setter breeders, kennels, and champion dogs in America. Among his other interests were model railroading, especially focusing on Pennsylvania lines, which he also complemented with collecting railroad dining car china from those same Pennsylvania rail lines. And from china came a delectable interest in cooking, especially grilling and smoking meats. Carl was a true student of the grilling arts but also loved perusing cookbooks for new and interesting recipes to prepare for friends and family.

Carl was a Philadelphia native, and never lost his interest in the City of Brotherly Love, particularly its sports teams. He was an especially devoted, and often frustrated follower of the Eagles and Phillies. But the music of Philadelphia bands and musicians also never left his consciousness. He received his bachelor's degree at Muhlenberg College in 1976 and earned his master's and doctoral degrees at Penn State in 1979 and 1984, where he met and married his beloved wife Kate, who survives. They enjoyed traveling and especially day bike trips, frequently taking advantage of Pennsylvania Rails to Trails, before his health problems overcame his ability to do this.

Carl wished to have no funeral or memorial service. If you were planning to send Kate a card of condolence, I think it would be particularly comforting to her to include memories and reminiscences you may have as a colleague or friend of Carl. Kate's address is: 1898 Rattlesnake Pike, Julian, PA 16844.

Thank you, Lee Stout