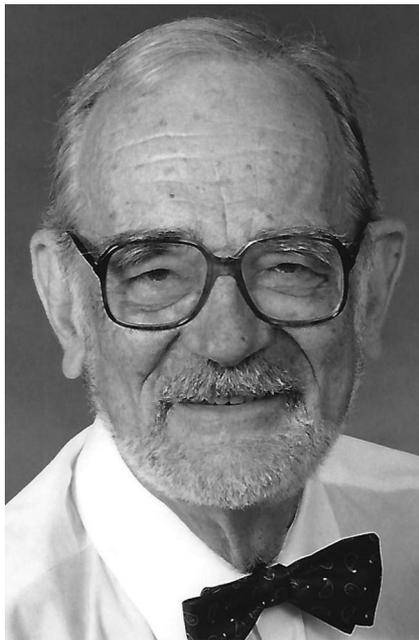


IN MEMORIAM

Wilse Bernard (Bernie) Webb (1920–2018)



Wilse Bernard (Bernie) Webb was an original—an effective researcher and administrator but also an overall colorful personality. Bernie Webb was born October 13, 1920, in Yazoo City, Mississippi, and died January 15, 2018. He received a bachelor of science degree from Louisiana State University in 1941 and his master of arts and PhD degrees from the State University of Iowa in 1942 and 1947, respectively. He enlisted as a psychological technician in the Army Air Corps in 1942 and was commissioned as a first lieutenant, serving 4 years doing research and training.

After his service Bernie became an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee during 1947–1948 and at Washington University in St. Louis during 1948–1951. In addition to his university responsibilities, he conducted contract research in naval aviation with the Air Force. In 1953 Bernie became head of the Aviation Psychology Laboratory at the U.S. Navy's School of Aviation Medicine in Pensacola, Florida. There he focused on selection procedures, flight training procedures, and accident prevention.

His evolving research career was highlighted by work on learning mechanisms and studies of aircraft accidents. In 1957

Bernie, influenced by Nathaniel Kleitman's *Sleep and Wakefulness* (1939), began research on biorhythms and sleep. He became most widely known for his important early work on biological rhythms, individual difference, effects of sleep deprivation, and theories of sleep.

In 1958 Bernie was appointed psychology chair at the University of Florida, which was developing as a research university. During his years as chair, the size and scope of the department increased, graduate research professorships were established, and plans were laid for a new psychology building. Bernie believed that a psychology department should occupy a focal place in the university. He thought that a psychology program where fundamental principles could be developed belonged in a college of liberal arts and sciences; a clinical program functioned best in a medical school, where members would have access to patients. Together with several colleagues, he developed a program arrangement so that psychology students received training in both contexts as appropriate.

Bernie was appointed a graduate research professor in 1969 and retired with that rank 20 years later. Along the way he received two fellowships at Cambridge University and numerous research grants. According to one estimate, he published nine books, about 40 articles, and over 225 articles.

In addition to receiving various awards, he served as president of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, the Southeastern Psychological Association, the American Psychological Association's (APA) Division of Teaching, as well as its Division of the History of Psychology. He also served two terms on the APA Board of Directors.

Bernie married Mary Hayward in 1941 (died 2007), and the couple had four children—Ann Comisky, Jean Kaufmann, Thomas Webb, and Molly Beatty—along with five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Bernie enjoyed life to the fullest, as a collector, the owner of two sailboats, driver of an MG-TD sports car, and active card player. He used his melodious voice to read poetry on the local radio station. He and his wife were also inveterate travelers. He was not only a productive and thoughtful researcher—administrator but a bit of a “character” whose loss will make the world a little less interesting.

Donald A. Dewsbury
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