Bruce would appreciate that his life has come full circle. In Iowa City among his dearest friends—his colleagues, his students, and his neighbors. After the dinner in his honor Tuesday night, he said that nothing could have pleased him more than exactly what he heard all evening: that he wanted his students to succeed in what they found interesting and do it their way. This was an important value throughout his long career. Bruce had numerous honors in his life, but nothing mattered more to him than his flock of students, whom he considered colleagues from day one. He loved hearing about their careers and successes. He followed them closely and with immense pleasure.

I want you all to know that what you saw in public is what I witnessed in private for 46 years. This man loved teaching. He thought the best professors should feel honored to teach undergrads; he loved sharing with them his enthusiasm for the field. The most challenging grad students in the deepest doldrums did not draw judgment from Bruce in private any more than they did in public. He valued them as individuals on the best and worst of their days at Iowa.

Bruce loved the University of Iowa and was grateful for all the support offered to him over the years. It was obvious to me that this honor meant the world to him, but in no way did Bruce miss out on receiving this award; he just collected it a little early. He was so moved by the love and warmth from his students and colleagues the past few days. And, he was deeply touched by the care and planning that went into this week by Kristine, Walid, and so many others.. Christopher, Jake, Ingrid and I are grateful that Bruce had the loving send-off he so thoroughly deserved. This truly was his trip home.

As a final note to the other fine Fellows, Bruce would not want to detract from the celebration in any way. I know he would implore you to have a vigorous discussion and enjoy being celebrated.

Thank you.

Wendy Gronbeck