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Z B Mayo, Jr. Obituary

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Z B Mayo, Jr. (1943–2018)

Emeritus Professor of Entomology at University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Dr. Z B Mayo, Jr., passed away on 25 March 2018 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Z B was born in Lubbock, Texas, on 29 March 1943 to Z B Mayo, Sr. and Sibyl (Morris) Mayo. He graduated from Spur High School (1961), received a B.S. in Entomology from Texas Tech University (1967), and received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Entomology from Oklahoma State University (1969, 1971). His M.S. thesis, titled “Resistance of Native Sorghums from India to the Corn Earworm and Fall Armyworm,” was advised by Dr. H. L. Chada. His Ph.D. dissertation, “Biology and Cytogenetics of Greenbug, *Schizaphis graminum* (Rondani), Biotypes,” was advised by Dr. K. J. Starks. He continued at Oklahoma State University

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as a Postdoctoral Research Associate from 1971 to 1972. He also served his country in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1964 to 1970.

Employed at the University of Nebraska– Lincoln (UNL) from 1972 to 2010, he had a distinguished career as a researcher, teacher, mentor, and administrator. From 1972 to 1985, he conducted research on insects associated with corn production in Nebraska, with a major emphasis placed on the biology and control of corn rootworms. He and his students contributed significantly to our knowledge of corn rootworm biology and management. In 1983, he took a professional development leave and worked at the USDA-ARS Plant Science Research Lab at Stillwater, Oklahoma, conducting fundamental research on aphid biotypes. From 1985 on, he redirected his research program to study the development of bio-intensive pest management programs for field crops, particularly grain sorghum. His research topics included interactions of biological control with aphid-resistant cultivars and insecticide-resistant aphids, and genetic and environmental factors influencing the development of aphid biotypes and insecticide resistance. He authored 41 refereed journal articles, 3 book chapters, and numerous extension and popular articles. He was major advisor for seven Ph.D. and eight M.S. students, served on the supervisory committees of 32 Ph.D. and 40 M.S. students, and supervised three postdoctoral scientists.

At UNL, Z B taught undergraduate and graduate courses in applied entomology, pest management, plant resistance to insects, and an introduction to pesticides. He also taught courses in UNL's Foundation Program for entering freshmen for many years. His undergraduate applied entomology course was often the only entomology course Agronomy students took in their program. Many successful Nebraska agronomists still remember Z B as a teacher.

Although he never had an extension appointment, he enjoyed interacting with farmers and agronomists and frequently spoke at summer field days and winter extension meetings, even during the time he was the Department Head of Entomology. He led the Entomology Department for 10 years, first in an interim role from 1988 to 1990, and then as Department Head, 1993–1995 and 1999–2005. Dr. Mayo always accepted this role at the expense of his own personal research and teaching programs, but never complained or shied away from these leadership positions.

Mayo also served as Interim Dean and Director of the Agricultural Research Division (2005–2006) and Associate Dean and Director of the Agricultural Research Division (2006–2008) and of International Programs (2008–2009). His retirement from the University of Nebraska in 2009 did not last long, as he was soon recruited back to serve as Interim Associate Vice-Chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (2009–2010), again indicating his willingness to make sacrifices for the organization.

He was very committed to his profession and actively served in the Entomological Society of America and other professional societies in a variety of roles. He was ESA Vice President-Elect (2001), Vice President (2002), President (2003), ESA Student Competition Committee Chair (1998), ESA Program Committee Chair (1999), ESA Poster Committee Chair (2000), ESA Section F Secretary (1994–1995), ESA Section F Chair (1996–1997), ESA North Central Branch Secretary-Treasurer (1983–1986), President-Elect (1987), and President (1988). He was President of American Registry of Professional Entomologists (ARPE) (1992) and of the Mid-America Chapter of ARPE (2000–2003). Additionally, he served on numerous ESA committees at the Branch and ESA levels, and as the ESA representative to the Board of Directors for the Council of Agricultural Science and Technology.

Z B received multiple significant awards in recognition of his service and activities. Some of these include Distinguished Entomologist, American Registry of Professional Entomologists (1989); Outstanding Entomologist, Mid-America Chapter of American Registry of Professional Entomologists (1990); ESA North Central Branch Award of Merit (1991); Distinguished Alumnus, Oklahoma State University (1992); ESA Honorary Member (2006); and National Educational Administrator of the Year by the National Association of Educational Office Professionals (2008).

Z B was a mentor, colleague, and friend to many. He led by example, and his laughter and smile were contagious. He would frequently use self-deprecating humor to make a point. Z B was always a voice of comfort and support whenever you needed words of encouragement or advice. No matter how busy he was, he would take the time to listen and mentor. He never compromised his integrity. Z B was one of those individuals who inspired and taught us by example to strive to be our best.

Z B is survived by his wife of 47 years, Lois (Zentarski) Mayo (Lincoln, Nebraska); brother, Reginald Vance Mayo (Spur, Texas); sister, Roszella Wyatt Stephenson (Hemet, California); sisters and brothers-in-law Jean and Ralph Zimmerman (Aurora, Illinois), Nancy and Larry Fox (Channahon, Illinois), Mary and Larry Tate (Windsor, Colorado); and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents; brother-in-law, Coy Stephenson; sister-in-law, Sandra Mayo; and nephew, Geoffrey Tate.

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