



# Murray Straus and Owen Rogers Remembered

Their means might have been different, but both were devoted to making the world a more beautiful place

SERIES:

UNH MAGAZINE FALL 2016

Monday, August 29, 2016



In May, UNH lost two venerated researchers and members of the teaching faculty — one who helped change America’s views on corporal punishment and family violence; another who supported the proliferation of the official state flower.

Former professor of [sociology](#) Murray Straus died on May 13 at the age of 89. Founder of the field of family violence research and longtime director of UNH’s [Family Research Laboratory](#), Straus was the first to document the negative effects of spanking on children, publishing research that showed spanking was associated with increased subsequent aggression among children and reduced warmth between children and their parents. He provided much of the scientific evidence to back efforts to ban corporal punishment, a ban that was subsequently adopted by some 50 countries. In the early 1970s, Straus also pioneered

SUBSCRIBE TO THE UNH TODAY NEWSLETTER

SUBSCRIBE TO UNH TODAY RSS

## RELATED LINKS

**Passing: Professor Murray A. Straus, 1926-2016**

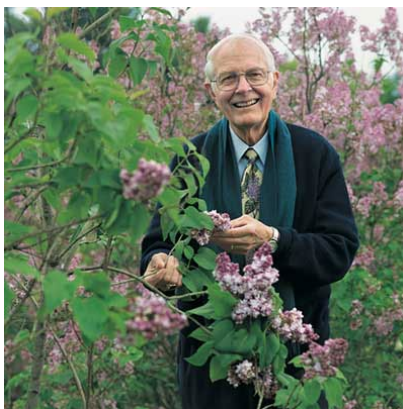
**Remembering Professor Rogers**

**In Memoriam: Doris Paradis Hayden '30**

**In Memoriam: Amos R. Townsend '52**

surveys that established that people were far more likely to be assaulted and injured by members of their own family than they were by strangers, fundamentally changing popular and academic conceptions about crime and crime prevention.

On May 24, emeritus professor of [plant biology](#) Owen Rogers died at the age of 85. Rogers devoted his career to breeding lilacs, the New Hampshire state flower, and was instrumental in developing UNH's 60-year-long lilac breeding program, the longest



continuous lilac breeding program in the United States. Known nationally for his lilac expertise, Rogers cross-bred thousands of varieties of lilacs and introduced three new cultivars, the white Agnes Smith lilac, the purple Jesse Helper lilac and the light violet Marie Rogers lilac — which he named after his wife.

Originally published in [UNH Magazine](#)  
[Fall 2016 Issue](#)

*[Comment on this article.](#)*

WRITTEN [Karen Tongue Hammond '64](#) | UNH Magazine  
BY:

UNH MAGAZINE FALL 2016

## RELATED ARTICLES

---



August 17, 2021 | COMMUNITY

## Helping Hands Abound

---



August 31, 2021 | RESEARCH SNAPSHOTS

## Marsh March

---



September 16, 2021 | ALUMNI

## UNH Research Finds Witnessing Abuse of Sibling Can Lead to Mental Health Issues

---



**University of New Hampshire**

UNH Today is produced for the UNH community and for friends of UNH.

The stories are written by the staff of **UNH Communications and Public Affairs**.

Email us: [unhtoday.editor@unh.edu](mailto:unhtoday.editor@unh.edu).



UNH Today • UNH Main Directory: 603-862-1234  
Copyright © 2022 • TTY Users: 7-1-1 or 800-735-2964 (Relay NH)

[USNH Privacy Policies](#) • [USNH Terms of Use](#) • [ADA Acknowledgement](#)

[MANAGE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION](#)  [CONTACT](#)  
[US](#)