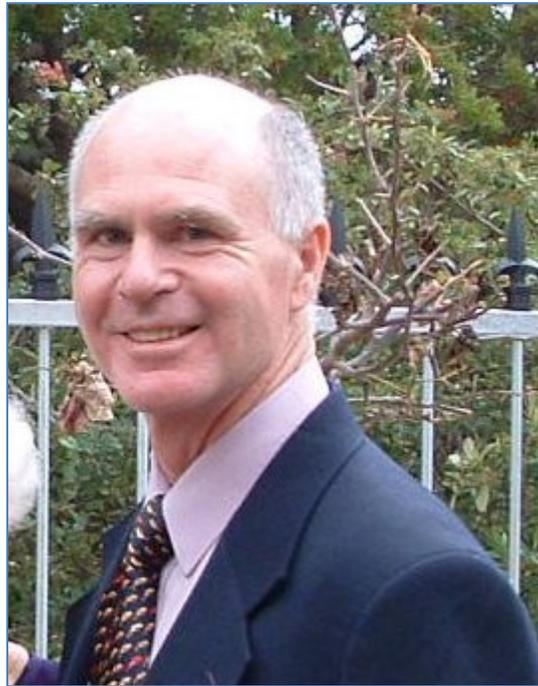


IAN GIDDY

18th January 1948 - 14th June 2009

In Memoriam



Surfing, swimming, science and literature – these were some of the many interests Ian had while growing up in South Africa. The eldest of three boys born to Allan and Ena Giddy, Ian was stricken by polio at the age of five. He never let it slow him down, and it was just one of the many challenges he met head on and overcame. Ian always excelled academically, and after his high school years at St Andrews College, he attended Witwatersrand University (“Wits”) in Johannesburg. During those years he was active on the Student Council, and was once arrested for demonstrating against the apartheid laws. Upon obtaining his degree, he moved to the United States where he completed his MBA and Ph.D in Finance at the University of Michigan.

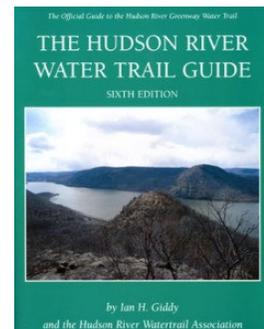
A Professor of Finance at NYU Stern School of Business where he taught in the Executive MBA program, he was a dynamic and popular teacher. His earlier career included lecturing at Wharton, and Columbia University. In addition, he worked as a consultant to companies, banks, and institutes such as the Amsterdam Institute of Finance, INSEAD, and Euromoney. He taught in over fifty countries, and looked upon each assignment with a spirit of adventure and enthusiasm. <http://pages.stern.nyu.edu/~igiddy/bio.html>

For much of his life, Ian lived on the Upper West Side of Manhattan and also in the hamlet of Rhinecliff, on the Hudson River, two hours north of the city. His friend and colleague, James Dean remembers a period of three years when the two of them shared an apartment, work, wine and friends. James writes “Ian was one of the most intense, brilliant, and hard-working, people I have met, but we had so much fun together, and these years were amongst the happiest of my life”.

With Rachel Deming, he had two daughters, Julia and Laura, both currently University of Michigan students. In 2002, he married his childhood sweetheart, Jenny O'Grady Giddy, of Vancouver, Canada, and became stepfather to Richard and James O'Grady.

This brief account does no justice to this remarkable man. Whatever he did, and wherever he went, he made an impact on those whom he taught, traveled with, parented, or loved. In his professional life, he became a world expert in his field, and generously shared much of his work on his website (www.giddy.org) for all to read. An inspiration to his students, he loved teaching and his unique style of interaction with his classes created a lasting impression. At his Memorial, several of his EMBA Stern School of Business students reflected on the impact he had on their lives “the best professor I have had”, and “he was inspirational in his teaching and example of conservation”. He authored and co-authored numerous papers, and some textbooks on finance, including "Global Financial Markets".

Whatever Ian did, he did to the best of his ability. He held everyone to the highest standards, including himself. He lived life with a passion, and swept others along with him in his zest for living. When he was interested in a hobby, it became all-consuming. Just one example is when he took up kayaking - it was not long before he wrote "The Hudson River Water Trail Guide", now in its 6th ed., and “the definitive manual for quiet exploration of the Hudson River. “ (see www.hrwa.org)



Inspired by his brother Peter’s decision to climb Mt Kilimanjaro in 2000, he assembled a group of friends, including Irwin Marcus, Mike Connelly, his wife Jenny, and brother-in-law Roger Gush, and flew off to climb the highest mountain in Africa. <http://giddy.org/kili/>

"The hardest thing I have ever done" Jenny recalls him saying at the time, but thenceforth, Ian was on the lookout for new mountaineering challenges. Mt Kinabalu, Der Zugspitz, and Toubkal followed. Then in December of 2001, Jenny and Ian visited Costa Rica to climb Mt Chirripo, the highest mountain in Central America. It proved to be a life-changing experience.

Jenny remembers: “When we were descending from our hike, Ian stopped at a viewpoint, and gazed out over the valleys below – ‘Look at all the deforestation! Let’s come back and buy some land and just let the trees grow...’

And so, a few months later, they returned, drove around Costa Rica and bought land on the slopes of Mt Chirripo – coincidentally, the same mountain they had climbed earlier. Thus Cloudbridge Nature Reserve was created. (www.cloudbridge.org)



It brought immense satisfaction to Ian's life as he and Jenny started the reforestation of the former cattle pastures and launched a volunteer research program. Dozens of dedicated volunteers have come to study and work at Cloudbridge over the years, and their lives have become intertwined with those of the local villagers in San Gerardo de Rivas, enriching both Costa Rican and ex-patriate communities. The research is published on the website.

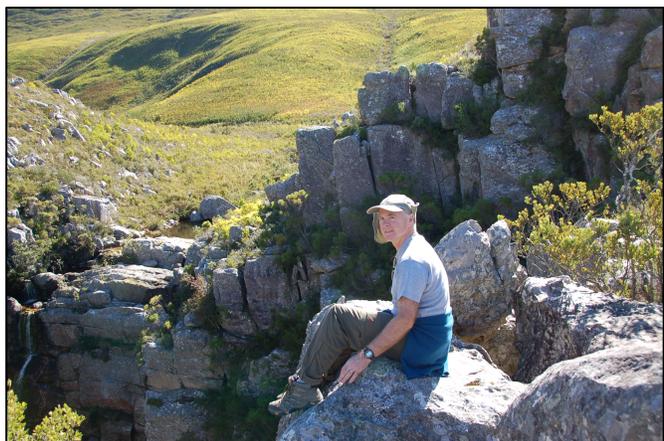
Ian is pictured at the left on the veranda at Cloudbridge with a red-headed barbet he befriended, with the cloud forest in the background. He's wearing the T-shirt Amy had made for all of us to wear: "I survived a hike with Ian"

The loss of Ian is deeply felt at Cloudbridge and in San Gerardo.

<http://www.sangerardocostarica.com/2009/06/16/san-gerardos-passionate-conservationist-passes-away/>

With Cloudbridge well established, Ian's restless nature and deepening desire to do more to protect the environment, led him to suggest to Jenny that they start a similar nature reserve in South Africa, the land of their birth. A new chapter of their lives began in 2006 with the purchase of a beautiful farm in the mountains of the Western Cape. Wildcliff, with its mountains, waterfalls and deep gorges is visually stunning, but even more important is the protection it affords now to the endangered "fynbos" – vegetation indigenous to the Cape Province, the remnant of afro-montane forest in the deep valleys, and the wildlife.

Once again, Ian was tireless in setting up a volunteer research program, (www.wildcliff.org) encouraging applicants from around the world, and renovating and building accommodation on the property for the researchers, manager, and guests. At Wildcliff, he delighted in long hikes of exploration with his brother Peter, researchers and other family members. His happiest times were spent sitting on the veranda at breakfast or sunset with Jenny, watching the Egyptian geese fly down to the dam, the baboons courting brazenly in full view and the bushbuck shyly emerging from the forest to graze in the meadow.



Driven constantly by the desire to share his knowledge, and educate others, he wrote articles for the local newspaper on various of the animal species on the reserve. He was also a popular speaker at the local Amateur Scientists Group at the UU congregation in Kingston, NY. Some of the topics he presented were on biodiversity, the Cape Floral Kingdom, Plate tectonics, - he had a wide range of interests and was a voracious reader.

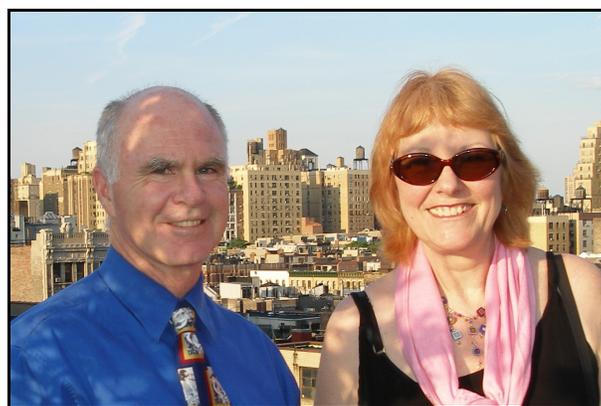
Ian leaves his wife, Jenny, to mourn the passing of her loving and beloved husband. She will now assume the mantle of responsibility to maintain his legacy in protecting habitat for plants, birds and animals in both the cloud forest of Costa Rica, and the mountains of South Africa.

He is deeply missed by his daughters, Julia and Laura, his brothers, Patrick and Peter, and their families. His mother, Ena, grieves his loss. His fellow hiking companions, brother-in-law Roger, and sister-in-law, Tory, mourn the loss of a remarkable man, and good friend. Many more miss his presence on this earth.

A Memorial Service, led by Rev Linda Anderson, was held for Ian at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills in Kingston, NY, where he and Jenny had been members for several years. Celebrations of his life were attended by dozens of people in both Rhinecliff and Manhattan, and several amusing anecdotes were related by those present about their kayaking or hiking experiences with Ian, scary at the time, but always with a wry acknowledgement of Ian's calmness and fortitude in the face of danger. Ian would have appreciated the light-hearted tone, but privately a couple of people expressed their gratitude that Ian had saved them in perilous situations – a raging river or his quick-thinking strong grasp to save a friend from a precipitous fall down a steep cliff .

Thanks to all those who have made donations in Ian's memory to Cloudbridge at:
<http://cloudbridge.org/contributing.htm>
or to the not-for-profit organization he established in New York State:
"Cloud Forest Conservation Alliance" or CFCA, P O Box 247, Rhinecliff, NY 12574

Contact: jenny@giddy.net
June 2009



Ian & Jenny in Manhattan

