In Memory Of Leigh Minturn

IPCAS member and Director, Leigh Minturn, was a passenger on EgyptAir 990.



When Leigh saw that I was about to take her picture, she posed. This shows the dignified side of Leigh. She was also intelligent, witty, and full of life. I'm certain that she took the IPCAS T-shirt on the trip with her (if you cannot tell, that is what she is wearing). She volunteered to sit at a table and sell the shirts at the CAS annual meeting, last September. The Pawnee National Grassland Work Station Survey was her first project with our chapter. She had never been on survey before but was game for many more. Her only other archaeology project was a week on Easter Island with EarthWatch. She was so excited about the trip to Egypt and Jordan. Our chapter is going to miss her. I'm going to miss her! - Tom Cree

I liked her. She had a good, calculated, sense of humor. - Susan Omori (Work Station Survey participant, FC/CAS).

A very sad story indeed. Joel (Hurmence) and I were just talking about her last Saturday. She was quiet but when she started to talk she was so funny. I am sad and will pray for her soul to rest peacefully. I know you will miss her too. She was a neat lady. - Ulli Limpitlaw (Work Center Survey participant, as was Joel, FC/CAS).





This was Leigh operating the scale on the "Traveling Lab Table". Please see the article in the Calumet for additional information and photographs.

Ex-CU professor dies in crash By Nadia White Boulder Daily Camera Staff Writer November 2, 1999

Leigh Minturn followed her spirit, and it led her to the corners of the Earth, the homes of strangers and the height of her profession. A pioneering professor of social psychology and a member of the University of Colorado faculty for more than 25 years, Minturn, 71, died Sunday along with all other passengers and crew aboard EgyptAir Flight 990.

"She was a pioneer. She was an explorer. She was uncompromising in demanding excellence of herself and others. She was always looking for adventure, she really loved to travel," recalled her friend and colleague Shelley Calisher. Professor Theresa Hernandez worked in the office next to Minturn's at CU. "She was a really good mentor for me, as a woman academic. She instilled in you not to give up. She never gave up. She was one of the original pushing against the glass ceiling," Hernandez said.

Minturn graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1949 and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. from Radcliffe College by 1953. She taught at CU from 1967 until she retired in 1994. Minturn's field work focused on the lives of women and children in an Indian village, Khalapur. She first visited Khalapur in 1955. She followed the same families a generation later and reported on the changes in tradition, health and women's autonomy that occurred in the intervening years. Those findings are told in her 1993 book "Sita's Daughters: Coming Out of Purdah."

In Boulder, Minturn was known for the parties she threw for her graduate students. She was part of the effort to build the Dushanbe Teahouse. Calisher said Minturn was excited about visiting Egypt for a second time, and about a side trip to the Jordanian city Petra. "That's one of the saddest things about it, she didn't get to Petra. She lived to go to new places," Calisher said.

Minturn was married briefly to University of Illinois professor Harry Triandis. Friends say she had no family in Boulder. Funeral service arrangements have not yet been made.