In Memoriam...

David Truman

David B. Truman, former provost and vice president of the University, died on Thursday, Aug. 28 in Sarasota, Fla., at the age of 90. During his time at Columbia, Truman was renowned for his particularly good rapport with students and faculty alike, as his colleagues described in academic and administrative duties.

A graduate of Amherst College in 1935, and taking a Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, Truman taught at Bennington, Cornell, Harvard and Williams College before joining the Columbia faculty in 1951. He was named full professor at the age of 38. From 1959 through 1961, Truman was the head of Columbia’s department of public law and government. During this period his numerous publications on American politics such as Governmental Process; Political Interests and Public Opinion, made a public impact, and were featured in The New York Times as careful, responsible and sensible. In 1962 Truman was named dean of Columbia College, where he voiced progressive views on civil rights and updated policies on campus life.

In 1967 Truman was appointed vice president and provost by President Grayson Kirk. In Jan. of 1969, he stepped down after a tumultuous year of student unrest. During his time as leader of the University, Truman was continuously mentioned as a University president who retained the student body’s respect.

After leaving Columbia, Truman took over as president of Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, where he served until 1978. Truman remained as president of the Russell Sage Foundation for one year.

Truman’s wife Elinor Griffling-hagen, his son Edwin Truman, two grandchildren and a great-granddaughter survive him.

Robert McCormick

Robert McCormick, Business ’68, a Columbia Trustee Emeritus and former executive vice president of Citibank, died on August 25. He was 59.

During his tenure as a Univer- sity alumnus, from 2001 to 2002, McCormick served as vice chair of the Subcom- mittee on the Budget. He served on several other committees, including the Committee on Development and the Investment Steering Committee. In the resolution des-

ignating McCormick as a Trustee Emeritus, the Trustees commend- ed him for service that “brought a helpful realism, close scrutiny of the issues, and devotion to the high responsibilities of Columbia University.”

He received his BA from the University of Pennsylvania in 1966 and his MBA from Columbia University in 1968. After comple-
mting his studies, McCormick served in the United States Peace Corps from 1968 to 1972 as a vol-
unteer and staff director in Colum-
bia and the Eastern Caribbean.

As a junior financial officer for Citibank, McCormick began a career that would span three decades and see him rise to the rank of executive vice president. He helped steady the company during the economic turbulence of the late 1980’s, when it created the banking institution’s real estate asset management busi-
ness. Earlier in his career, he worked as a leader in the negotia-
tion and bank committee process with major sovereign debtors including: Mexico, Brazil, Columbia and Poland. He is survived by his wife and two children.