William L. Bray, professor of biological sciences, died May 25, 1953. He was 87.

Professor Bray was born on September 19, 1865, in Burnside, Illinois. He received a bachelor's degree from Indiana University in 1893, a master's from Lake Forest University in 1894, and a PhD from the University of Chicago in 1898. He also studied botany at the Royal Botanical Garden in Berlin.

Dr. Bray taught at Lake Forest University. He joined the faculty of The University of Texas at Austin in 1897. He directed the institution's botany program and carried out extensive research on Texas flora. He published significant studies, including "The Ecological Relations of the Vegetation of Western Texas" (1901), *Forest Resources of Texas* (1904), *The Timber of the Edwards Plateau of Texas* (1904), "Vegetation of the Sotol Country in Texas" (1905), *Distribution and Adaptation of the Vegetation of Texas* (1906), and *The Mistletoe Pest in the Southwest* (1910). Professor Bray's efforts to establish a balance between the exploitation and conservation of natural resources resulted in a plan entitled "A Forest Working Plan for the Long Leaf Pine Lands of Texas" (1903). One of his projects, an exhibition of 130 specimens of Texas trees, was awarded the grand prize from an international jury at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1904.

In 1907 Professor Bray accepted a position at Syracuse University, where he taught until his retirement in 1943.

John R. Durbin, Secretary
The General Faculty

Biographical sketch prepared by Teresa Palomo Acosta and posted on the Faculty Council web site on January 18, 2001. Additional biographical sources can be found in the Barker Texas History Center and the New *Handbook of Texas*, Texas State Historical Association, 1996.