

William "Bill" Vanneman '31 Outstanding Class Leader Award

Edward W. Shineman, Jr '37

It was a balmy June evening in 1987, and the Cornell class of '37 would have liked to have been celebrating its 50th college reunion. Unfortunately, instead of celebrating it was deliberating - how to combine what had been separate slates of officers representing the men's and women's classes without either sex feeling slighted.

A motion was made. Make serving men's class president Ed Shineman co-president with his wife, Doris, also class of '37. Problem solved, the festivities resumed.

Doris and Ed remained co-presidents until she passed away in 2004, and last year as Ed completed 25 years of faithful service, he was elected by a record 70th reunion turn-out of 24 classmates to yet another term.

Ed is a Cornell zealot who has served both his class and his university with unflagging enthusiasm. He has attended all 14 reunions since his graduation, and has inspired dozens of young people to pursue a Cornell education, including his brother Richard, sons Tom and Alan and granddaughters Trynka and Diana. A former Cornell Council member, he has been active in fundraising and together with Doris was named a University Benefactor in 1997.

An avid musician, Ed played Bb cornet in the Cornell Big Red Marching Band and served as president of the University Orchestra and Musical Club. In 1988 he limbered up his lip from nearly 50 years of neglect to join other alumni in performing with the Cornell band in Carnegie Hall.

A world authority on magic squares, and other geometries, Ed is best known for his commemorative magic diamonds celebrating historic milestones, some of which may be found on his website: www.eds-magic-squares.com. Below is a magic diamond Ed constructed to commemorate the class of '37's 60th diamond anniversary reunion.

Now approaching his 93rd birthday, Ed Shineman is retired from a career as a Fortune 500 officer/director. He also served as a director for a number of emergent concerns in banking, the biosciences, investment management and adult residential living.

A current priority is keeping communications current with his fellow officers and members of the class of '37 and setting the stage for 2012 which he promises will be the best 75th reunion ever.