James M. Beattie

James M. Beattie, 88, of State College, PA, died Wednesday, 4 Mar. 2009, at The Atrium at the Village at Penn State University. He was born on 14 Feb. 1921, in Washington, DC, the son of Herbert and Maude Rock Beattie. On 20 June 1942, he married Helen Crane, who survives. He was a graduate of Hyattsville High School in Maryland, and a graduate of the University of Maryland in 1941 with a BS in horticulture. He served in World War II in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1946, attaining the rank of captain. After he returned from the war, he received a graduate assistant fellowship from Cornell University, earning a PhD in 1948.

Upon completion of his academic training, Dr. Beattie was named assistant in horticulture at the Ohio Experiment Station at Wooster, now Agricultural Research and Development Center of Ohio State University, and advanced to professor in pomology. His research involved the nitrogen and mineral nutrition of tree fruits and grapes, culture and management of grapes, and the reclamation of strip-mine spoil banks for fruit crop production. He did pioneering work in the use of quantitative leaf analysis in the diagnosis of nutritional deficiencies and fertilization recommendations. In 1963 he was named assistant director of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, associate director in 1969 to 1973, and in 1973 dean of the College of Agriculture, director of the Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension at Penn State University.

Dr. Beattie was named fellow of the American Association for the Advance-