Boyce D McDaniel 1917–2002

On 8 May 2002 Boyce D McDaniel, emeritus professor and former director of the Cornell University Laboratory of Nuclear Studies, died of a heart attack at the age of 84 at his home in Ithaca, New York.

Mac, as he was known to everyone, came to Cornell as a graduate student in 1940 after a BA degree at Ohio Wesleyan University and an MA at Case School of Applied Science. As a graduate student of Robert Bacher, he built one of the first multichannel neutron time-of-flight spectrometers and used it to make precision measurements of the energy levels of indium. After his Cornell PhD in 1943 he spent a few months at MIT as a post-doc and the rest of the war years at Los Alamos working on the Manhattan Project. He returned to Cornell in 1946 as a faculty member in the Department of Physics.

Mac was a versatile experimenter in nuclear, particle and accelerator physics. He worked on each of the Cornell machines, the 2 MeV cyclotron (the first outside of Berkeley), the 0.3, 1, 2 and 10 GeV electron synchrotrons, and the Cornell Electron–Positron Storage Ring (CESR). The pair spectrometer, which he invented for the study of gamma-ray