Prof. D. Layten Davis, Ph.D.

April 25, 1938 – April 30, 2016

D. Layten Davis, age 78, passed away peacefully on April 30, 2016 at his home in the mountains of western North Carolina, USA. Layten grew up on a tobacco farm and went on to study agronomy, receiving his university degree from Berea College (Berea, Kentucky, USA), his MS degree from Michigan State University (East Lansing, Michigan, USA), and his Ph.D. from NC State University (Raleigh, North Carolina, USA).

Dr. Davis began his professional career in tobacco research 50 years ago. He was Professor of Agronomy at the University of Kentucky (Lexington, Kentucky, USA) and later served as Director of the Tobacco and Health Research Institute there. Layten joined the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. R&D Department in 1987 and retired in 2003 as Principal Research Scientist after a distinguished career there. He then continued as a consultant until his death, promoting burley tobacco production in North Carolina and Virginia.

Layten was known internationally as an authority on agronomy and the chemistry and physiology of tobacco. One of his more notable scholarly contributions was as co-editor of *Tobacco: Production, Chemistry and Technology* (Wiley-Blackwell, 1999), widely considered as one of the most comprehensive reference books on tobacco.

As an international expert on tobacco varieties, Layten was actively involved in CORESTA as frequent presenter, member of the Agrochemical Advisory Committee, and 1998 recipient of that association's silver medal service award. He also received a number of other industry honors and recognitions, including the Philip Morris Golden Leaf Award, the Philip Morris Award for Distinguished Achievement in Tobacco Science (1978), and induction into the Western North Carolina (WNC) Agricultural Hall of Fame (2012).

Beyond those accolades, however, Layten will be remembered first and foremost as a great family man, friend, mentor, and advisor to the tobacco farming community. He worked tirelessly to support tobacco growers throughout his career, and his ability to translate and communicate his immense technical knowledge of tobacco production in layman's terms was legendary. His commitment to our industry and to excellence will truly be missed.

Michael W. Ogden
Vice President, Scientific & Regulatory Affairs
RAI Services Company, Winston-Salem, NC, USA