

Hello, my name is Andy and one of George's grandsons, although I always knew him as Grandpa Pel. I would first like to take the time to thank Claire, the University, and everyone else involved in planning today's event. I was only 14 when Grandpa Pel passed, so I really never knew much about his professional life. Hearing from his friends and colleagues today has been a wonderful opportunity for me to see a new side of my grandfather and learn more about his time as a teacher and a statistician. Although I new he was an accomplished statistician, I really never fully realized the extent of his accomplishments until quite recently. I remember him for his quick wit, wonderful stories, and songs for every occasion. I have a wonderful memory of him and my mom singing "Summertime" together, a song that is still close to my heart. On the flip side, I can't look at a banana without thinking of Pel singing "I like bananas because they have no bones." One day when everyone else had left the house, he even tried to teach me a little piano, but I was quite small and he quickly realized that I wanted to do nothing but smash on the keys, he showed me the demo button on the piano and taught me how to make it look like I learned the piano. The family was quite surprised when they got home to see both of us playing perfectly!

Fun memories aside, Grandpa Pel was most of all a teacher. Through his stories and tales, he showed my brother Isaac and I his morals and life lessons that influenced both of us today. Of course, he had his fun stories like belly dancing in Bali, but even these had hidden messages of the carefree fun lifestyle Pel led that gave him all of these amazing stories and friends. Other stories were more serious however. The one

that always stands out to me, and especially my brother is his decision to join the military to fight in World War II. He would always say he realized he needed to put his money where his mouth is, and in this case, it was to fight injustice. I really do believe his views on actively fighting for what he believed in had huge impacts on me, but especially my brother. He is 2 years older than me and would often have long talks with Grandpa Pel about politics and the world. He says it himself that Grandpa Pel's wisdom and insight led him to the career in politics he has now, where he actively fights for what he truly believes in day after day. Although I did not follow my brother into politics, I still share many of those same moral standards that Grandpa Pel taught us.

Although I am still an undergraduate, I know that I will be pursuing a career in the sciences. I am currently taking a 16 month break from school to work in a research lab as a co-op. I was much too young to understand Grandpa Pel's statistics when he was still alive, but even without, talking to him about basic experimental design or seeing his accomplishments, especially the invitation to the British Royal Society, had a profound influence on my life. There was one day in Madison when I was doing math homework, and struggling to grasp how to solve a system of 2 equations, when he sat with me and took me through it. Then he went on to tell me how he often needs so many variables, the alphabet is never enough. He had a true gift of explaining these type of things so simply. He tried to show me what a matrix was, but that was still a bit much for me. I was quite proud of myself a few years later when I was able to show him, I had learned the basics of matrixes.

At that time, I really did not understand just how important Grandpa Pel's contribution to statistics was. Lately, working has led a rejuvenated interest in his old work, and it was mind-blowing to say the least. My grandfather has over 170000 citations of his papers and books, and I am sure countless more where influence is undeniable. By rereading his memoirs, and learning more about his work and teaching philosophy, he continues to teach me. I put a post it note on my computer that says "All models are wrong, but some are useful" to remind myself of him, and continue to try to learn and improve my work. I really do miss him, and hope I am making him proud.

To close, I would like to thank everyone one more time for this event; it's wonderful so many people came out today to celebrate such a wonderful person.