

# THE TEACHING EXCHANGE

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## *In Memoriam*

This year the Sheridan Center lost two dear friends amongst the Brown community. We wish to recognize them for their dedication to professional development in higher education over many years, Both were keen supporters of Harriet Sheridan's efforts to improve the quality of education at Brown and worked with her closely to achieve that goal. Their legacy of commitment will continue to inspire the Brown community and their absence will be deeply felt by us all.

**Frederick Lippitt**, Fellow of the University, died on May 11, 2005. In addition to his many, many, activities on behalf of Brown, Mr. Lippitt served as a member of the Center's Advisory Board from 1996 until 2004. He believed that education was the foundation of a civil, democratic, society, whether at the elementary or post-secondary level. He devoted his life to ensuring educational opportunities for the broadest possible constituency. As a result, he recognized that professional development for instructors was crucial to the accomplishment of that goal and his recent endowment bequest to the Center supported its mission for the future.

**John L. Thomas**, George L. Littlefield Professor of American History, was one of the first faculty to join with Harriet Sheridan in establishing what has become the Sheridan Center. Under the auspices of a 1989-1992 grant from the American Association of Colleges and FIPSE, he and four other colleagues from the humanities and social sciences worked with Prof. Sheridan to develop a comprehensive program for preparing graduate students to be effective teachers as well as superb scholars. In addition, Professor Thomas led a demanding seminar on professional development within the History Department which inspired a generation of dedicated professors. Many of those former graduate students were deeply involved with the early development of the Sheridan Center and its role in the University. In 1997 Professor Thomas was amongst the first five recipients of the Harriet W. Sheridan Award for Distinguished Contribution to Teaching and Learning at Brown - a recognition of his vigorous support for his colleagues and his commitment to the role of teaching in a research university.