

## ***Fundraising***

# **Robert and Ginny left behind a legacy**

I never met Virginia face to face. I always meant to go and see her, but it never seemed to be the right time, and now the right time will never come to pass. All I knew about Virginia was what I gleaned from her letters and her participation in our online conversations. She was so absolutely dedicated to preserving Robert's legacy, in carrying out his wishes in all things, it seemed as though he had deputized her to be his representative to his readers after he passed on. She maintained the standard the Robert set, preserved the legacy, and when she knew that her time was coming, set various projects in motion to carry on after she was gone.

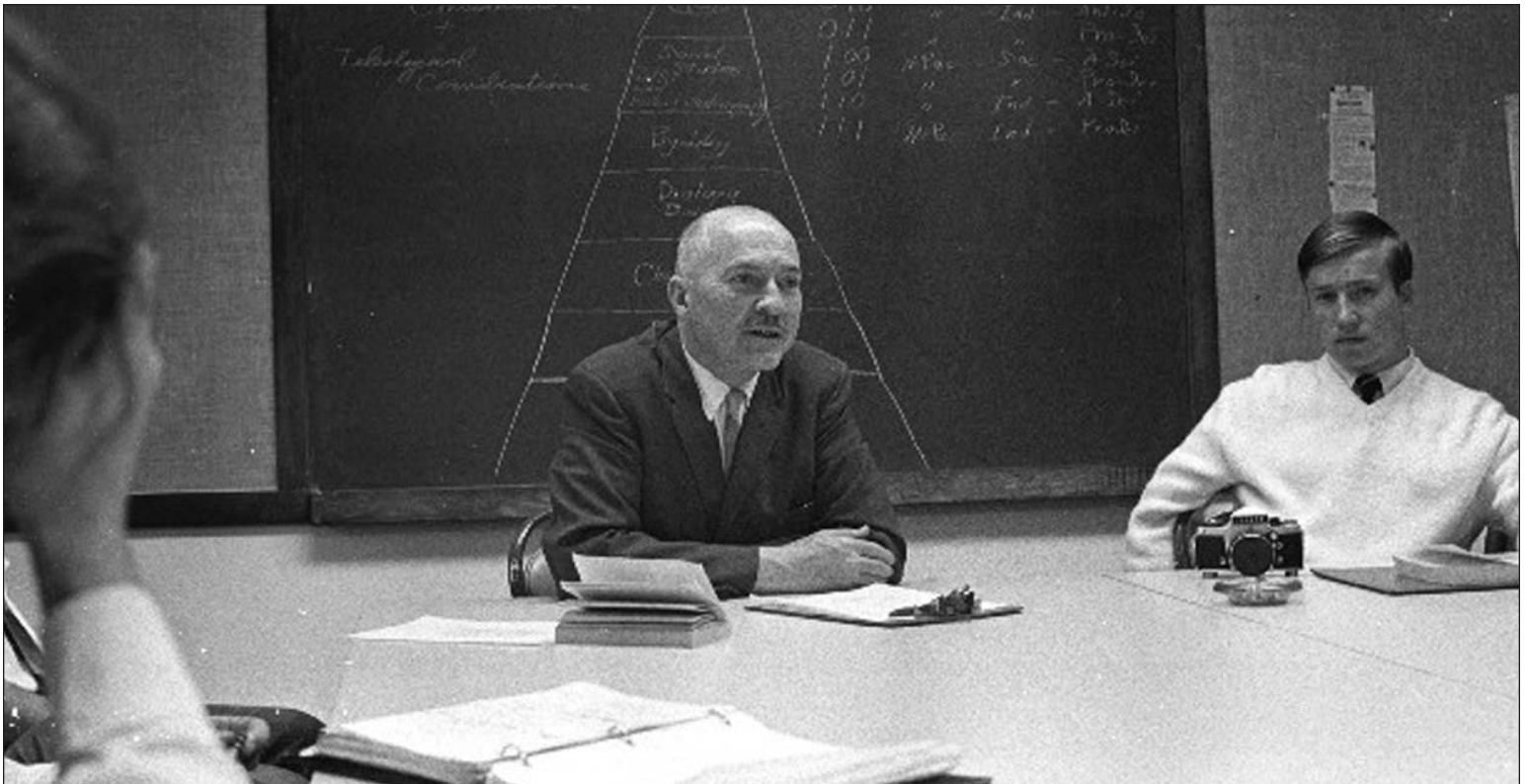
So, I never met Ginny, and I am the poorer for that, but I was unwilling to impose on her at the end of her life, and must content myself with the knowledge that she and I were friends who never met, an increasing phenomenon.

And now that they are both gone, Robert and Virginia, we who remain have a legacy, a responsibility, and a challenge. The legacy is Robert's written words, millions of them, in hundreds of stories. The responsibility, as we all know, is to pay forward the boons we received from this man, this writer of fiction, by bringing his ideas into the real world of present time. The challenge is to educate ourselves to advocate for, to proselytize, to cajole and bully

the world into accepting a broader vision of the future than the one that presently limits us.

With Ginny's passing, we can just feel bad, and continue doing whatever we were doing before we heard that she had moved along this mortal coil to something else, or we can take this as the starting point, not the end, of an even better adventure. The planets are still out there, without our reach, but not yet within in our grasp. The stars lay beyond, seductively beckoning. All that stops us is the lack of vision, the lack of will, and economics. Robert supplied the vision. It is up to us to provide the will and the economics.

*Alan Milner  
Fundraising chair*



Robert A. Heinlein speaks at Crown College, University of California at Santa Cruz in the Spring 1969.

*-- photo courtesy of Michael Broschat*