



William E. Morgan

February 21, 1938 - March 30, 2016

William E. Morgan passed away suddenly on March 30, 2016 at the age of 78 years old in Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Bill was born February 21, 1938 in Billings, Montana. He played baseball and basketball while growing up on Beverly Hills Drive in Billings, and graduated from Billings Senior High School in 1956. He earned his B.A. degree in Economics from University of Colorado, Boulder in 1960 and earned his Ph.D. degree in Economics from the same university in 1964. He was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity at CU, where friendships with many of his brothers began and lasted a lifetime.

In 1962, he married Linda Edwards in Reno, Nevada. After graduate school, he worked for the U.S. State Department in Ankara, Turkey and Washington, D.C. He and Linda greatly enjoyed traveling during the two years that they lived in Turkey, visiting dozens of countries throughout Europe and the Middle East. Of special note was their time spent in Italy, Austria, Lebanon, Israel, Istanbul and Greece.

In 1967, the Morgans welcomed their newborn son, Carter, and one year later they moved west from Washington to Laramie. Bill became Professor of Economics at the University of Wyoming, a position that he held until his retirement in 2002. Bill was a distinguished teacher with an active research

program throughout his tenure in the economics department at UW. He was particularly interested in state and local tax issues within the field of public finance, and published widely read articles in leading journals. His expertise in state and local finance attracted the attention of Governor Herschler, who appointed him to the State of Wyoming Consensus Revenue Estimating Committee in 1983. Bill served on this committee for twenty years.

In 1975, the Morgan's family of four was completed when their daughter, Christina, was born at Ivinson Hospital in Laramie. In 1977, Bill and his family took a sabbatical to the University of California, San Diego in La Jolla. Perhaps Bill's most enduring professional contributions came through his leadership in the UW economic department. He served as department chair from 1972-1979. During his tenure in this position he transformed the department into a world-class center in environmental and resource economics. The department continues to hold this distinguished reputation to this day. Morgan built the graduate program through his efforts as director of graduate studies between 1984-1999. Soon after his retirement from UW, the William E Morgan Graduate Award was endowed in his name. The scholarship annually goes to the top graduate student(s) exhibiting excellence in academics and leadership in the Department of Economics and Finance at UW. It is considered the department's highest possible award.

After his retirement in 2002, he and Linda enjoyed spending their summers in Laramie and winters on Balboa Island in Newport Beach, California. In 2008, Linda was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Bill dedicated himself to providing her with the best care possible, and did most of the work himself so that she be able to stay at home in Laramie with him rather than be moved to a care facility. His passions in life were his family, enjoying his work at UW and cheering on the Wyoming Cowboys, Denver Broncos and San Francisco Giants. He was able to enjoy five championships between these teams the last few years of his life. His smile, wit, intellect, sense of humor, honesty,

kindness, love and advice will all be missed greatly. He loved the Great State of Wyoming, and enjoyed residing in Laramie for the past 48 years. His hobbies included gardening, walking the dogs and playing golf with his kids at Jacoby Golf Course.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Ruth, and his sister, Elizabeth. He is survived by his wife Linda, his son Carter, his daughter Chris, and his grandsons, Cole (12) and Caden (6). A celebration of Bill's remarkable life will be held at the Wildcatter Club at the University of Wyoming War Memorial Stadium from 2-6pm on June 11, 2016. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the William E. Morgan Graduate Award through the UW College of Business. 307-766-4194 or <http://www.uwyo.edu/foundation/>. Please visit bohlenderfuneralchapel.com to send the family online condolences.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life at the Wild Catter Club

JUN 11. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (MT)

War Memorial Stadium
1000 E University Ave
Laramie, WY 82071-2000
(307) 766-1121

Tribute Wall

CB

“ Carol B. purchased a sympathy card for the family of William E. Morgan.



Carol B. - June 12, 2016 at 03:20 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of William E. Morgan.



June 08, 2016 at 10:43 AM

EC

“ Linda:

I am saddened for being so tardy with your loss to express my deepest sympathy to you and your family for your loss of your husband, Bill. You was on my thought two weeks ago, but I didn't know that it was for someone in your house. He is a remarkable, caring and protective person when I spoke to him over two years on the phone. Since then, I never had any problem reaching you on the phone. My prayers and heart are with you and your family. May the Lord bring you comfort and peace in mind.

*Respectfully your,
Eugene Choy*

Eugene Choy - April 26, 2016 at 08:12 PM

KR

“ Linda and Carter,

I am so saddened to learn of Bill's passing. He is a constant figure in many of my childhood memories, and they are all positive. I also ended up taking several classes from him in college - and they were among my favorite. His supply/demand lectures using beer and pizza are probably remembered by literally thousands of students.

I'm certain there is nothing I can say to ease your burden of grief, but you should know he made an indelible mark on me. He was one of the good ones, and the world is now a lesser place without him.

I hope that you are able to endure this trial and find peace in family and friends.

*Respectfully,
Keith Roberts*

keith roberts - April 25, 2016 at 06:48 PM

DB

“ Linda,

It was with great sorrow today that we learned of Bill's passing. Our prayers go out to you and all the family.

*Sincerely,
Dick and Felvia Belaustegui*

Dick Belaustegui - April 23, 2016 at 01:49 AM

TG

“ Linda, I am sorry to be late responding, but I was traveling and just read of Bill's passing. You and your entire family have my deepest sympathy, warm wishes and thoughts. Bill was wonderful individual and I so enjoyed discussing baseball, especially the Giants, with him. He left me with such nice memories. Again, my deepest sympathies to you all.
Terry Guice

Terry Guice - April 21, 2016 at 10:17 AM

JM

“ Good thoughts and wishes go out to the Morgan family. They were a fixture in my neighborhood growing up and will always be remembered for their kindness.

Jeff McGarvin - April 20, 2016 at 10:59 AM

FS

“ I only had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Morgan through a freshman economics course back in the early '80s, but his warm, intelligent approach made an impact. My condolences, he was a very impressive man.

Former Student - April 19, 2016 at 10:19 AM

MP

“ our thoughts are with you all! so glad we met! paul and martha pheneger

martha pheneger - April 18, 2016 at 02:49 PM

“Bill, as Department Chair at the University of Wyoming's Economics and Finance Dept. was instrumental in making the department what it is today (this department is ranked among the top 15 departments internationally in the field of Environmental and Resource Economics), making the early hires that would create the department's reputation, and in establishing our PhD program. His leadership was instrumental in making, shaping and influencing the successes our department later achieved over the past four decades. Many people also remember Bill as our graduate director, a post he served in for many years too.

What I remember best about Bill was his personal touch. As a newly-hired faculty member, I sometimes visited him for advice. His office was a place you went to visit for a minute, and left after a 45 minute conversation - the best 45 minutes of your day.

Conversations would begin by sitting down in the armchair across from Bill behind his desk, and out would come his pipe. Throughout the conversation, one that was always punctuated by laughs, I remember watching and marveling at the unconscious circular motion that he would go through smoking his pipe (you could do that in those days) – reaching into a baggy of tobacco, packing the pipe, lighting the pipe, smoking the pipe, tapping the pipe to empty it, then repeat all the above. This all happened without a thought as he carried on talking and laughing. Later he would not be allowed to smoke his pipe in his office for health reasons (like a good academic he had a healthy skepticism for University regulations, but took his doctors more seriously), but the conversation still remained just as good.

Another memory of Bill's sense of humor... He had these little balls he had collected from a trip somewhere that he would twirl in his hands. One day he and his best friend and former faculty member Shelby Gerking had an impromptu bowling tournament, pitching these balls down the hallway in front of my office next to Bill's. As a newly hired assistant professor I remember the pair of them laughing like a couple of little children in delight. There was always

an impish sort of happiness and mischief that surrounded Bill.

Bill had a brilliant academic career. He co-authored many articles and state reports with colleagues that had great influence. He was also a wonderful teacher who touched thousands of undergraduate lives. He was a mentor to many of our faculty and students and it goes without saying he will really be missed. The department honored him with by creating the Morgan endowment a few years ago, a collaboration of donations from former students, current and former colleagues to create an endowment in his honor. That endowment has been used to recognize annually the PhD student who epitomizes the type of student Bill hoped our program would create – being given to not the best academic student in our department, but something more: it had to be a promising young scholar, and also a student who was all-rounder – someone who served the department and tried to make it a better place through example and attitude.

Through health that slowly worsened as he got older, Bill still always made coming to our annual Awards Banquet a priority, not only so that he could see old friends, colleagues and the Morgan award-winner(s), but to also see how our department was doing and to catch up on the department and college gossip. Though Bill was often further away from UW after he retired, he was never far in spirit from our department and the people he had touched through his career here.

Knowing what he meant to us, on behalf of all his UW friends, let me express our sincerest condolences to Chris, Carter, Linda and the rest of the family. Thank you Bill for everything you did.

*-Rob Godby
Dept. Chair
Economics and Finance,
Univ. of Wyoming*

Rob Godby - April 18, 2016 at 12:25 PM