

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ALAN C. FILLEY

Alan Filley died on July 28, 2004 at the age of 72. He spent 37 years on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He provided rich and selfless service to the university, to the Madison community, and to the Academy of Management and other professional associations.

Alan was a professor of management at the School of Business, UW-Madison, from 1961 until his retirement in 1998 when he became an emeritus professor. The UW Board of Regents named him a Wisconsin Distinguished Professor, and he held the Graham Chair of Entrepreneurial Studies from 1989 until he retired. He was the founder and director of the Small Business Center at the School of Business that evolved into the Weinert Center for Entrepreneurship. He also organized and was first president of the Wisconsin Small Business Educators Association. Alan was a master teacher who will be remembered by countless former students who were inspired by him to become successful business owners or to take management jobs in smaller firms.

Alan was awarded the Robert A. Jerred Distinguished Service Award by the School of Business and the Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Employment Practices and Principles. He was the Management Application Series editor for Scott Foresman and Company. He served on several journal editorial review boards. He held many roles in the Academy of Management, including division chair, member of the Terry Scholars Awards Committee, member of the Committee on the Status of Women, and president and program chair of the Midwest Academy of Management, and he was a fellow of the academy. He was a member and officer of numerous other professional associations including the United States Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship, where he served as president, fellow, chair of the fellows meeting, and program chairperson.

Alan served the university in many ways including: chair of the Department of Management and Human Resources, chair of the Executive Committee of the Division of Social Studies, chair of the University Lectures Committee, chair of the Educational Technology Committee, and member of the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women. He was a visiting scholar at many universities in the U.S., Poland, Hungary, China, Portugal, the Czech Republic, and elsewhere. In addition to his traditional university teaching, Alan is known to many as the instructor of workshops and seminars taught to practitioners around the world. Alan received his B.S. degree from Millikin University, MBA from Indiana University, and Ph.D. from the Ohio State University. Alan taught at the University of North Dakota, the University of Oklahoma, and the Ohio State University before joining the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Business faculty.

Alan's eight scholarly books and many articles on entrepreneurship, organization growth and types, conflict management, and other topics have had great impact. His enduring interest in entrepreneurship grew in large part out of his early employment experiences. He worked with an entrepreneur whose ventures included selling accordion lessons and marketing a three-wheeled lawnmower. The mower was able to neatly cut around obstacles, but unfortunately wouldn't go in a straight line. Alan also sold pots and pans door-to-door, cooking complete meals – including cakes – on the top of the stove. He credited that experience for the development of his wonderful storytelling skills and his love of teaching. Alan became a superb cook, a skill several of his colleagues savored on fishing trips to the Quetico-Superior Boundary Waters. He liked to quote Virginia Woolf:

“One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.”

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Alan also loved fishing, gardening, reading, and traveling, and he led a seamless life, constantly finding links across the domains of his experience. He was a true philosopher, always in playful, passionate pursuit of meaning and being, a gentle and compassionate man who was an educator of the heart.

Alan loved to share his experiences with others. On fishing trips he would take plans for his dream home, which he ultimately built, always revising and constructing, an organic process. One element of the plan was a living room that would sleep 50, so participants in his organizational development programs could stay overnight. Alan's rich sense of whimsy was reflected in that living room by such things as an eight-foot-tall multicolored giraffe and a working traffic light.

Alan's vita lists eight books. His friends most cherished, though, a ninth book, self-published, a mixture of cooking and philosophy, titled *Your Friend Bean: A Cookbook*. Those gifted with a copy valued it for its cassoulets and terrines and breads, but also for the honor of ownership. The book features quotes from Castañeda to Kierkegaard, from Homer to the Apache Wedding Blessing. It was fitting that copies of the book were given out at Alan's funeral. The book's ending quote reads:

"There has been enough food to sustain life, enough failure to enforce humility, enough love to provide comfort ... and except for the time I was crying it has been a very merry trip."

Alan is survived by three daughters, Leah Filley, Jennifer Elliott, and Amy Guinther; three grandchildren, Austin Elliott and Ruby and Gabrielle Guinther; and his enduring friend and mother of his children, Florence Filley. He will be deeply missed.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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