

Lafayette College Faculty Resolution in Memory of Arthur Daniel Gorman (1946-2014)

Art Gorman joined the Lafayette College faculty in 1982 as a member of the Engineering Science Department. When that department ceased to exist in 1989, he was welcomed into the Mathematics Department. There he continued to teach differential equations to the engineering students as well as a variety of mathematics courses including calculus, statistics and complex analysis. In recent years he taught meteorology in the Geology Department. In total, he taught twenty-eight different courses in six departments.

Art was born October 31, 1946 and grew up in the south side of Chicago in a very mixed ethnic community; in fact his early education was bilingual. He attended a very rigorous Jesuit high school and excelled academically. At that time he developed a passion for excellence, particularly in science and mathematics, but also for ham radio. He received a BS degree in engineering from the University of Illinois in 1968, an MS degree in physics from Washington University in 1974 and a PhD degree in physics from The Pennsylvania State University in 1980. Interspersed within his formal education, Art held positions at Univac, General Electric and the Applied Research Laboratory at Penn State. He was an invited participant in an oceanography workshop at Woods Hole, and there made connections that were useful for future students.

Art was an excellent teacher and scholar who was dedicated to the welfare of his students. He went out of his way to hold office hours in the evenings and on weekends to accommodate the busy schedules of students. As one of Art's former students has recently written in response to learning of his passing, "He was one of the few people who always made the material perfectly clear. I think I took every one of his courses (as an engineer). He identified my love of mathematics and encouraged me to continue studying applied math in graduate school. What tremendous advice! He suggested the perfect place for me to succeed (UC, Boulder) and it was the beginning of an amazing adventure. I am truly grateful for this mentoring and I try to emulate his helpful efforts in my own math department and now at the NSF. While it is easy to help the top students, it is more rewarding to find and nurture ones that have the potential to rise to the top." A colleague wrote, "Art was about the most student-centered faculty member I have ever encountered..and all his students knew it. He rooted for them, listened intently to them and took great satisfaction from their success. He would cheer out loud when one of his students overcame one difficulty or another. His experience growing up in the streets of Cicero, Illinois made him a warrior in the battle for mind over matter, resolution over conflict and success against all odds." His excellence as a teacher is summed up in that he received the Student Government Teaching Award six times within a span of only ten years.

Art's mentoring was not limited to students. One member of the department fondly recalls how helpful he was to her as she adjusted to a small American college; he helped her prepare syllabi, assignments and handouts. He introduced some of us to the exercise and

weight rooms at Alumni Gym. He often entertained us with colorful stories from his past, but he also took an active interest in the lives of his colleagues.

Art Gorman was a prolific scholar, publishing dozens of papers in high-level, peer-reviewed journals. His work was remarkable for its breadth and depth. As an applied mathematician with his strong background in physics and engineering, he brought an unusually wide collection of experiences to his scholarship. His published papers are technically demanding, but, like the classes he taught, they are exceptionally clear and focused. Art was a pioneer in publishing with undergraduates. He published 8 papers with 9 student co-authors over a 20 year period; these research experiences had profound and lasting effects on the students.

Much of Art's work was concerned with the asymptotic behavior of solutions to important fluid flow problems in physics and biology. These include several papers addressing problems modeling caustics, the boundary areas where light rays and fluids do not behave the same way they behave elsewhere. He authored or co-authored papers addressing acoustics, ocean climate variability, oxygen concentration in muscle, and substrate concentration near capillaries. Most recently, he co-authored an article with Bob Kurt and three students about modeling the immune response to cancer. This work was truly interdisciplinary as a collaboration between faculty and students from different departments and left a lasting impact on Bob about the importance of such collaborations for Lafayette students.

His teaching and scholarship were recognized by the College in 1986, when he won the Thomas Roy and Lura Forrest Jones Lecture Award. In 1998 he also won the first Carl R. and Ingeborg Beidleman Research Award.

This resolution would not be complete without a mention of his dog and companion Maggie. They were often seen playing catch on the Quad, and she was a welcoming presence when students came for office hours.

Madam President, on behalf of the Committee, I move that this memorial resolution be filed with the minutes of this meeting and that copies of it be sent to his daughters Ann Gorman and Mary Gorman, to his brother Mark Gorman and to his former wives Joyce White and Ellen Hurwitz who is a former member of the Lafayette faculty.

Respectfully submitted,

Professor Gary Gordon (chair)
Professor Evan Fisher
Associate Professor Emeritus Randy Stonesifer
March 3, 2015