



John Alexander Boquist PhD

March 22, 1947 - August 28, 2019

John Alexander Boquist, of Elk Rapids, was born March 22, 1947 in Traverse City, Michigan to Albert Lewis and Sylvia Tellervo (née Keto) Boquist and died August 28, 2019 in Suttons Bay, Michigan. A graduate of Traverse City High School, John's wit and humor were exceeded only by his intellect. He received a degree in industrial engineering from General Motors Institute (now Kettering University) in Flint in 1969, and soon after married Jean (née Bjork), also of Traverse City. The two moved to West Lafayette, Indiana where John received a master's degree in industrial administration and then a PhD in finance from the Krannert School of Management at Purdue University. He joined the faculty of the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University in 1973 and retired in 2011 as the Edward E. Edwards Professor of Finance.

John spent his entire career at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, and was among its most devoted and beloved educators. He received innumerable awards over his 37-year career; of note, he was recognized with the all-university Herman F. Lieber Award for outstanding teaching in 1979, by Business Week in 1994 as one of "12 Masters of the Classroom", and by the university that same year with the Max Barney Executive Education Teaching Award. His career spanned nations, generations, and settings, and he was lauded for his work with audiences from the Portland Cement Association and General Motors, to managers and faculty seeking to transition Eastern Europe from a planned to a market economy, to MBA and PhD students at IU. He was also an accomplished researcher, publishing throughout his career and co-authoring *The Value Sphere: The Corporate Executives' Handbook for Creating and Retaining Shareholder Wealth*, which is now in its fourth edition. In 2008, a former student's generous gift established the Meyer-Boquist Chair, honoring his impact on his students. His former colleagues continue to enjoy teaching his cases in class.

Perhaps John's most valued achievement, however, was his fifty-year marriage to his beloved wife, Jean. The two embarked on their early days of marriage in cramped married student housing at Purdue, but ultimately were able to travel the world together and see four continents at each other's side. Nothing, however, was a greater adventure than

raising two sons together, Alexander and John Bjorn, and the family even spent two year-long sabbaticals in France where John was a visiting faculty member at INSEAD. They instilled in their sons their shared love of learning, commitment to teaching, devotion to family, and joy in time together. They shared and modeled the ability to find humor in almost any situation, including IU's often bedraggled football team, and eventually the amyloidosis that weakened John's heart. As travel became a challenge, they took joy in the natural beauty of Grand Traverse Bay from their home in Elk Rapids, and the warmth of the Arizona desert from the home that they purchased in Phoenix. In his later years, no one brought a smile to John's face more quickly than his granddaughter Annika and his grandson Mattias.

John is preceded in death by his father, Albert, his mother Sylvia, his niece Catherine Strom Schmidt, and his brother-in-law Stanley McMillen. He is survived by his wife Jean (née Bjork), his son Alexander, daughter-in-law Diane (Reis), granddaughter Annika, grandson Mattias, son John Bjorn, daughter-in-law Diane (née Bychowski), as well as his sister Margot (McMillen). He will also be missed by his sisters-in-law and their spouses, Karen (née Bjork) Strom and Peter Strom of Traverse City, and Barbara (née Bjork) Papazian, and Jim Papazian of Williamsburg, and brother-in-law William Bjork and his wife Elizabeth (née Williams) of Grand Rapids, and many nieces and nephews and their families.

A memorial service for friends and family is being planned for Sunday, October 20, 2019, 12:30 PM at Hagerty Center, 715 E. Front St., Traverse City, MI 49686 with visitation beginning at 12 noon. The Rev. Rosemary Hagen, D.Min. will officiate. A light luncheon will be served following the service. An additional gathering will be held Nov. 10, 2019 from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM at The University Club at Indiana Memorial Union, 900 E. 7th St., #150 in Bloomington, Indiana 46405.

Those wishing to send a memorial are asked to consider the Boquist-Meyer Fund at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business, 1275 E. 10th St., Suite CG3080, Bloomington, IN 47405 or to the Salvation Army, P. O. Box 5228, Traverse City, MI 49686.

Memories of John, as well as thoughts for his family, may be shared by visiting his online guest book at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

The family is being cared for by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Comments



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kay Long - November 07, 2019 at 02:27 PM



“ Not sure you remember me, Kay Long. Mike, my ex, John and you did things together when we were at Purdue. This is a photo of our son, his wife, and wonderful grandchildren: Aiden and Cora. John was quite accomplished and I'm sure you are proud of that. You will have many memories of him. God Bless, Kay Long

Kay Long - November 07, 2019 at 02:31 PM



“ In July 2002 John invited me out to Barbizon for dinner, as he was teaching at INSEAD that summer, and I was looking for work and about to get married.

He gave me some local history of that unique town, shared some advice on marriage and on choosing a career path. Although the details of what we discussed escape me seventeen years later, I remember leaving the dinner with a very pleasant and calm feeling, most certainly due to his warmth and good humor. I was fortunate to have been able to spend that short amount of time with John in a setting that he so obviously loved.

I'm very sad to hear about John's passing and send my sincere condolences to Jean, Alex, Bjorn, and the extended Boquist family.

Kirk Butler - October 11, 2019 at 01:50 AM



“ I was two years behind John at GMI and a Sigma Nu fraternity brother. John was about the nicest guy you could imagine, very smart, friendly, and funny. He was known as the Big Kahuna. I met John on my first day at GMI at a party at his house. He made me feel very welcome. Although I haven't seen John since his wedding, I think about him often when I reminisce about my college days. John and his family are in my prayers. Mark Steck, HM177.

Mark Steck - October 10, 2019 at 07:11 PM



“ Jean we were so saddened to read of John's death! You people were such wonderful neighbors. Grandpa Browne would just love what you have done to his original home

Send our sympathy to the boys also and God bless all of you real good.

Neil and Sue Browne - September 26, 2019 at 03:13 PM



“ John and his sister Margot grew up across the street from my family; they had lost their mother recently when young, and our families just blended and became like one. John was like my own brother, tattled on me as I was always doing things and getting into trouble. Most of our meals were together, picnics at Long Lake, Holidays etc. John's dad and mine had homemade booze in the basement and of course John told them we had sampled some! He was a wonderful brother, very intelligent, and had his smile that would always be present, as he carried his goodness thru life. As the years went by, our visits were few, but I always will remember my "other brother", who shared so many happy times. Always devoted to his sister Margie, my best friend thru life, God surely blessed me by placing John in my life. John, I will see you again..



Kay Carpenter - September 24, 2019 at 11:42 AM



“ Dear Jean & family,
Thinking of you and sending our deepest sympathies.
Lynn & Val Nolan (Bloomington, In.)

Lynn & Val Nolan - September 24, 2019 at 09:52 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album





“ I'm having some serious hair envy... just saying.

Joe McMillen - September 23, 2019 at 12:03 AM



“ When I joined the School of Business as manager of computing facilities in 1984, I met John Boquist.

I valued his intense sense of humor, intellect and kindness. He always treated me as an equal, even though I was staff and he was faculty, and he helped guide me with advice on understanding and supporting temperamental faculty.

He impressed me as an outstanding human being, and I was better for knowing him.

My condolences go to his family and friends.

Michael Enyeart - September 22, 2019 at 02:57 PM



“ Our condolences for the Boquist family. - Elizabeth (Shaver) Ruh

Elizabeth - September 22, 2019 at 09:03 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear this news. My sympathy to family and friends. I had the privilege of being one of Professor Boquist's students at IU. He was a great teacher and his positive influence on so many students will be felt for a long time. Rob Smith, MBA class of 1996.

Rob Smith - September 02, 2019 at 07:34 PM



“ Bo and I were classmates in several Ph.D. seminars at Purdue. However, we also enjoyed some fun social times together. I recall on an Easter Sunday in the 70's when the Boquists and we attended a cookout at the home of a mutual friend. We decided to stage an Easter Egg hunt for our daughter, Tracy, who as 3-1/2 and the only child in attendance. We hid one colored egg in Bo's hair which was quite thick and curly at that young age.

Tracy found all the eggs but that one resting on Bo's scalp fluffed up in his hair. We proceeded to provide her tips as in, "you're getting warmer," or "you're getting colder." Finally, after a protracted search, she ended up standing on Bo's lap triumphantly pointing to the final egg. It was a tie as to who had the biggest smile,

Tracy or Bo.

Bo had one of the world's greatest senses of humor. He seemed to find something to smile about in most any situation. He will be missed by all that shared his friendship.

Ron & Judy Lease

Ron Lease - September 01, 2019 at 03:32 PM



“The road of hope is paved with small steps of hope. The life of hope is made of brief moments of hope.”

Bill and Elizabeth Bjork

Bill Bjork - September 01, 2019 at 08:15 PM



“Our deepest sympathy to the Jean and family on the passing of this wonderful man. He always was such a graceful host. May God be with his family during and beyond this difficult time. We were blessed to have known him and his memory will live in us all.

Harry Wooten - September 02, 2019 at 07:54 AM



“The picture chosen by Jean and her family couldn't be more 'descriptive' of John! Can hear his laugh. Appreciate his wit. Feel his carefree spirit. Give thanks for his intellect and the sharing of his mind. Know his love for Jean, their boys and their families as well as the many friends he's made over his many years of teaching and traveling. We count ourselves blessed to have known John. He holds a special spot in our hearts.

Nancy and Kent Walton

Traverse City High School friends - and beyond

Nancy and Kent Walton - October 15, 2019 at 10:40 AM