

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

### **John A. Boquist (1947-2019)**

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.

John grew up in Traverse City and went to General Motors Institute, where he earned a B.S. degree in industrial engineering. In 1969, after getting married, he entered the M.S.I.A (Master of Science in Industrial Administration) program in the Krannert School at Purdue University and then decided to continue studying for a Ph.D. in finance. In the fall of 1973, John began his first faculty position at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, and he didn't leave until he retired in 2011.

John began as an assistant professor and retired as the Edward E. Edwards Professor of Finance. Along the way, he took on many institutional responsibilities, including service as the director of executive education from 1985 to 1990.

John always loved teaching. He taught in domestic and international executive education programs throughout his career. He was equally at home talking to such diverse audiences as the Portland Cement Association, MBA students, senior executives of Whirlpool Corporation, General Motors, the Indiana Public Service Commission – just to name a few. In 1979, he received the university-wide Herman Frederic Lieber Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence, and in 1994, he received the Max Barney Executive Education Teaching Award. During his 37 years at IU, he also received numerous MBA teaching awards. In 1994, John was recognized by *Business Week* magazine as one of 12 Masters of the Classroom, professors singled out by MBA students as the best teachers in the world of business. It was clear that teaching was a first love for John – although Jean, his wife, preferred to think of it as his second love!

John never ceased to be intellectually curious. Even in his retirement years, he published a paper with a doctoral student and fellow colleague. His research expertise was sought by corporations all over the world. To disseminate the insight he developed over several decades of teaching and research, he co-authored a book, *The Value Sphere: The Corporate Executives' Handbook for Creating and Retaining Shareholder Wealth*, which is currently in its fourth edition.

John took his family to Fontainebleau, France, for two yearlong sabbaticals where he taught at INSEAD (European Institute for Business Administration). During the first sabbatical, his older son, Alex, was four, and his younger son, Bjorn, was 10 months old; and for the second sabbatical they were 15 and 12, respectively. It was a challenge for the boys to attend school in France, but the experience turned out to be life-changing for them, professionally enriching for John, and a cohesive experience for the whole family. John continued his relationship with INSEAD for several years as a visiting faculty member, teaching in the MBA and executive programs. John's most valued achievement was his 51-year marriage to his beloved wife, Jean.

In 2008, the Meyer-Boquist Chair was established in the Kelley School of Business with a very generous gift from Dave Meyer (MBA '79). Dave, a former student, said of John, "I knew I wanted to be like that guy. I developed a respect for his amazing work ethic and his ability to get along with people. I also respected his amazing intellect. He had all the skills I wanted to develop." For a man who devoted the bulk of his career to classroom teaching, this is the ultimate compliment. His former colleagues continue to enjoy teaching his cases in class.

After retiring, travel became a challenge for John due to his ill health. He and Jean enjoyed the natural beauty of Grand Traverse Bay from their home in Elk Rapids, and the warmth of the Arizona desert from the home they had 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's wit and humor were exceeded only by his intellect.

Sreeni Kamma

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