IN MEMORIAM

DR. WILLIAM GORMAN

May 1, 1938 - Oct 9, 2022

The Purdue University Computer Science department has a long and storied history. Beginning in 1962, the department pioneered in areas of computer science degrees, software engineering, and cybersecurity. A significant chapter of that history ended on October 9, 2022, when William J. Gorman, III, passed away at St. Anthony Rehabilitation & Nursing Center in Lafayette. Dr. Gorman had served the CS department for 44 years until his retirement in 2018, most of those years as the assistant to the department head.

Gorman was born May 1, 1938, and grew up in Queens Village, NY. He attended St. John's Prep in Brooklyn, completed his bachelor of science undergraduate degree at St. John's University in 1959, and entered graduate school at Purdue University. In 1965, he completed his M.S. and then Ph.D. in mathematics, advised by Professor Casper Goffman. Gorman then joined the faculty at Iowa State University, followed by several years as a faculty member at Shimer College in Mt. Carroll, IL.

Dr. Gorman was hired by CS department head Professor Sam Conte in 1975. During the subsequent 44 years, Gorman scheduled courses, handled student admissions, met with candidate students, reviewed every thesis and dissertation submitted, and



Dr. William Gorman

assisted in nearly every other academic aspect of the department. When he retired in 2018, a news item noted that he had scheduled 2,800 courses and monitored the progress of 2,073 graduate students from admission through 108 graduation ceremonies. All the many undergraduate students, faculty, and staff he assisted through the years were not included in that count. Dr. Gorman—as nearly everyone, including department heads and deans, addressed him— was often one of the first people from the CS Department those people met coming into Purdue...and one of the people alumni made sure to visit when they returned to campus.



Department of Computer Science

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Purdue was at the center of Dr. Gorman's life. He could be found in his office late into the evenings and frequently on weekends, invariably well-dressed in a suit and tie. He could often be found elsewhere on campus when not in his office. He was a Faculty Fellow at Earhart Hall. He had dinner so often at the John Purdue Room, interacting with the students serving the meals, that his name is memorialized on a plaque there. Gorman also proudly served as the senior faculty marshall at many graduation ceremonies, solemnly leading the faculty and students in the formal procession.

His affection for students was mutual. There are countless stories about how he helped students solve problems with grades or finances, encouraged them, provided sound moral guidance, and made a difference for everyone who sought his counsel. He was also a great mentor to new faculty who often faced their first experiences in front of a classroom.

Bill is remembered fondly for his wry sense of humor (including an affection for bad puns) and his incredible memory. As to the latter, students who left Purdue more than two decades ago would visit the campus, stop by Dr. Gorman's office, and without prompting or reminder, would be greeted by name, including queries about their spouses and children.

One of Dr. Gorman's other loves was music. He was a long-time member of the community Bach Chorale Singers (renamed the Lafayette Master Chorale in 2016). He was a fan of the Purdue Marching Band and enjoyed watching them practice—a devotion noted at



Dr. William Gorman attending commencement

his retirement when they named him an honorary band member.

William is survived by his sister Elizabeth (Gorman) Rippa and nieces Jeannine and Larissa (Paul) Soccoli, and nephew Philip (Molly) Rippa.

Donations in Dr. Gorman's name can be made to St. Anthony Rehabilitation & Nursing Center, 1205 N. 14th St., Lafayette, IN 47904.

There will be a memorial Mass for Dr. William (Bill) Gorman at Church of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday, October 27th at 11:00 am.

The mass will be livestreamed and available via the <u>Blessed Sacrament page</u>.