

## Requiescat in Pace

Chancellor Emeritus John P. (Jack) Keating.

A native of San Francisco, Jack grew up in the predominantly Irish enclave of Noe Valley. He graduated from the then-all male St. Ignatius High School, where he received the annual General Excellence Award, and distinguished himself as an outstanding baseball player (pitcher and first baseman). Although he was recruited by the Cincinnati Reds organization, he entered the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1955, and was ordained a Catholic priest in 1967. He returned to San Francisco to teach at SI, and to serve as Ombudsman for the California Province, a temporary position to help bridge the gap between Jesuit communities' older and younger priests in the dramatically changing post-Vatican II religious environment. As a Jesuit, he had earned his undergraduate degree and a Masters in Philosophy from Gonzaga University as well as a Licentiate in Sacred Theology. After considerable reflection and prayer, he subsequently left the Society (but not the priesthood -- taking a stand for a married clergy in the Catholic Church), in 1969 to marry Pam, his beloved wife of 46 years, who survives him.

Jack earned an MS and PhD in Social Psychology at The Ohio State University and joined the University of Washington Psychology Department in 1972, where he moved through the academic ranks from Assistant and Associate to Full Professor. In addition to Chairing the Social Psychology program for a decade, and in keeping with his own broad education and valuation of inter-disciplinary inquiry, he simultaneously, held adjunct appointments in Religion, Environmental Studies, and Architecture and Urban Planning.

A wonderful teacher, in addition to Social Psychology courses and seminars, he twice a year taught "Introduction to Psychology" to 750 students – a class larger than some students' high schools. UW's 32,000-student body one year was invited to name the faculty member from whom they'd like to hear One Last Lecture; Jack was one of the four chosen.

Committed to equity and opportunity in Education, he served initially on the University Indian Studies Committee. And, later, Directed the Institute for Ethnic Studies in the United States. He co-chaired the highly charged, campus-wide Committee that united racial and ethnic minority communities on the UW campus to form the Department of Ethnic Studies.

His own research and writing (both academic and popular) was broadly focused on the person in Society, including media messaging effectiveness, crowding, and the longest and most involving, human behavior in disasters. That research resulted in designing a research instrument for measuring human needs in highly stressing environments (he was praised as an "elegant methodologist"); a multi-year, federally-funded five-person emergency response team he led into disaster scenes (hurricanes and tornados, floods and

earthquakes, high-rise fires and airplane crashes) to evaluate human conditions and needs, and make government and social services recommendations for improved public responsiveness. This research impelled years of *pro bono* consulting with the New York Red Cross as well as service on numerous government task forces and committees – local, national, and international.

Throughout his distinguished teaching and research career, however, he was concerned that universities' tri-partite mission was being only partially fulfilled. He was committed to realizing and emphasizing the University's commitment to Service, along with Teaching and Research. At UW, his many years' involvement on the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and his subsequent appointment to the UW Faculty Code Committee, enabled him to successfully lead a change in the University Faculty Code to include Service in faculty promotion and tenure decisions. He always made sure it was Service emanating from the faculty members' knowledge base -- their research and teaching -- not just volunteerism, literally putting their academic knowledge at the service of their academic, professional, and public communities.

Professor Keating chaired the UW Department of Psychology's Social Psychology program for a decade until, after chairing the Search Committee for the founding faculties of UW's Branch Campuses in Bothell and Tacoma, he was named their first Dean and University Vice-Provost. He worked closely with the new faculty members in designing curricula and developing the foundational programs of these new university campuses, in concert with their disciplinary colleagues on the main campus, an essential dimension of their institutional success. He was responsible for the two campuses' budgets, too, and gained valuable experience shepherding their development and supporting their needs intra-institutionally and legislatively. (Each campus now has its own Chancellor and enrollments in excess of 5,000 students, as well as distinct community support in their quite different physical, economic, and community environments.)

Bi-locating between the branch campuses of the Puget Sound, (ironically designed to support place-bound students!) while effectively integrating them programmatically into the University, along with his own research in a nationally ranked Psychology Department, uniquely qualified Dean Keating as the first Provost of the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. There he was charged with unifying the core academic programs of the state's flagship Land-, Sea-, and Space-grant university and UAF's large Science Institutes, whose scientists lead the world in Arctic research.

Having deftly blended the UAF research and teaching commitments in faculty-generated interdisciplinary program development and alignment; fostered research, with an early focus on climate change; and secured national support for the University's Super Computer – both federal and institutional, Provost Keating was ready for another administrative challenge.

Recruited to lead several universities, Jack chose to become Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside because of the state University's foundational commitment to

Research, with concomitant excellence in Faculty preparation. (A welcome support for UWP's senior faculty members, then at the peak of their academic careers.) He also valued Parkside's physical "footprint," which, with community and UW System support, he doubled during his Chancellorship. He accurately perceived both the challenges and the opportunities of academic development in an area undergoing deep dislocation, as industrial employment diminished and job development took different forms. Although the changing demographic and economic environments were challenging, he believed Parkside had a unique opportunity to become an academic center of learning opportunities in southeast Wisconsin.

He encouraged faculty colleagues, in designing and delivering multiple new and needed degree and certificate programs. His efforts to expand university engagement in its diverse commitments and constituencies, included more vibrant participation in the NCAA Division II organization, reviving and expanding international university exchange, and development of a Center for Community Partnerships – an umbrella organization for numerous program- and project-focused interactions between the campus and surrounding communities. And he was an early and enthusiastic leader in Campus Compact, a national effort to link states' institutions of post-secondary education in civic engagement with their states' disparate communities. He successfully united all but one of Wisconsin's universities, public and private, in Campus Compact activity, and in vibrant participation in its national organization, initially locating the state's organizational offices at Parkside.

And he led UWP's improved integration in the separate communities of Racine and Kenosha, an historic separation he was charged with remedying. To capture this divide, he liked to tell the story of his first radio interview. There had been much " Sturm und Drang" over where the Chancellor would live. His predecessor would not live in the designated Chancellor's residence on campus, and it had been declared unfit for residency. When asked where he and his wife would live – since each community had reason to believe it would be chosen – he happily reported that they had found a house right on the County line between the two cities. Ah, but the interviewer asked, "Which side?"

He immediately told his wife and the UW System President that he *needed* to live in the Chancellor's house, a demand approved administratively, with some modest changes: requiring that all the fixtures in the public bathroom be the same color, for example, not three; that something be done to fix the lack of room-to-room "flow" for entertaining (campus catering would not work with the kitchen as a "dead end"); and the addition of a handicapped bathroom. It took some time (there was just no money), but eventually, the house was a pleasant place for the campus leader to live and for community and campus entertaining.

Throughout his career, Chancellor Keating was known for his seamless respect for high quality research, instructional excellence, and substantive commitment to meaningful service, applying his knowledge to improve peoples' lives. As an academic leader, he was adept at understanding faculty affairs and student needs, orchestrating useful

university program development and organizing action on important issues in his local, state, and national involvements. An engaging speaker, he spoke frequently to diverse audiences all over the country and internationally. His skill in self-expression was manifest in numerous reports, analyses and recommendations, a book, and various academic and popular articles.

Jack Keating loved people. He respectfully studied them, organized and led them in numerous environments, spoke eloquently to them, across diverse institutions and communities, and wrote about them for others' understanding. His studies in Philosophy, Moral Theology, and Psychology led to a life-long commitment to human development and social responsibility, which found expression in the intellectual engagement and leadership of universities. He was a profoundly spiritual man who reveled in his own humanity. A former fellow Jesuit once told him he was the most human person he had ever met, an encomium he valued above all others.

Loved and admired by so many colleagues, students, and community leaders, who knew and worked with him, he worked tirelessly until, at 75, he returned to California, to retire. Unfortunately, within a few months, he was diagnosed with a rare leukemia that sapped his strength and limited his mobility.

He was happy, however, to be back on the West Coast where family and friends of a lifetime could visit often. He was deeply moved by all the expressions of regard he received after his diagnosis and brief life prognosis. His was a life well-lived, fully and fortunately. He believed in the Resurrection promised by his Lord, and looked forward to the Heaven to which his life was directed. He will be missed by so many he loved so much, and whose lives he enjoyed and enriched, particularly Pam, with whom he shared a unique and profound love; and their beloved son Jake and his wife, Wendy.

*Jack and his only sibling, Bill, were the first in their family to go to college, and Chancellor Keating was particularly interested in supporting that opportunity in the Parkside community. Please join him in Contributions to the Chancellor Jack Keating Scholarship for First Generation College Goers <https://donate.uwp.edu/keating>*