

IN MEMORIAM

NORMAN K. WAGNER

Dr. Norman K. Wagner, age eighty-six, Associate Professor Emeritus of the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering, died Sunday, January 27, 2019, in Austin, Texas.

Norm Wagner, who was born in Longview, Washington, on October 3, 1932, to Gladys and Herman Wagner, grew up in the Seattle area and enjoyed hiking and camping in the outdoors, particularly the Mt. St. Helens area. After graduating from Kelso High School in 1950, he worked at the Mt. Rainier National Park before entering the University of Washington in Seattle in the fall. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology in 1954, and a Master of Science in Meteorology in 1956, the first graduate degree awarded by the Department of Meteorology.

During the spring break of his senior year (1954), Norm married Barbara Saville of Kelso. In January 1956, they moved to Austin where Norm took a position at The University of Texas as a faculty member in the Atmospheric Sciences Program within the Department of Civil Engineering and as a researcher in the Electrical Engineering Research Center. During this period, he was also one of the TV weathermen at KTBC, the only TV station in Austin at the time. Awarded a National Science Foundation Faculty Fellowship, he continued graduate studies at the University of Hawaii during 1963-66, where he earned that University's first Ph.D. in Meteorology. He and Barbara returned to Austin in 1966, where he resumed his employment at The University of Texas.

Norm retired in 1992, completing a thirty-four-year career teaching and conducting research in meteorology in the Department of Civil Engineering. Over that period of time, he taught undergraduate and graduate courses in meteorology on the following topics:

Undergraduate courses: Descriptive Meteorology, General Meteorology, Atmospheric Measurements, Atmospheric Thermodynamics, Dynamic Meteorology, Atmospheric Circulation Systems, Climatology, Tropical Meteorology, Synoptic Meteorology, Statistics, and Fluid Mechanics.

Graduate courses: Atmospheric Boundary Layers, Numerical Weather Prediction, and Air Pollution Meteorology.

Norm was an authority on physical processes that operate within the lower layers of the atmosphere. His research addressed wind distribution and associated fluxes of matter and momentum in the atmospheric boundary layer; the role of the atmosphere in the coastal zone; and urban meteorology, especially air pollution and the urban heat island, among other topics. He participated in a large-scale study of the sea breeze on the Texas coast and carried out measurements of atmospheric behavior in the Austin municipal area, in which he instrumented Austin's famed "moonlight towers."

Norm also provided consulting services to Ginn Publishing Company on numerous K-12 science textbook publications distributed throughout the nation. His contributions to the science community earned him a position in the Teacher Academy, and he served as UT Austin's scientific representative to the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). He acted as Director for the Atmospheric Science Group at the University in 1968, 1972-76, and 1980-85. He was a member of the American Meteorological Society and served two terms as President of the

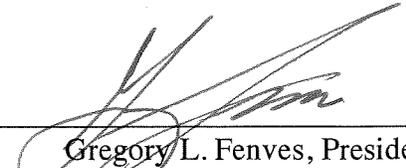
Central Texas Chapter. In 1968, Norm was inducted into the Royal Meteorological Society in London.

Throughout his years of devoted service to the profession, his caring and capable teaching style, plus a wonderful sense of humor, made him a very popular professor and colleague. His sense of humor has been described as much like his martini—very dry. Norm’s teaching reviews were consistently exceptional, and his accessibility to students never faltered. He supervised a number of graduate students as they pursued their Master’s and Doctorate degrees in atmospheric science. By the end of his career, he had supervised twenty-one M.S. students and three Ph.D. students, including a future head of the National Weather Service Centers for Environmental Prediction, and President of the American Meteorological society. In addition, he served the Department of Architectural, Civil, and Environmental Engineering as the graduate advisor. As graduate advisor for Civil Engineering, he counseled more students than any other professor in this position.

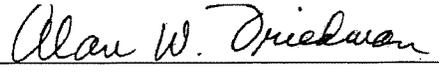
Norm loved gardening and, in addition to his own vegetable garden, donated many hours to Zilker Botanical Garden. He was active with the Austin Men’s Garden Club, serving as President and long-time newsletter editor, and was also President of the Austin Area Garden Council. He enjoyed photography and was proud to have several of his botanical pictures chosen to be in the national Gardeners of America calendars, including the featured cover photos in 2000, 2004, and 2005. Norman and Barbara loved to travel and crisscrossed the country attending National Garden Club conventions and exploring bed and breakfast inns. They learned to snorkel in Hawaii, enjoyed the Caribbean, and even snorkeled at the Great Barrier Reef in Australia while on a gardening themed tour of New Zealand.

At home, Norm was devoted to his family: his wife of sixty-four years, Barbara, and two daughters, Cheryl (and husband Rob Rugeley) and Wendy (and husband Kenneth Finch). His daughters considered him to be a great dad—fun-loving, supportive, sensitive. The special bond he and Barbara shared was a wonderful example to his daughters of what true love looks and feels like. He was blessed with two granddaughters, Melissa Rugeley and Rachel Rugeley Russo (Joe), and was so happy to welcome great-grandson Callahan Russo in 2018. Also part of the family are his step-grandchildren Cole Finch and Alexis Finch, Alexis' partner Fernando Montoya, and their children, Simone and Harvey. Norman was preceded in death by his parents, brother Larry, and daughter Wendy.

Regarded as an outstanding teacher and mentor, Norm leaves a memorable mark for his kindness, generosity, and impeccable dedication to The University of Texas at Austin and the Cockrell School of Engineering.



Gregory L. Fenves, President
The University of Texas at Austin



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
The General Faculty

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Howard M. Liljestrand (Chair), Neal E. Armstrong, and George H. Ward.