Memorial Resolution for Carl R. Beidleman

The faculty of the College of Business note with sadness the death of Professor Carl Beidleman on September 13, 2022, at the age of 89. Carl earned his bachelor’s degree from Lafayette College in 1954, his MBA from Drexel University in 1961, and his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania (the Wharton School) in 1968. He joined Lehigh’s Department of Management, Finance, and Marketing in 1967, was rapidly promoted through the faculty ranks, and became the Allen C. DuBois Distinguished Professor of Finance in 1975. He taught courses on security analysis, corporate financial policy, and international financial management.

Carl’s research included books and articles on a wide range of financial topics, including interest rate swaps, asset valuation, foreign exchange, and financial forecasting. His many articles appeared in highly recognized professional journals such as the Sloan Management Review, the Columbia Journal of World Business, the National Tax Journal, and the Accounting Review. His two books on interest rate swaps were published in the early 1990s by Dow Jones-Irwin, at the time the leading publisher of textbooks in economics and business.

Carl also had a lengthy tenure as a department chair. When he first came to Lehigh, the finance faculty were housed in the Department of Management, Finance, and Marketing. (The department’s name at the time was the longest in the entire university and also included
professors of law!) He briefly served as chair of that department. But then in 1983 the Department of Finance was established as a separate department; and Carl was tapped to serve as its first chairman, a position he held until his retirement in 1995.

Carl also served as a consultant to a number of industrial firms and commercial banks. He was a long-time member of the board of directors of the C. F. Martin Guitar Company, a world-famous manufacturer of guitars located in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. (Artists like Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, John Lennon all played Martin guitars!) In fact, Carl was very proud of an expensive four-string Vega banjo that he acquired from Martin sometime in the 1970s, but it’s not clear whether he ever learned to play it!

Probably Carl’s most lasting legacy to Lehigh, however, is his endowing the annual Carl and Ingeborg Beidleman Research Award in Business and Economics. The award has been given since 1998 to “highlight quality research and refereed scholarship in business and applied economic disciplines at Lehigh.” Since it was initiated, twenty-nine Lehigh faculty in the College of Business have received the award.

A first-rate scholar and teacher, a skilled administrator, and a generous benefactor to Lehigh, Carl Beidleman will long be remembered by his many students and colleagues. We move that this memorial resolution be made a permanent part of the faculty record by being included in the minutes of this Senate meeting, and that copies be sent to his wife Inge, and to his children Mark, Susan, and David.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Robert Thornton, Richard Kish, Samuel Weaver, Stephen Buell, Stephen Thode, and Nandu Nayar (May 5, 2023)