

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

GAIL M. OXLEY (1916 – 1992)

Gail M. Oxley, Professor of International Business, Emeritus, in the Graduate School of Business, died of cancer at home at the Sequoias, Portola Valley, November 22, 1992. He was 76.

He came to Stanford in 1961 as the first professor of international business. He brought to the business school the experience of a practicing lawyer and successful career as an international business manager. He taught in the MBA and PhD programs. He administered management programs in Iran and Sri Lanka. In Peru, he directed a U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) study on the need for business education in Peru. That study led to establishment of the Stanford sponsored Graduate School of Business (ESAN) in Lima. That first graduate school of business in South America has survived for 29 years.

Gail was born and grew up in Newark, Ohio. He attended Denison University with a major in Political Science, graduating with an AB degree in 1938. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He attended the Columbia University Law School, and was awarded the degree of JD in 1940.

His first full-time job was with a well-known Wall street firm, Cadwalader, Wickersham and Taft. He worked there for three years. Gail discovered that his business clients were having more fun than lawyers were, so he moved to business.

Gail became Vice President, Latin American Group, of the W. R. Grace & Company, organizing and managing their businesses in Bolivia and Peru. These included sugar production, tungsten mining, textile manufacturing, milling, transportation, and shipping. His responsibilities involved 12 different businesses employing 12,000 people. He was also secretary of Pan-American Grace Airways. He became fluent in Spanish and spent much of his time in South America.

Gail was a pianist with considerable skill and a wide knowledge of jazz. He played at more than 150 coffee hours, parties, and amateur shows at the Sequoias retirement community.

Although he retired from teaching in 1981, he maintained active contact with the GSB faculty to the month of his death. At coffee in the faculty lounge, his contributions were not only on the topics of international business, law, and music, but in several fields, including medicine, history, art, and politics. He could have made big money on Jeopardy.

His colleagues miss his wise, tolerant judgments and his infectious sense of humor.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Genevieve, and his sister, Virginia Clayton, of Glens Falls, N.Y.

Thomas W. Harrell, Chair
Charles T. Horngren
James T. S. Porterfield