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Deceased Professor Honored by University

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The University of Baltimore held a memorial ceremony on Nov. 12 to celebrate the achievements of the late Daniel Martin, Ph.D., professor of public affairs, who passed away on Nov. 4. Over 100 people attended his memorial in the Student Center.



Media Credit: Courtesy of University of Baltimore
Daniel Martin

Among the speakers at the ceremony were Peter Toran, vice president of planning and external affairs; Larry Thomas, Ph.D., professor of public affairs and dean of the Yale Gordon College of Liberal Arts; and Laura Wilson-Gentry, D.P.A., professor, executive director and division chair of the School of Public Affairs.

Martin, 60, was a UB faculty member for 34 years, during which he developed the Master of Public Administration program, which examines the role of public administration in a democratic society, and served as its director intermittently for two decades. Nationally recognized as a scholar in the intellectual history of American public administration, he helped the MPA program secure accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, and he also chaired the College of Liberal Arts Graduate Curriculum Committee for many years.

At the memorial, Wilson-Gentry described Martin as someone who was very jovial and lived life to the fullest. She said he was the first professor to introduce online MPA classes, adding that about 75 percent of UB professors now have experience with teaching online courses.

"He had a lot of interest in new technologies and new pedagogies. [He] started by experimenting with taking his classes online and eventually shepherded the entire MPA program, and actually mentored most of the faculty," Wilson-Gentry said.

Sherida Morrison, MPA, remembers Martin as being fun in the classroom.

"He had a really good sense of humor and he was really funny," she said. "He made jokes, and I knew a lot about his wife, his son and his dog because he talked about them a lot."

About the class, Morrison said, "He was very serious about public administration and very knowledgeable. Going into the classroom, he was very much about the assignments."

In addition to teaching, Martin was passionate about rare books. He traveled across the country during summers to add to his collection.

"He was one of the leading antique book dealers in the United States for rare management and business texts. I was reading in his class notes that he actually had a first edition of [Thomas] Hobbes' 'Leviathan,' signed by Hobbes," Wilson-Gentry said. "He had as his clients some of the leading university libraries in business history in the United States."

Born in Houston, Martin is survived by his wife Barbara Reed Martin and son Alan Martin of Gainesville, Fla. In Martin's memory, a tree will be planted in front of the new Liberal Arts and Policy building.

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My gratitude to the entire university community, not only for this celebration held in his memory, but for the outpouring of support that I've felt from you all since his death. (Continued...)

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