

9-1-2017

Bill Prince: Dazzling Teacher, Thoughtful Advisor

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Recommended Citation

Nagle, Charles '09 (2017) "Bill Prince: Dazzling Teacher, Thoughtful Advisor," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 60 : Iss. 2 , Article 37.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol60/iss2/37>

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Faculty Tributes

At the close of the 2016–17 academic year, Furman said farewell to three faculty members who have worked at Furman for a combined 82 years. As a tribute to the retirees, we asked their former students and colleagues to comment on their careers and contributions.



BILL PRINCE

*Dazzling Teacher,
Thoughtful Advisor*

I came to know Bill Prince in many capacities over my time at Furman, first as my advisor, then as my modern languages professor, mentor and co-author, but most importantly as a friend. I would like to address his exceptional skills in each of these areas.

As a teacher, Dr. Prince was not only passionate and exceptionally thorough,

but also lighthearted. I remember taking Advanced Spanish Oral and Written Expression with him, a course that became one of my favorites and set me on the path to a doctorate in Spanish linguistics and a career as an applied linguist and professor. At the time, I had already begun to drop by Dr. Prince's office on a regular basis with a variety of questions related to the structure of Spanish. In those meetings, I gained a sense of Dr. Prince's depth of knowledge on the subject as well as his sense of humor.

I suspect nearly all of Dr. Prince's students would characterize him as a dazzling teacher. But in my view, what set him apart from other exceptional educators was his unique ability to guide me in my interest in language and linguistics through thousands of small acts of academic wisdom and kindness, including selecting materials for additional study, seeking out accessible academic articles for us to read and discuss and serving as a mentor as I researched and applied to graduate programs in Spanish.

As a junior, I had the opportunity to translate a book from Spanish to English, facilitated by Dr. Erik Ching, professor of history, and with the help of Dr. Prince.

As in all our interactions, Dr. Prince's approach was characterized by thoughtful guidance as he let me take the lead on the project. I provided initial drafts of the chapters, and we would subsequently meet to work through them together, at times spending an entire afternoon on a paragraph or even a single sentence.

I often think back to the skill with which Dr. Prince was able to deliver precisely the right guidance, in the right amount and at the right time. I think back to the jokes and the plays on words that revealed both his incredible wit and mastery of the Spanish language. These are the qualities that distinguished Bill Prince over his 37-year tenure at Furman University and the qualities I strive to emulate in my own work as an educator.

This short tribute is far less than Bill Prince deserves, but I hope he realizes the tremendous impact he has had on me and countless other students over the years.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Charles Nagle '09 received his Ph.D. in Spanish linguistics from Georgetown University. He is an assistant professor of Spanish at Iowa State University.



KIRK KARWAN

*Creative Disruption and
Innovation*

Kirk Kawan came to Furman in 2005 after spending 19 years at the University of South Carolina. He was excited to be at a smaller university that focused on providing students with a broad education in liberal arts and sciences.

In addition to leading the newly formed Department of Business and Accounting as its chair, he quickly became involved in Furman's sustainability initiatives and study away. His belief that our students needed a world view from both an environmental and

cultural perspective, led to the creation of a course in sustainable corporations and in study away opportunities that exposed students to organizations and cultures across the globe.

From May Experiences in New York City, China, Singapore and Malaysia, to the internship program in Brussels, Kirk treasured the time he spent with students outside of the traditional classroom. He never seemed to tire of thinking about the next opportunity for enriching the education of our students.