



William "Bill" Winkler

June 5, 1933 - January 30, 2016

Bill Winkler passed away suddenly on Saturday January 30th at his home in Corvallis. Bill was born and raised in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. A recognized athlete in high school, excelling in football, diving and swimming, Bill was fortunate to attend the University of Michigan graduating in 1956. While at Michigan Bill competed in gymnastics, particularly the trampoline, and also used his talents to help lead the Men's Cheerleading Squad as Team Captain. Shortly after graduating, Bill moved, with his wife Judy, whom he met at Michigan, to Corvallis to take up a position in the Physical Education Department at the then Oregon State College where he also was named as the Men's Swimming and Diving Coach. He didn't realize it at the time, but he would go on to spend the next 50 years serving the students, staff and faculty out of various rooms in Langton Hall, especially the pool.

Even though Bill dedicated his service to Oregon State, he never forgot from where he came. Many summers were spent back in Michigan with his wife Judy and their two children John and Sally. Eventually this would grow to include his daughter-in-law Stacy and grandchildren Connor and Chase. Working at the University afforded Bill many varied opportunities, from leading summer camps on wheels across the United States to spending time coaching the Cambodian National Swimming Team for the U.S. State Department to coaching a Youth for Understanding Swim Team in Japan. Additionally Bill was given the opportunity to develop the Faculty Staff Fitness Program at Oregon State in the mid 1980's. Even though he retired at least 3

times Bill was often seen walking on campus, by those who happened to be up and about at 6am. Bill was truly grateful for his time spent at OSU and the good people he met who so enriched his life.

A celebration of Bill's life will be planned for early spring. If one wishes, Memorial contributions may be made to the Bill and Judy Winkler Fund for Positive Lifestyles and Healthy Aging. In care of The OSU Foundation: 850 SW 35th St. Corvallis, Or. 97333.

Tribute Wall

PR

“ As a immature freshman in 1969 I swam for Bill at OSU. He was a coach that I have tried to base my coaching years on, always positive when ever he was trying to make you a better swimmer or a young adult. I will never forget the duel meet against the U of O, my father was the coach of the U of O team. It was a tough meet but we managed to beat the Oregon swim team. I remember sitting on the pool side and Bill came up and said thanks, that thanks help me through some tough feelings. Bill helped through that year and headed me in the right direction. Thanks Bill

Peter Van Rossen - August 04, 2018 at 09:36 PM

MR

“ My dad was the swimming coach at the U of O from 1958 to 1978. I have fond memories of Mr. Winkler at swim meets always kind and friendly, often giving me more attention than my dad. Bill is a credit to the OSU sports program and shows what good people can do for a good program. I'm sorry to hear of his passing and I'm sorry this thought is so late in posting.

Charlie Van Rossen

M Charles Van Rossen - August 04, 2018 at 01:36 PM

LM

“ I was very sorry to learn of Bill's passing via the Oregon State Alumni magazine. I was a graduate student @ OSU in 1975-77. I taught afternoon tennis classes with Bill for 2 or maybe 3 quarters, as part of my teaching assistantship in physical education.

At that point in my career I was very fortunate to have men like Chuck Dailey, Don Mart in, and Bill as mentors, along with Vern Dickinson & John Dunn. I left OSU in 1977: I received my doctorate in 1979 -- but I never forgot those men -- Chuck & Bill, in particular.

I remember walking in from class on a hot afternoon with Bill as he talked about the new cologne he was going to invent -- called EAU DE SWEAT. Another time he told me the story of "On Again, Off Again, On Again Finnegin".

On my next visit to church I will say some prayers for WW & for your family. Please know that he will be missed, but never forgotten.

*Larry Matthews
Lakewood, NJ
Larrymatthews1946@yahoo.com*

larry matthews - April 28, 2016 at 01:56 PM

MC

“ I am sorry to hear that "Mr Winkler" passed away, my condolences to the Winkler Family. Bill was passionate about the OSU PA program and Faculty Staff Fitness program.....clearly a great vision and one that many have benefited from :-)

Mike Climstein - February 15, 2016 at 03:43 PM

LE

“ Bill gave so much to so many, including me. He was a force for good. Like many, I benefited from his circuit weights class. But Bill's passion for helping others went far beyond that. The Faculty/Staff Fitness Program would not exist without Bill's passion and commitment. The classes in this program were places where a janitor might lift weights next to a department chair, a post doc, and a secretary. I loved that about the program.

Bill was also a very passionate teacher. I directed OSU's Writing Center, and before he retired Bill regularly asked me to come to classes he taught to talk about the importance of writing.

Bill was a force for good in the world--and he still is for all of us who knew, value, and remember him.

Lisa Ede - February 13, 2016 at 02:03 AM

TW

“ Bill took great joy in life, and, with humor and good will, he made it his mission to make today a better day for those he served. And as a teacher, coach and leader, he accomplished that day after day after day, which set us on a path for a lifetime. People were drawn to his strong and positive life force. We join Judy and the Winkler family in mourning his passing.

Tony Wilcox - February 12, 2016 at 04:38 PM

JM


“ *My mom Trudy Jacob swam on campus for many years and enjoyed Bill's friendship.*

She would have been sad to know that he has passed.

Our condolences to your family.

Judy, Glenn & Gary Jacob

judy jacob McCann - February 10, 2016 at 08:23 PM

 Kent Toland

“ *Bill was my swimming coach at OSU and he was always really approachable and friendly. He was genuinely interested in his student athletes. A very classy man.*

Kent Toland - February 08, 2016 at 10:13 PM

 Mark Reed

“ *I can think of very few people, other than my parents, who made such a positive impact on my life. Bill's enthusiasm for healthy eating and exercise was contagious, his ability to remember the names of everyone in his classes was prodigious. Though it has been many years since I was in his Circuit Weights class, whenever I lift a barbell, I still hear Bill say "Bars up!" His positive, kind, and cheerful attitude will always serve as a role model for me. My thoughts are with his family - I share your grief at Bill's passing.*

Mark Reed - February 08, 2016 at 02:03 PM

DS

“ In the late ‘70s, I swam for Bill in an advanced swimming class. Scott Steingraber got Bill (who graciously agreed) to coach a group of young men wanting to start a swim team again at OSU as a club sport. I swam for Bill for a few years, and got to appreciate one of the kindest good natured men I’ve known. Knowing that “coach” was a nutrition expert, I once asked him for advice on weight control after gaining a bit too much over the summer break. Expecting some elaborate plan I was surprised when he simply smiled and said “Danny... eat less and exercise more.” I will never forget his smile, his gentle encouragement, wisdom, his service, and his friendship.

Dan Stillmaker - February 06, 2016 at 08:11 PM

DS

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Dan Stillmaker

Dan Stillmaker - February 05, 2016 at 12:04 PM

JS

“ I was shocked and saddened to read the paper yesterday (Wednesday). Bill taught me the "fire drill" during circuit weights; I can still remember him on the stationary bike. It was Monday through Friday exercise for swimmers at zero dark in the morning. Bill also allowed me to teach the the Faculty Staff Fitness STEELHEAD FISHING class - what a treat. We have lost a dear friend.

John Snelling - February 04, 2016 at 09:32 PM

TC

“ Many memories of Bill, from the halls of Langton to the house on the hill, his outlook on life was inspirational (and fortunately contagious!). OSU truly lost a 'lifer', and our thoughts are with the family.

The Cramers - February 04, 2016 at 12:16 PM

KC

“ Sad to hear the news of Bill's passing. He was a wonderful person. I was lucky to know him in many capacities. As a great family friend and co-worker of my father we were fortunate to spend time with the Winklers at picnics, the pool and at each others homes. Later I was a student at OSU and had Wink as a teacher and worked in his Faculty Fitness program as a student instructor. His program helped me to find my first job in the YMCA putting to use much of what I learned from that experience. I'm sure he is continuing his love of fitness in the great beyond. RIP Wink.

Kent Cramer - February 04, 2016 at 12:14 PM

SS

“ I met Bill several years ago, when he came in to Dr. Sheets' office. Both being "Beaverines", Bill and I quickly became great friends. He was an absolute favorite at our office, and not just because he brought us Doug Murdick's Fudge each fall when he returned from Michigan! He truly knew the secret to remaining young, and his zest for life had a profound impact on many of us. I will smile every time I think of "Mr. Bill" , especially while I'm watching Big Blue. 🧡💙

Sandy Strand - February 04, 2016 at 10:33 AM

JC

“ Dear Judy and Sally, I am saddened to hear of the loss of Bill. His life impacted so very many people. Thinking of you, Julie Cervantes, formally of ISN Brokerage.

Julie Cervantes - February 02, 2016 at 05:23 PM

JM

“ Bill Winkler was Mr. Fitness. A great guy with a never ending passion for good health and an active lifestyle. I enjoyed watching him teach and motivate others about the benefits of exercise and its contribution to well being, including the mental and emotional aspects of life. He left this earth with many friends who benefited from his willingness to educate and help others.

John M. Dunn (OSU, 1975-1995)

John M.Dunn - February 02, 2016 at 02:13 PM