

A Tribute to Dale T. Mortensen



Friday, January 31, 2014, 11 a.m.

Alice Millar Chapel
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

Dale Mortensen's Tribute to the People in His Life

The autobiography Dale Mortensen wrote for the Nobel Foundation can be read in full at www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economic-sciences/laureates/2010/mortensen-bio.html. At the end, Professor Mortensen paid tribute to his family, friends, students, and colleagues. The following is taken from his conclusion.

Obviously, the focus of this narrative is on my research and the development of some of its principal themes over the years. At the same time I was leading a life that was enriched by teaching and family relationships. I taught both undergraduates and graduate students at Carnegie Tech [later Carnegie Mellon University] in the early 1960s. Although most of my teaching took place at Northwestern University, my home base since leaving graduate school in 1965, I have also taught at Essex University, Cornell University, the California Institute of Technology, New York University, and, more recently, Aarhus University [Denmark] during visits of various length. Indeed, during the last five years I have split my academic year equally between Northwestern University as the Ida C. Cook Professor of Economics and Aarhus University as the Niels Bohr Visiting Professor of Economics.

With undergraduate class sizes that varied from 30 to 300, simple calculations suggest that there was a large number of students that listened to my voice if not to my wisdom. I have been fortunate to have excellent students, and I hope that my influence on them has been for the good. . . . My many PhD students have been at least as important in disseminating my research ideas and results as my published papers. Many of them are professors themselves, some at top universities, but a number are also contributing their skill within the Federal Reserve Bank system and agencies of the federal government. These individuals are not only former students but continue to be supportive friends whom I value highly, along with colleagues at both Northwestern and Aarhus, as members of my close academic

family. Finally, the continued support for my work by Northwestern University must be acknowledged. During my 45 years in the institution it has progressed . . . to a first-rate international center of learning and research. Although I may be the first Economics Prize Laureate on the faculty, I expect fellow company soon.

Let me finish with a brief tribute to my life partner. . . . Beverly and I started our lives together while I was still a student at Carnegie in 1963. Four years later, we had three children and my PhD degree. . . . But as an undergraduate, Beverly trained as a musician and teacher, a profession that she practiced for the first year of our marriage. After five years of diapers, she ventured out into the world as a guitar player and folksinger. Later she directed the choir for 25 years at our local Catholic church and composed numerous hymns, psalms, and two oratorios for her favorite instrument, the choir. She then used her composing talents to collaborate with others in writing several original musicals, all of which were performed by either high school or community groups. She also conducted a community chorus for many years that performed both pop music concerts and madrigal extravaganzas. Finally, as the three children were finishing their college studies, Beverly returned to school herself to complete a PhD in religious studies. Since 1994 she has taught at Northwestern and was named last year by her students to the faculty honor roll. During these same years, she and I have managed to raise three children who have now provided us with eight grandchildren. . . .

During all this activity over these many years, Beverly has been and continues to be my strongest supporter and best friend. My colleagues have long noted that my research on search and matching deals with the formation and dissolution of relationships. How is it, they ask, that you have had the same job for 45 years and the same wife for 47? My response is simple: Both are excellent matches!

Order of Service

Prelude

“The Peace May Be Exchanged” from *Rubrics* by Dan Locklair
James Ward, organist

Greeting

Timothy S. Stevens, University chaplain

University President’s Welcome

Morton Schapiro

Music

“My Lord, What a Mournin’”
Traditional spiritual, arranged by Beverly Mortensen
Vocal quartet

Tributes

Robert Coen, professor emeritus of economics
Northwestern University

Rasmus Lentz, associate professor of economics
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Kenneth Burdett, James Joo-Jin Kim Professor of Economics
University of Pennsylvania

Music

“Deep River”
Traditional spiritual, arranged by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw
Vocal quartet

Tributes

Guido Menzio, associate professor of economics
University of Pennsylvania

Karl Mortensen

Robert E. Lucas, John Dewey Distinguished Service Professor
in Economics and the College
University of Chicago

Timothy S. Stevens

Music

“Ol’ Man River” from *Show Boat*
by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II
Nicholas Ward, baritone

University Litany

Our affirmation at this time of the University Motto, as it is rendered in the University Litany, links us with all those sons and daughters of Northwestern who have gone before and all who shall come after us.

Leader: Whatever in our life shares in the Lord’s light: no matter how unsettling it may seem, no matter how uncomfortable it may be . . .

People: Whatsoever things are true, think on these things.

Leader: Whatever helps us to see what we really are: not the roles we play or the masks we wear or the dignities we hide behind, but the simple integrity of our true self . . .

People: Whatsoever things are honest, think on these things.

Leader: Whatever focuses our minds on those around us: to relieve the hurts of our lives, to remove the oppressions which tear the thin fabric of community . . .

People: Whatsoever things are just, think on these things.

Leader: Whatever gifts we have to enhance life: to discipline ourselves to service, to make of each day a holy moment . . .

People: Whatsoever things are pure, think on these things.

Leader: Whatever beauty we might behold and share, whatever raw talents might be shaped into expressions of our vision, whatever new harmonies might be hidden among the discords of life . . .

People: Whatsoever things are lovely, think on these things.

Leader: Whatever those who share our pilgrimage have deemed worthy to absorb into their lives: whatever we might learn from others who teach us in compassion that we might live in confidence . . .

People: Whatsoever things are of good report, think on these things.

Leader: If there be any virtue:

People: Any way to redeem the moment

Leader: And if there be any praise:

People: Any path to the Source of all truth

Leader: Think on these things.

People: And the God of peace shall be with us.

Tributes

Beverly P. Mortensen

B. J. Christensen, professor of economics
Aarhus University, Denmark

Music

University Alma Mater

Please rise as the University Hymn begins. The quartet will sing the Latin verse. The congregation is invited to join in the singing of the English verse.

Quaecumque sunt vera, Proba, justa, mera,
Omnia hec dona Praebes nobis bona
Alma Mater cara, Benedicta, clara,
Celsa in honore Nostro et amore!

Hail to Alma Mater! We will sing thy praise forever;
All thy sons and daughters Pledge thee victory and honor.
Alma Mater, praise be thine, May thy name forever shine!
Hail to purple! Hail to white! Hail to thee, Northwestern!

Benediction

Timothy S. Stevens

Postlude

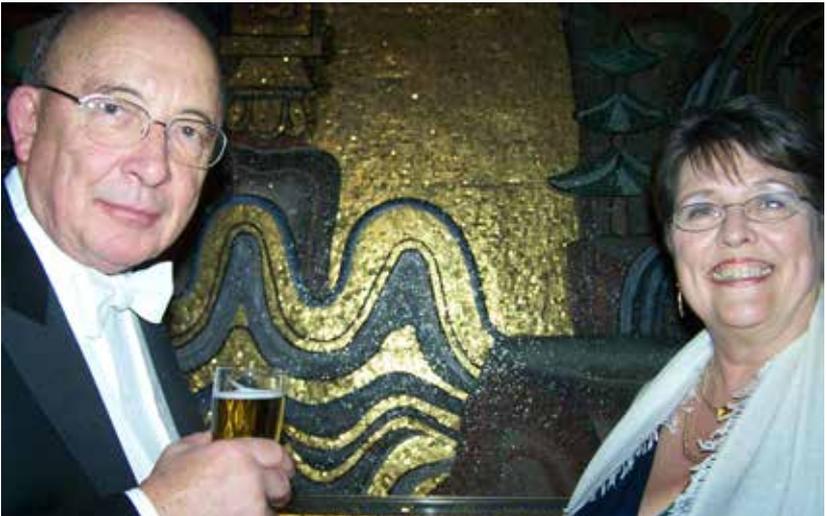
Fanfare by William Mathias
James Ward, organist

Preservice music performed by the Chris Madsen Jazz Quartet.

Vocal quartet: Dianne Fox, soprano; Sue Triforo, alto; Daniel MacDonald, tenor; Nicholas Ward, baritone



The Mortensen family. Standing, from left: Shawn Glanville, Kristopher Mortensen, Lia Mortensen, Liz Mortensen, Julie Glanville, Karl Mortensen, Sarah Mortensen. Seated, from left: Patrick Glanville, Jesse Osborne, Drew Glanville, Heather Glanville, Tara Zrepisky, Lily Osborne.



Dale and Beverly Mortensen in December 2010 in the Gold Room in Stockholm City Hall, where the Nobel banquet is held.

Memorials may be made to support Professor Mortensen's final wish to create an annual scholarship for talented, financially deserving students at Willamette University, his undergraduate alma mater. Checks made out to Willamette University, with a notation for the Mortensen Scholars Fund, may be mailed to Willamette University, attention: Steve Brier, 900 State Street, Salem, Oregon 97301.