

Former Agricultural Economics Faculty

Gavin William Sinclair (1961-2000)

Gavin William Sinclair was unique among his peers. Diagnosed with terminal cancer in 1985 and given four months to live, Gavin spent the next 15 years proving the doctors wrong.

In the fall of 1979, Gavin enrolled at Purdue in chemical engineering and held a National Merit Scholarship. Four years later, he graduated with a double major in both chemical engineering and industrial management. Following graduation, Gavin and his wife, Jennifer, moved to New Jersey where he worked for Air Products and Chemicals in Allentown, PA. While at Air Products and Chemicals, Gavin earned a Masters degree in Economics at Lehigh University. In 1990, Gavin began working at PPG Industries in Pittsburgh, PA and during his tenure at PPG, he completed a Ph.D. in Social and Decision Sciences at Carnegie Mellon.

Gavin joined the Purdue faculty in 1997, where he was a Professor of Organizational Leadership. He was the Faculty Advisor for the Purdue Student Society of Business Engineers and the Purdue Triathlon Club. He was a faculty member with the Center for Agricultural Business in the Agricultural Economics Department and leader of the Chinese Supermarket Project from 1998-1999. He taught OLS 252 and Ag Econ 217.

Gavin authored several textbooks: "Human Behavior in Organizations" used in OLS 252; "Building Partnerships: A Contemporary Approach to Conflict Handling" used in OLS 477; and "Life, Love, and Economics," used as a text in Ag Econ 217. This textbook was featured on the front page of the *Wall Street Journal* in October 2000 and in *Newsweek* in May 2000.

No story of Gavin would be complete without mentioning his deep faith. Gavin accepted Christ when he was 13 years old. His faith in God never wavered through cancer surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, stroke recovery, or congestive heart failure that damaged his heart, leading to his eventual death. Gavin's favorite Bible verse testifies to Gavin the man, the teacher, the friend: "*All things work together for good to them that love God,*" Romans 8:28.

Gavin and his wife, Jennifer, have 2 children; a daughter, Jennette, and a son, Derek.

