

Jim Bond

*Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J.**

As president of Seattle University, not only now but also at the time the School of Law made the transition to our campus, I want to express the University's gratitude and tribute to Jim Bond.

In my view, there could have been no better Dean of the school for the move to Jesuit-inspired education. Jim was an intellectual of the first rank: an inquiring, curious, ever-questioning, truth-seeking person of an almost Renaissance bent. Libertarian at heart, he loved free thinking in all domains, including, and importantly, the dimension of the search for faith. In short, Jim was of a Jesuit mindset; the perfect Dean for leading the law school into the 475-year tradition of Jesuit education.

As a newbie president, I loved working with Jim. I appreciated the lightness of his spirit, his humor, his famous always-repeated story without exception at each and every commencement, his devotion to Georgana, his gentlemanliness, his more Southern warmth in this northern clime.

After Jim served as Dean, he was named Seattle University's first "University Professor" with the belief that he could teach anything at the University. He once revealed that he never enjoyed teaching more than he did with eighteen- and nineteen-year-old Matteo Ricci College students. His open mind loved their open, still to be formed minds.

I enjoyed so very much once participating in one of his annual off-campus, multi-day Provost Seminars with professors from across the university. The topic of the year was "Theories of Social Justice." I knew I was in the presence of a master dialogue facilitator, communal inquirer, intellectually inclusive, and challenging conductor of our symphony. Perhaps that was the Socratic method at its best, though I am convinced Socrates would have much to learn from Jim.

As a priest, I grieve Jim's death and pray for Georgana, their family, and his colleagues. As a president, I pay tribute to one who shaped our University in ways we still live and enjoy and for which we are most indebted and thankful.

* President of Seattle University.