Bill graduated from Washington and Lee University in 1955, earned his M.A. at Duke in 1957 and then his Ph.D., also from Duke, in 1965. He served as an instructor and then assistant professor at North Carolina State University in the early 1960s. After he completed his Ph.D., he became an assistant professor at Louisiana State University, was subsequently promoted to the rank of associate professor and then became the Acting Head of the LSU economics department for the 1968-69 academic year. In 1969 he moved to UK, where he was promoted to full professor in 1974. After his promotion, he served a three year term as director of graduate studies. In 1979, he became department chair, a position he held until 1986. After serving again as director of graduate studies from 1987-1990, he graciously agreed to become chair for a third term, beginning in 1990.

Bill’s early career was focused on research in microeconomics, with his efforts being rewarded with publications in the *Southern Economic Journal, Land Economics, the National Tax Journal*, the *Monthly Labor Review*, the *Western Economic Journal* (now *Economic Inquiry*) and the *Social Science Quarterly*, among others. His research generally dealt with the microeconomics of tax policies, with many applications relevant for state and local taxation.

For his many friends and colleagues, Bill’s real calling seemed to be establishing a first-rate economics department with a focus on quality research. Bill had a clearly-defined objective for the department, which he set about maximizing subject to severe budget constraints. These constraints meant that hiring established researchers who could quickly raise the department’s profile was not an option. Rather he needed to bear the risk associated with hiring freshly-minted Ph.D.s who had great research potential. It turned out that he had an eye for talent, and hired numerous young Ph.D.s who turned into highly productive researchers. His core group of hires published in the very best economics journals including the *American Economic Review, Econometrica*, and the *Journal of Political Economy*.

Despite, or perhaps because of, his quiet demeanor, Bill was also a mentor to most of the young faculty he hired along with the many graduate students he advised. One cannot find an administrator who would do more, given the constraints, to give his young colleagues every chance to succeed. He would arrange teaching loads and teaching schedules to suit the needs of his faculty’s research ambitions. He would fight for funding for summer grants, travel to key professional meetings, journal submission fees, and computer upgrades. And in the process, he fostered an environment in which jealousies were non-existent; since one colleague’s publication in a leading journal would raise the stature of the entire department, such publications were in an important sense good for all.

Bill’s efforts gave UK a collegial, productive economics department, a structure that lives on to this day. His efforts are so deeply ingrained in the department’s culture that his impact will continue to be felt for decades to come.