



Allan Marshall Gerson

February 8, 1947 - August 16, 2019

Allan Marshall Gerson passed away August 16, 2019 in Asheville, NC after a long struggle with renal cell cancer. He described his life as “unremarkable, very happy and well-lived.” Allan was born February 8, 1947 in Cumberland, MD, a small city in the mountains of western MD. He graduated from The Mercersburg Academy, Mercersburg, PA in 1965. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh in 1969 and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1972.

Following graduation, he practiced law in Cumberland for eleven years handling mostly real estate and business transactions.

In 1983, Mr. Gerson gave up his law practice to simultaneously pursue two dreams: to be a college professor and live in Florida. He moved to Palm Beach County and began a career at Palm Beach State College (f/k/a Palm Beach Community College) that spanned 23 years. During that time, he was Chair of the Legal Studies Department, Academic Division Chair, Department Chair and Chairman of the College Foundation Board. Notwithstanding his administrative duties, his students were always most important to him and he was happiest in the classroom.

He and his wife, Carol Vogtman Gerson, enjoyed an energetic lifestyle at PGA National, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. During those years, Mr. Gerson was actively engaged in the College, the community and the Palm Beach County Bar Association. He retired from the Florida Bar in 2017. During those years, he also played a lot of tennis and golf. Allan and Carol were quick to notice

that during the summer months in south FL, a segment of the population travelled to western NC to escape the heat and humidity. Curiosity and pure happenstance eventually led them to Lake Toxaway, a beautiful, serene resort community tucked away in the steep mountains of Transylvania County, NC. They built a summer home there in 2000 and in 2005, Mr. Gerson experienced his first complete retirement.

In less than two years, however, he and Carol were ready to go back to work. He was increasingly uninterested in playing golf and eating buffets. They moved to Asheville, NC where they remained until his death. In 2008, Mr. Gerson became Chair of the Legal Studies Department at South College Asheville and resumed teaching. He was responsible for having the institution's associate paralegal and baccalaureate legal studies degrees approved by the American Bar Association and the North Carolina Bar. Upon his retirement in June 2017, he was honored with the naming of the Library Legal Collection in recognition of his contribution to his students and South College. He also served as a member of the AB Tech Community College Foundation Board. To all of his students and colleagues, he was a friend, mentor and respected educator.

While in Asheville, Mr. Gerson revived a long-dormant hobby from his childhood, Lionel trains. He took great joy in building and running a large layout. He would turn on the locomotives, the lights and the noise, blow the whistles and "be seven years old" again.

His parents, Robert and Katherine Gerson, predeceased him, and provided a wonderful upbringing and opportunities that he appreciated for the rest of his life. He is survived by his loving wife Carol, sister Sally Marshall and husband Nate, nephews Mitchell Levenson and wife Mary Anne, and David Levenson, all of Pittsburgh, PA, sister-in-law Karen V King of Cumberland and best devoted friend, Greg Smith of Asheville. During his life, he cherished a succession of dogs.

Throughout his 32 years in education he always went to campus wearing a suit and tie in order to set an example of professionalism for his students.

Beneath the suit and starched appearance, however, was a sharp and clever sense of humor which always found laughter in life's circumstances and academia's stuffiness. He particularly enjoyed taking his students to the Court House to observe trials and meet with judges and attorneys. It was his desire to improve the lives and prospects of his students through education and sensible advice. Because of the dedication, teaching and influence of Mr. Gerson, there are many more people today in the legal profession. He hoped that civilization will forgive him.

His family wishes to extend their sincere thankfulness to the highly skilled and caring doctors, nurses and staff at Cancer Care of WNC , Mission Health, Care Partners, Chinese Acupuncture & Herbology Clinic, and MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston.

A graveside service will be held Monday, August 19 at Frostburg (MD) Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to a cancer society or research center of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Frostburg Memorial Park

70 Green Street
Frostburg, MD 21532

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG **19**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Frostburg Memorial Park
70 Green Street
Frostburg, MD 21532

Tribute Wall



“ Allan Marshall Gerson

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ Dear Carol,

It's taken a while since hearing the news of Allan's passing for me to accept the fact that he's gone. The moments we shared on the tennis court, the golf course, and on campus remain vivid and cherished memories. In all these memories Allan is the considerate, conscientious, supportive, and good humored gentleman (and gentle man). He loved a good joke and laughed even at my weak ones. When I became a division chair at what is now Palm Beach State, he happily took on the role of unofficial mentor. Whenever I faced an unexpected administrative challenge or some process that was new to me, I could always count on calling him or (more likely) strolling into his office for advice--offered with humility and humor. One time, when we were discussing the limits of our division chair powers, he said, "The only thing over which I get control is when to go the restroom--sometimes." Another time, when a meeting ran too long and moved into content that we both knew would never produce useful results (a pretty common problem), I asked him how he deals with such situations. "Look and listen for the stuff that will impact students. They're what here for," he said.

I miss him but nowhere near the way you must. Thank you for being the love of his life, his partner, and, when he needed it most, his caregiver. In time, I pray, the harshness of loss will fade a bit, and the joys you shared will shine.

Barry Russal - September 06, 2019 at 02:27 PM

BB

“ *My life was indeed blessed by the love you both had for each other. I pray for you, as part of your life has changed forever. I pray the Lord will give you guidance, show you His love, and give you the peace that passes all understanding.*

Beth & Bruce - August 25, 2019 at 06:43 AM

BS

“ *Carol, I am really, really sorry that Alan has passed. I told him how grateful I was that he made the decision to hire me at the Palm Beach "Junior" College when he did. My life was filled with special joy as a prof following his leadership and example because he made that choice. I am eternally in his debt because of that. I also never had a better "boss" at any time in my career before Allan of after him. His humor and kindness is unmatched. He also tolerated my occasional complaints about college situations that annoyed me (never him) and was there with calming advice whenever I needed it. I am comforted that we shared some time visiting when you both came down to Palm Beach for a visit and also for the chance to talk with him since then. The world has lost a shining light and one of the nicest persons I have ever known. Please take good care of yourself and call if I can help in any way. My love and sympathy to you and all of Allan's family. Barbara Scheffer*

barbara scheffer - August 22, 2019 at 07:52 PM

RH

“ *Carol,*

So sorry to hear of Allan's passing. We served together on the AB Tech Foundation Board and I was always impressed by his business acumen and his logical insight to issues. He was a valuable board member who will be missed.

Richard Hurley - August 21, 2019 at 08:38 PM

KG

“ Dear Carol,
I was saddened to hear of Allan's passing. Please know that I have such fond memories of working with Allan at Lake Toxaway. He was always delightful, insightful, gracious and funny. His keen mind made it a pleasure to work alongside him in our many meetings. I am a better person from knowing Allen and benefited greatly from watching him. I will miss him.
Kit Garren

Kit Garren - August 21, 2019 at 02:13 PM

JS

“ Dear Carol, I am so sorry for your loss. I hope the memories of the wonderful life you and Allan shared will give you inner peace at this sad time. Sending prayers for comfort and strength for you.

With sincere sympathy,

Jean Shuman

Jean Shuman - August 20, 2019 at 10:23 PM

PM

“ Dear Carol,
It is with much sadness that we learned of Allan's passing. He will be greatly missed as a kind and caring person and neighbor. We appreciated how he always made time to express interest in our lives and how generous he was in sharing his trains with our grandson and so many others.

Although we knew Allan for only a few years, we were impressed with his many contributions in our neighborhood and the community at large.

Please take time to care for yourself as you meet the challenges ahead. We will keep you in our thoughts and close to our hearts in the coming days and months.

*Warmest Regards,
Pam and Roy Moore*

Pamela Moore - August 20, 2019 at 11:12 AM

PM

“ *It was a privilege to know Allan. A real gentleman and a pleasure to be with. Our thoughts & prayers for Carol. Sharon & Paul Malone*

paul MALONE - August 19, 2019 at 07:43 PM

DT

“ *Dear Carol, Thank you for sharing Allan with A-B Tech, however briefly. He made a difference here and would have done more, had he remained healthy. You have the sincere condolences of the entire College.*

Dennis King, President, A-B Tech - August 19, 2019 at 10:57 AM

MK

“ Dear Carol,

As a former chair of the AB Tech Foundation, I know everyone associated with the college truly appreciated Allan's excellent contributions as well as the insight he had from his many years at Palm Beach State College. People like Allan, willing to give of themselves, are indeed very special. Please accept my sincere condolences for your loss.

Mike Kryzanek

Mike Kryzanek - August 19, 2019 at 10:10 AM

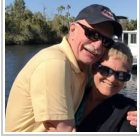
SL

“ Dear Carol,

Bob and I send our wish for your peace and well being during this difficult transition. We hope your memories of a wonderful marriage and life with Allan bring you joy. Hopefully you will provide tender care for yourself at this time as you have for others during your life.

*Be well,
Suanne and a Bob Lewis*

Suanne Lewis - August 18, 2019 at 08:38 PM



“ Dear Carol,

Buck and I send our condolences with Allan's death. Now our intentions to get together as couples will change to more serious intentions for you and I to get together. Maybe we can start by dancing together through Nia. I know that you will also heal through your meaningful work with Ageless Grace.

We are holding you in our hearts.

Nancy and Buck Bragg

Nancy Bragg - August 18, 2019 at 12:34 PM

KO

“ Dear Carol,

Allan was such a great guy and a wonderful friend. I will miss him very much. Really enjoyed his company.....not only on the golf course, but also in all the interactions I had with him at UNCA basketball games, watching his command over his trains or in general discussions over the years.

I always enjoyed his laugh and listening to his love of Pittsburgh, the Maryland area, sports (especially basketball) and his work at South College.

Debra and I send our sympathies to you during this difficult time.

Lots of love,

Kevin & Debra

Kevin O'Connor - August 18, 2019 at 09:59 AM