

In November 2014, Questrom hosted a luncheon to announce the scholarship, and Aber was able to meet the first recipient, Michael Lohnes (Questrom'15).

Another of Aber's former students, Robert A. Knox (CAS'74, Questrom'75), chair of BU's Board of Trustees, had a deep admiration for Aber and sent remarks to be read at the celebration.

"When I was an undergraduate economics major at CAS, I took Jack Aber's investment course in the B-school," Knox began. "I was all of a sudden not bored in class for the first time in my academic life, as Jack revealed a whole world that I soon realized would become the passion of my professional life."

Knox described his former professor as smart, practical, and inspirational, and said Aber communicated his lessons with clarity and enthusiasm. "Jack is a great teacher—a rare professor that encouraged critical thinking and inspired his students to be relentlessly curious and to question conventional wisdom."

Aber earned a BS in chemistry from Pennsylvania State University, an MBA in finance from Columbia University, and a DBA in finance from Harvard University. He was commissioned as an ensign in the US Navy, and after five years of active duty, he spent 20 in the Naval Reserve, retiring as lieutenant commander.

In 1972, Aber began his BU career as an assistant professor of finance. Throughout his time at the

University, he was recognized for his teaching, receiving several "Professor of the Year" awards. He led the finance department for more than 12 years, and, according to his fellow faculty members, did so with a contagious drive.

"He was constantly interested in student feedback on how he could improve, which was infectious and helped him and others around him become better teachers," says Mark Williams (Questrom'93), Questrom executive-in-residence and a master lecturer of finance, who was one of Aber's students. "He was a natural in the classroom and captivated his audience."

Williams recalls that when he joined the faculty in 2002, Aber took him under his wing, and the two cotaught a finance course, which Williams describes as "a humbling experience." Aber was determined to make it a dynamic, sought-after course and, through countless hours of interviewing students, revising course materials, and reviewing possible replacement texts, he accomplished his goal.

"The easy route would have been to just accept that a course on banking was boring," Williams says. "Instead, it's now one of the highest-rated finance courses at BU. Since 2002, thanks to Professor Aber, there have been over 6,500 students who have learned about finance, how the financial markets work, and how they can be improved to better run our global economy."

He adds, "Jack loved to teach and he loved his students, and it showed."

An Activist and a Trailblazer

Political science prof Betty Zisk challenged convention

By Mara Sassoon

In 1965, at a time when men dominated her field, Betty Zisk joined Boston University's political science department, a pioneering move characteristic of the strong-willed professor who would go on to help found the Massachusetts Green Party.

A champion of social justice, she was also deeply committed to her students, seizing opportunities to serve on the reading committees for their theses. Zisk "combined scholarship and activism with a willingness to meet with and help students," says Christine Rossell, a College of Arts & Sciences professor of political science.

Zisk, a CAS professor emerita of political science who taught at BU for 46 years until her retirement in 2011, died on October 19, 2014. She was 83.

Zisk attended Swarthmore College, whose Quaker (Religious Society of Friends) roots inspired her to join that faith.

"First and foremost she was a Quaker and an activist," her friend Charmarie Blaisdell told the *Boston Globe*. "She was devoted to issues of social justice."

Zisk earned a master's degree in political science at Haverford College, another school in the Quaker Consortium, and a PhD at Stanford University. Following in her professor father's footsteps, she joined BU's political science faculty a year later.

In his memorial resolution to the CAS faculty, Graham Wilson, professor and chair of political science, recalled that Zisk would talk for hours with her students outside of class and was known to visit students in the hospital. She stood by her beliefs and her students with the same determination; even colleagues who disagreed with her political opinions considered her "a worthy adversary," according to Rossell.

She was a pacifist who had a passion for the environment, and she supported Ralph Nader's presidential bid as a Green Party candidate in



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2000, according to the *Globe*. She often wove her personal interests in peace movements and environmental activism into her teaching; one of her popular courses was an honors seminar in nature, ecology, and politics.

She also taught in the BU program for prisoners working toward their bachelor's degrees. She "had this fabulous institutional memory, and could always be counted on for advice," Rossell says.

Zisk wrote dozens of articles and four books on subjects ranging from political activism to the media's role in politics to grassroots

✦ **CAS' Betty Zisk (center), teaching a graduate course in 1984, was a pacifist who had a passion for the environment.**

movements. She served on the editorial boards of numerous political science journals. For her dedication to teaching and scholarship, Zisk earned many prestigious awards, including the 1995 Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Political Science Association. In 2001, the College of Arts & Sciences bestowed her with the Outstanding Teaching Award in the Honors Program.

During her tenure at BU, she was a member of the political science senior faculty that included such outspoken and

influential members as Howard Zinn and Murray Levin, two late professors emeritus, and Frances Fox Piven, now a professor of political science and sociology at the City University of New York.

But, according to Rossell, Zisk was "never part of a group. She always did her own thing." She would often throw parties at her Burlington home and invite graduate students. "Not many professors did that, not at that time," Rossell recalls. "She was the senior faculty member who really engaged with students. We miss her a lot."

SCOTT WHITING AUSTIN, 61, a former College of Arts & Sciences assistant professor of philosophy, on December 19, 2014.

An internationally regarded scholar of ancient Greek philosophy, Austin was a senior associate professor in philosophy at Texas A&M University, where he is remembered for his inimitable pedagogy and devotion to students. He mentored graduate students and countless undergraduates; served as the director and faculty advisor of the



undergraduate program in philosophy for 14 years; and was the faculty advisor of his department's undergraduate journal and philosophy club. Twice he received university awards for excellence in teaching.

Austin earned a BA from Yale University in 1974 and a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. He was the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship.

He was a member of the Boston University faculty in the 1980s, and was a visiting fellow in the Princeton University philosophy depart-

ment in 1999 and at Clare Hall at the University of Cambridge, England, in 2004–2005.

He divided his 2010 sabbatical year between visiting professorships at Renmin University of China in Beijing and the University of Szeged in Hungary.

Austin was the author of the monographs *Parmenides: Being, Bounds, and Logic* (Yale University Press, 1986), *Parmenides and the History of Dialectic: Three Essays* (Parmenides Publishing, 2007), and *Tao and Trinity: Notes on Self-Reference and the Unity of Opposites in Philosophy* (Palgrave Pivot, 2014), as well as numerous scholarly articles.