

A Memorial Tribute

Stories and Tributes by Friends and Colleagues



I am an incorrigible punster.
Please don't incorrig me.

James T. Moore

8 February 1952 – 25 July 2006

Death Is Nothing at All

Death is nothing at all,
I have only slipped away
into the next room.

I am I,
and you are you;
whatever we were to each other,
that, we still are.

Call me by my old familiar name,
speak to me in the easy way
which you always used,
put no difference in your tone,
wear no forced air
of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed
at the little jokes we shared together.
Let my name ever be
the household word that it always was.
Let it be spoken without effect,
without the trace of a shadow on it.

Life means all
that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was.
There is unbroken continuity.

Why should I be out of mind
because I am out of sight?

I am waiting for you,
for an interval,
somewhere very near,
just around the corner.

All is well.

Henry Scott Holland
1847 -1918

Kathy, members of Jim's family, friends and colleagues,

It is very difficult for me to find the words that adequately express my feelings for my long-time friend and colleague Jim Moore. I have probably known Jim longer than anyone else in his professional career. Perhaps, my sentiments can be best expressed through recollections and observations of the many experiences that we shared as we made the transition from the adolescent dreams, fears and expectations of our future to the reality of our professional careers and adult lives. The recollection of these events is also a form of therapy to help me deal with the tragic loss of Jim at a much too early stage of his life.

It seems that it was only a short time ago, that Jim and I first met in September of 1970 at the freshman orientation session for the Department of Meteorology and Oceanography on the Bronx campus of New York University (NYU). We were both a little confused and nervous about how we would handle the impending adventure in higher education. However, after a brief discussion (sprinkled with an ample supply of Jim's puns) about our thrills in experiencing the then recent "Lindsay Storm" (a legendary New York City snowstorm in February 1969 unofficially named after former Mayor John Lindsay) both of us sensed that the other had a passion for meteorology that rivaled his own and that this strong desire to be a meteorologist would allow us to overcome whatever academic obstacles lied ahead. Although our perspectives on other parts of life were somewhat different, the excitement of observing, understanding and sharing our passion for atmospheric phenomena and processes formed a bond that was maintained for the next 36 years.

Our friendship grew over the next three years at NYU as we supported each other in our academic challenges. The fact that we were both "commuter students" strengthened this bond. Each morning Jim would make the westward drive to the Bronx from Bayside, Queens and I would make an analogous drive eastward from northern New Jersey. With the unpredictable nature of NYC-area traffic one of us was often late for 9 AM classes but the other always had the missing notes and insight for the other. As commuters, we didn't have the classical campus experiences but we did manage a few memorable moments on campus as well as some off campus memories during weekends and vacation periods.

One of the best was the "snowstorm party" we had in the department's map room for a snowstorm in February 1972. One Friday afternoon in February 1972 the data suggested that the next 36 hours might bring the big snowstorm that most young aspiring meteorologists in the Northeast pray for and stay up all night hoping for whenever there is the possibility of such an event. Jim and I along with a few others decided that we would stay in the map room that night and follow the progress of the impending storm together. After we spent the evening in the map room with suitable refreshments, the snow began around midnight and steadily increased in intensity. With heavy snow and a strong northeast wind at about 3 AM we all went onto the roof of the 11-story building to experience the conditions. I recall that Jim and I looked at each other and it was clear that we both had the same feeling: "wow this is really cool – the heavy blowing snow, the wind, the real-time weather data steadily coming in on the teletype and fax machines in the map room a couple of floors below and being up here on the roof at 3AM with other people who love this stuff". The inner connection between Jim and I grew immeasurably stronger.

When NYU decided to phase out its meteorology program at the end of our junior year as a result of its sale of the Bronx campus due to financial difficulties, Jim and I, along with several other students, looked for other ways to continue our education in meteorology. After a lot of discussion, a group of us, including Jim and I went to Penn State as visiting students for our senior year and transferred our credits back to NYU where we received our BS degrees in June of 1974. Our friendship reached a higher level during the year at Penn State as we lived in the same apartment along with three other former NYU students. It was our first experience living away from home and we were also stepping into a new university and meteorology department. Although most of the Penn State people we encountered were nice enough, they mostly had their own existing circle of friendships and activities so we certainly had a feeling of being outsiders, especially during the first couple of months. We relied heavily on each other to figure out where to find things we needed, what courses to take and what to do for entertainment and learned a lot about each other along the way.

After successfully navigating our Penn State experience, we both ended up going to Ithaca, NY to be graduate students at Cornell. Jim and I shared an apartment for 2 years and we experienced many of those “Mastercard priceless moments” while developing many joint friendships. Among those priceless moments were the gourmet meals of “Rock Cornish hens” that Jim prepared to help us impress our female dinner guests. Jim also developed his attachment for “Nutter Butter” cookies. Another priceless experience for me was the development of Jim’s relationship with Kathy. Kathy provided him joy, confidence, and optimism for the future that gave him a new perspective on life. Those years formed the foundation for our subsequent professional and personal lives and we both played a major role in helping to build each other’s foundation. One major component of that foundation arose out of our multiple-year experience as teaching assistants. We worked together for many hours to write a lab manual for the introductory atmospheric science course and to develop many other teaching materials that were needed in the days before PowerPoint. During that process I observed Jim’s great ability and growing passion for teaching and thought that it should and would ultimately be a major component of his career. We eventually both received our PhD’s and left Ithaca to commence our professional careers.

Jim moved into the academic world and after a stop in Oneonta he discovered a great opportunity at Saint Louis University to pursue the teaching and research activities that he loved. Meanwhile, I went into the commercial sector and a few years later became part of a group that founded MESO, Inc a company specializes in the development and application of atmospheric numerical models. However, we always stayed in touch and I made many trips to St Louis to visit Jim. During those trips I gave seminars at the University, interacted with many of the students and other faculty members and sometimes gave suggestions to the students on alternative approaches to their research problems. These experiences provided me with much insight on the impact that Jim had on his undergraduate and graduate students as well as his colleagues.

I am, of course, deeply saddened by the loss of a close friend and colleague but I am proud and grateful to be part of Jim’s legacy. I have personally seen and heard many stories about Jim’s tremendous positive impact on students and colleagues. He inspired many students to believe that could do and accomplish much more than they initially thought they could in their academic endeavors and later in their professional careers. He also instilled a greater passion for a deeper understanding of atmospheric phenomena and

processes in almost everyone that professionally knew him. In addition, he set an example for excellence in teaching by his thoroughness and seemingly unquenchable desire to do an even better job each time he entered a teaching situation. He exhibited a great caring for his students almost as if they were his own children. His great sense of humor to his teaching and research activities taught all of us that one could laugh a lot while accomplishing some very serious and substantial things. The puns that he included in his lectures, presentations and conversations are known far and wide and all that knew him will forever associate the word pun with Jim. Most of all he inspired many to have a mission to pass along these attributes to others. In this way, Jim will live on within his students and colleagues and within many of those that will academically and professionally descend from us for generations to come. It is indeed a privilege for me to be part of that process.

John Zack

“Forecasting banded snow is a process of trowal and error.”

Many times I followed Jim Moore as we walked down the hallway to his office on the third floor of Macelwane Hall. Odds were that during that walk he would reenact a scene from *Young Frankenstein* by limping and asking me to “walk this way.” I would giggle or groan and ultimately end up in his office talking about coursework or being a TA, or how he could still fit in his *Star Trek* outfit.

As I reflect on Jim asking me to “walk this way”, the reenactment takes on new meaning. To “walk this way” symbolizes a way of living. In my mind, to “walk this way” means to bring care, concern, and levity to our relationships, both in and outside of the classroom, and in and outside of the workplace. To “walk this way” means to do your best and to take time for others. Moreover, to “walk this way” means to bring enthusiasm and energy, and if at all possible, a pun, to all endeavors. I thank Jim Moore for teaching me to “walk this way.”

Pamela Heinselman,
Saint Louis University, BS 1992 and MS 1994

Jim was simply an awesome teacher, mentor, and friend to me, not just while I was in grad school at SLU, but also in the many years following while employed in the NWS. What an honor it was to work frequently with Jim throughout the years! This included being his Teaching Assistant during my first year in grad school, and more recently working with him on COMET and CIPS Research Projects, and heavy rainfall teletraining for the NWS Central Region. Seeing him at various conferences always brought back fun and fond memories.

Jim was an outstanding leader, as he influenced many people and taught them to excel in their lives. Jim's great work ethic and great humor (groan, groan) set him apart from the crowd. One of our favorite little skits we always did together was when one of us would say, "I've got a week back." The other would then respond, "Oh yeah, when did you get it?" "Oh, about a week back!" That always brought a few grunts from those around us. Here's another classic: "I went to the psychiatrist who told me I have a week ego." "When did you get it?" "Oh, about a week ago." We all laughed and groaned at those jokes. Jim also chuckled when I told him the definitions of a "bubble high" and a "wake low." A bubble high is when you put too much laundry detergent in the washing machine. A wake low is when you fall out of bed before waking up in the morning. I also enjoyed when Jim and a bunch of students went out as a group to eat. Somehow, I was the one who often collected money from everyone to pay the bill. And of course, we always came up short as people tried to slip out the door. Luckily, everyone was a great sport and pitched in the extra money.

Winston Churchill had a saying: "History will be kind to me for I intend to write it." Jim definitely wrote his own history. He was the type of person whose words and actions empowered and lead others. History will most certainly be kind to Jim, for Jim was kind to all of us. His legacy will live on forever. I will truly miss my friend and mentor! Rest easy buddy!

Ted Funk
SOO NWSFO Louisville, KY

I was Jim's Department Chair for 9 years, during which time he was the cornerstone of the Meteorology section. He was much Moore than a friend and mentor to the students, much Moore than a friend and colleague to the faculty and much Moore than a friend and colleague to the members of his profession. His annual reports said it all - they were always embarrassingly long, astonishing me that any one human being could pour so much of themselves in so many directions and still come up smiling.

Now there is no more Moore - your physical presence has gone, but we have not forgotten you.

Jim, of the million words that could be said about you, to me the most important is to hope you have found peace, that you are working on your next book of puns, and to thank you for all the wonderful moments and memories you gave us - these will not die.

David Crossley
Saint Louis University, Professor of Geophysics

“Elevated thunderstorms form in a valley of CIN.” (WAF; Moore et al. 2003)

It is strange how things come around sometimes, and at times you do not know what to say; how to show your appreciation for what somebody has done for you.

CBS News carried a story about Joe Paterno recently. He said, "I think most good professors, most of the good professors you get in college, and the ones I had in college had a little bit more than just getting up on a blackboard or giving an assignment,"

That was Doc. He was more than the equations he reeled off on the blackboard...he was more than the divergence equation, or vorticity equation. He was more than isentropic coordinates. He was your friend. He was more than a mentor. He was one of us. All of us. He was always there for help. And, he was always able to pull you aside, slip you a pun and leave you laughing.

He was more than one of the good professors you had in college.

Daniel McCarthy
*Warning Coordination Meteorologist
NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center*

Whether he was teaching synoptic meteorology or sharing some of his favorite puns, Dr. Moore was truly enlightening. I can only hope to carry on the joyous tradition and vast knowledge he has instilled in me as I continue with my career. It was an honor to have Dr. Moore as my undergraduate and graduate advisor.

Mike Paddock

Saint Louis University, BS 2003 and MS 2005, Current Doctoral Student

“The people of Panama were ecstatic when the U.S. gave them rights over the canal. ‘Isthmus be our lucky day’, the president shouted to the people.

Let me start off by saying that no one has had a greater positive impact on my life than Jim "Doc" Moore. Jim was much more than a teacher; he was a mentor in the true sense of the word. He cared about his students as people and it showed in everything he did. There was no teacher that made me work harder, but there was also a lot of fun and pure joy in learning from Jim. And with his puns, you had to listen to every word because you never knew what was going to come next. This helped me reach my potential as a scientist and as a person.

Jim's mentorship extended well beyond the classroom. He was always there for me to offer encouragement and advice when I needed it. Without Jim's mentorship, my life would be very different. When I started my pursuit of a Ph. D. and wanted to work with a mesoscale model, he went way beyond what I would have expected from anyone. This was back in the days when mesoscale models weren't widely used, so it was something new for SLU. But Jim stuck by me in pursuit of my dream and contacted his close friend John Zack, who was a developer of the MASS mesoscale model. I can still remember the conversation where Jim said "... I don't know a whole lot about the details of mesoscale models, but I have a friend who does and maybe he can help." Little did I know that this would literally change my life and actually lead to developing a new industry. Jim's willingness to go beyond to help me do something I was interested in, led to the development of a whole new way of modeling climate at very high resolution. Ultimately it led me to work for MESO and led to the development of the "windmapping system" that has helped the wind power industry grow.

We have lost a very dear friend, but Jim's positive impact on all the people that Jim touched is immeasurable. He lived a life truly worth living. His legacy lives on in all of us who knew him. He continues to touch so many lives as those of us practice what he taught us, not just how to be meteorologists, but how to treat and care for people. I thank God that He brought Jim into my life.

Glenn Van Knowe

To me, Jim Moore was a paradigm for twenty-first century meteorologists. He was an expert in using observations to ferret out the important physical and dynamical processes at work in the atmosphere. He freely shared his expertise with anyone who was willing to listen, learn, and endure an almost endless barrage of puns. Because of Jim, the status of meteorology as a profession has been advanced.

Joe Schaefer

“Bow echoes throw forecasters for a LEWP.”

Friends from Unidata
September 22, 2006
Boulder, Colorado

During the 1990s, Jim Moore served as an important member of the Unidata governance committees. His spirit, humor, and wisdom went a long way toward creating a congenial working group that accomplished important things on behalf of the diverse Unidata community. Now and then, the topics would be difficult, but we could depend on Jim to provide some levity with a “pun” that would help to reduce anxiety and lead to important discussions of the issues.

It was obvious that Jim loved his job, which included his involvement with programs within the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). He worked hard toward the success of the Unidata summer workshops and enjoyed the collegiality among his peers. Jim represented St Louis University with great pride, but more than that Jim represented his profession with the greatest dignity and integrity.

Jim is missed by all of us who had the honor of knowing him!

Linda Miller

I have had the privilege and honor of having Dr. Moore for numerous classes and spent many hours working, talking, and laughing with Dr. Moore. I remember the times when he would make sure none of the ladies were in the room before telling Mike and I one of his many off-color jokes, unfortunately none are clean enough to include in the book. Some of my best memories in the department are laughing and joking with Dr. Moore. He was a great man and I have valued the time I spent and the vast knowledge he shared. I only hope as I continue on with my career I am able to live up to the example he has given me. Dr. Moore and his puns will be sadly missed.

Adam Pasch

Saint Louis University, BS 2003 and MS 2005, Current Doctoral Student

“He is on a seafood diet. Every time he sees food he eats it.”

I am so grateful to have known and worked with Dr. Jim Moore! When I was the Science and Operations Officer (SOO) at the WSFO in Jackson, Mississippi, from 1993-1998, I first was introduced to Dr. Moore at the COMAP course in Boulder Colorado where he was one of the guest lecturers. At that time, PCGRIDDs was bursting upon the operational forecast environment enabling operational forecasters to manipulate model forecast grids in real time, including isentropic layers. Dr. Moore consented to come to WSFO Jackson and do a training session on isentropic methods in the real time forecast environment in April, 1996. The session was held on the campus of Jackson State University (JSU), a historically black university with a budding meteorology program. Dr. Moore's session was attended by more than 30 individuals from surrounding NWS offices (New Orleans Area, Birmingham, Memphis, and Mobile), the local NWSFO, as well as JSU faculty and students. In short, it was a huge success, and the JSU students and NWS employees talked about the experience for months afterward!

Every time I had the privilege to attend one of Dr. Moore's seminars or training sessions, I came away richer. He was, without a doubt, the best professor I ever had, even though I never attended SLU or any of the other schools where he was actually employed.

A first class person, a premier educator, an incredibly gifted teacher, and a caring soul, all of these describe Dr. Jim Moore. It comforts me to think of him now, free of the limitations of a corporal existence, able to investigate jet streams, thunderstorm updrafts and isentropic lift without hindrance. Dr. Jim Moore was definitely a gift from Providence above to the science of meteorology!

Russell (Rusty) Pfost

Meteorologist-in-Charge

NWS, WFO Miami, Florida

former SOO, NWS WSFO Jackson, Mississippi

I think my favorite moment with Dokie was driving from DFW airport to downtown Ft Worth. He was trying to sing the Eagles song: Lying Eyes. Instead of singing City girl, he sang Silly girl. Doc Graves, Marty, and I were cracking up at his vocal styling and mistake!

Also another moment would be trying to make him cool and hip: Rolling his long tube socks down when he wore shorts.

Dr. Sam Ng

Saint Louis University, PhD 2005

Metropolitan State College of Denver, Assistant Professor of Meteorology

“How did the ice form on the wings of the jet? There appeared to be no rime or reason.”

It seems that if Dr. Moore wasn't telling a pun or a joke of some type, funny stuff would happen around him anyway. It was in the fall, and a day when a cold front came through in the morning, temperatures fell before afternoon, and a jacket was definitely in order by mid-afternoon. As one of the newer meteorology students at Saint Louis University at that time, I was a bit frustrated that there didn't seem to be a particular "method" taught on how to put together a forecast. I hadn't realized yet that everyone eventually finds their own way in making a weather forecast.

I had been told that Dr. Moore was quite a good forecaster, if you could just get him to forecast. (I suppose the daily stuff was boring to him.) On this cool fall day, I had finally cornered him long enough to have him show me how he put a forecast together. (And for those who knew him, in case you were wondering, no, he didn't stay focused on forecasting too long.) We were looking over the charts, and he was telling me about different things to be aware of, and something to the effect of how you have to be consistent so you're on top of what's happening, and not to let things sneak up on you...when in walks Dr. Graves wearing a short sleeve shirt. Without missing a beat, Dr. Moore looked up, saw him, and said, "And you don't want to be like these climo people because they never know what's going on." Then he just laughed. Yeah, it doesn't quite read as funny as being there, but the timing was perfect.

I consider it quite a privilege to have had Dr. Moore as my Synoptic Meteorology instructor. It's very sad and tough to realize that he's not there teaching at SLU anymore. Even though it is a very sad circumstance, as memories of my days at SLU float back into the forefront of my mind from time to time, when I remember Dr. Moore, I just can't help but smile.

It's not often that one gets to say it's a joy to know someone. I'm not unique with this sentiment...it was certainly a joy to know Dr. Moore.

Debra O'Neil

Meteorologist, WSIL-TV 3

Jim Moore will be remembered for his genuine concern for people, his love of meteorology and education, and especially his sense of humor. How can we forget those puns? We will miss him.

Melanie Whittington
Saint Louis University Earthquake Center

“Magazine for gardeners: Weeder’s Digest”

Jim is a great atmospheric scientist with deep insights and lots of ideas, an enthusiastic educator fostering minds of new-generation researchers, and a friendly colleague who always bring joy to the surroundings. His academic leadership in our Meteorology program was absolutely pivotal and his scientific contribution to our field was highly regarded. Especially, his synoptic research in severe storms and isentropic processes has played leading roles in our discipline and will be cited for years to come. His talented sense of humor will remain in us all who know him at St. Louis and in the nation. His always-smiling face with a joke ready for any occasion will be in my memory for a long time!

Zaitao Pan
Saint Louis University, Associate Professor of Meteorology

“Flooding makes a dam site worse.”

Kathy and the Moore family,

Though it has been many years since my path crossed with Jim, I am deeply moved with sorrow at his passing. We car-pooled to NYU, were roommates in Laurel Glen for Jim's one year at Penn State and I kept close contact with Jim and John Zack as their careers came into focus while at Cornell. Jim's passion to learn and his pun filled comments made him a joy to listen to. While I followed his career and his well-deserved accolades from afar during the past three decades, my heart is near you as you bear the grief of his death during these weeks since he left you. I am truly sorry for your loss and offer the hopeful pray that you will be comforted by the many who were touched and made richer by Jim's life.

Paul Knight
Penn State University

One of Doc Moore's favorite Simpsons' quote from Homer Simpson:

“And how is education supposed to make me feel smarter? Besides, every time I learn something new, it pushes some old stuff out of my brain. Remember when I took that home winemaking course, and I forgot how to drive?”

Jeff Vitale

Saint Louis University, BS 2004 and MS 2006

“French cooking is just a lot of crepe.”

I received the email in which you are soliciting remembrances of Jim. I don't know how to summarize this into something succinct because he was such a dynamic and varied individual with many interests besides the meteorology and teaching that he loved. I'll just relate one item that I think captures a few of his facets.

I was in the 1st dynamics class that he taught when he arrived at SLU in 1980. He was replacing Dr. Don Martin who had been an institution in the Met Dept. Dr Martin didn't use a textbook but rather his own notes which were compiled partially based on his experience in working with some of the founders of modern meteorology from the Norwegian school. Prior to Jim's arrival the faculty in the department was very professorial with Drs. Martin, Pallman, Rao and Heinrich from the old school, and having been at the Dept for a long time, and Drs. Lin and Fuelberg the more recent additions. They were all very solid, approachable and willing to meet with you but there was a certain sense of a master/student relationship, as is appropriate.

That all changed when Jim arrived. To begin with, he wasn't that much older than us. And owing to his personality he had a way of making us feel that, while he was indeed the teacher, he was also one of us. Part of this came about from his playing on our softball team, organizing things like Halloween costume parties at his and Kathy's house and going out to eat to international restaurants at a time when they weren't as varied and numerous as they are now. He wasn't someone we just saw in the Dept but someone we also socialized with.

And of course there were the puns. Not just in social settings but in class or anywhere you met. So it was because of this that we felt quite at ease with him, which I believe aided in our learning process. We were so at ease that I'll never forget him relating to us after one of our exams in NWP that one of the students who shared an appreciation of puns actually wrote down a pun on the exam and was hoping for extra credit!

Talk about knowing your audience.

While I didn't get to see him that often after moving to Washington I did keep in touch with occasional visits to SLU, email and seeing him at the occasional conference or meeting. While I will miss him greatly I am glad for the time that I did know him.

Mark Ruminski

Dr. Moore was a gifted, one-of-a-kind professor who was always dedicated to helping his students succeed. His animated personality and passion for meteorology made him a great teacher and mentor. Dr. Moore was always willing to help whenever he could, and never passed up an opportunity to make someone smile by telling one of his legendary puns. I will always remember his unique sense of humor and his love of meteorology. It was impossible to sit through one of his classes or presentations without experiencing both of these things. I was very lucky to have had the opportunity to learn from and work with Dr. Moore. Throughout his years of teaching, he touched many lives. Dr. Moore will be sadly missed, but always remembered.

Jaime Poole

Saint Louis University, MS 2003, Current Doctoral Candidate

“In England would fog ever be mist?”

I have been pondering what kind of comment to contribute. I have many, but I'll keep it simple; Dr. Moore's enthusiasm and spirit was an inspiration not only for approaching science, but also for approaching life.

Chris Buonanno

SOO NWSWFO Little Rock, AR

“Zebu: What a French ghost says to scare people.”

Everyone who knew Dr Moore knew him to be a man with an incredible sense of humor, a proper sense of humility, tremendous enthusiasm, exceptional skill, upstanding integrity, and great compassion. I have learned and will continue to learn more from him than I currently realize.

Nonetheless, even now I cannot adequately express everything that he has taught me. And yet, I never thanked him for all of the positive contributions that he made in my life. From Dr Moore's words and actions, I have learned much in the way of understanding, knowledge, wisdom, inspiration, passion, and joy. I will always remain indebted to Dr Moore, and I hope that one day he will fill me in on how QG theory operates in the truly ideal world.

Pete Kozich

Saint Louis University, BS 2003, Current Doctoral Student

With a heavy heart I write this, but will draw upon my many fond memories of Dr. Moore to help me get through it...

I worked at the Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology Education and Training (COMET) in the mid-90s, where I first met Dr. Moore. He was a frequent guest lecturer, and after my first "pun-filled" class, I was hooked! I never missed another opportunity to attend, because he was not merely a "lecturer" he was truly a "teacher." What an honor to have the chance to hear him teach about isentropic analysis, or heavy precipitation, or the many other topics he knew so well. I always learned something new, and was so glad that so many of our students were able to take advantage of his teaching skills and vast expertise in meteorology. As I began to meet forecasters from virtually all 122 National Weather Service (NWS) offices, I started hearing many "we know Dr. Moore, he's fantastic" stories of college days or "Forecaster Development Courses (FDCs)" where Dr. Moore was also teaching.

I asked Dr. Moore to help me with a particularly sensitive media situation in Northern Indiana when he was President of the National Weather Association (NWA). Many others would have been reluctant to help, but not Dr. Moore. He graciously took on the challenge and facilitated a solution that worked for everyone in the entire county warning area (2.3 million people).

When I became a Meteorologist in Charge of the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Glasgow, MT, I made it a goal to host the annual "Great Divide Workshop." Dr. Moore was at the top of my list of who I would invite, and I was thrilled when he accepted the invitation in 2003. Meteorologists from several states attended, and all agreed that Dr. Moore's presentation was the "highlight of the workshop."

None of us in the NWS will forget the amazing legacy left by Dr. Moore. His kindness, enthusiasm, and brilliance will be missed always.

Sincerely,

Julie Adolphson and Staff
NWSWFO Glasgow, MT

What I miss most about Dr. Moore is how he would candidly come into the gold room to tell jokes. Even when he didn't have a reason to come into the gold room, he would enter and didn't leave until he told a few puns and jokes. I loved hearing all the graduate students groan at the jokes they've heard for the past several years, he would simply say, "you all used to laugh at all my jokes, now you are all jaded". I am thankful for the short amount of time I learned from him and worked with him. His contributions to the field of meteorology are priceless and he was truly passionate about his job as an educator and researcher.

Emily Eisenacher

Saint Louis University, MS 2006, Current Doctoral Student

"Dendrite formation is explained to novice forecasters on a needle-to-snow basis."

Dr. Moore was more than just a mentor to his students, he was also a good friend. He truly cared for his students and did everything he could to make sure they succeeded. I will always remember him for his love of meteorology, teaching and life in general. Of course, who could ever forget his puns? I left SLU eight years ago but still have a copy of doc Moore's book of puns.

Steve Considine

Saint Louis University, MS 1998

"If you don't pay your exorcist on time you can get repossessed."

I just wanted to pass along my condolences to the family of Dr. Moore and the staff and students at SLU on the passing of Dr. Moore. I graduated from SLU in 2001 and learned a great deal from Dr. Moore and was very saddened by his death.

Any student that had him in their class, I am sure is saddened by this loss.

Brian Travers

Class of '01

Channel 3 Storm Alert Team

WRCB TV

I was shocked and saddened when I learned of the passing of Dr. Moore when I clicked on the NWA home page recently. Jim was such a gifted scientist and a great human being and he'll be missed.

Although I bumped into Jim now and then, mainly at NWA conferences over the last several years, my memories of him are mostly from college days, when we exchanged thoughts and pleasantries in the weather lab at NYU and sometimes car pooled together from Bayside, Queens into the Bronx, where the campus was located. He was a couple of years behind me at NYU but I considered him to be one of my good undergraduate college friends. In those days, I could see his enthusiasm and sharpness, both in the area of academics and in his keen wit. He would joke around often, so that you might not expect that he was a serious student, but then he would spend hours working at his studies in the weather lab, usually with his classmate, John Zack. Both were serious students and did very well.

He used to talk about a novella he was working on and I understand that he finished it, along with co-authoring a book of jokes. That was Jim - full of energy and ideas. I'm not surprised that he was able to go on and get a Ph D from a school like Cornell, although you wouldn't have expected him to have the temperament of a researcher and professor. I'm sure it was great to have him in the academic environment to loosen things up a little. I'm not surprised he had such a successful career either and it's good to see that much of his work was in an area that has a practical forecast application.

My condolences go out to his wife, Kathy.

Mike Bono
Chief Meteorologist
Capital News 9
Albany, New York
Formerly with The Weather Channel

“A wise man fades away gradually; however, his example exists forever.”-memory for Doc. Moore

Doc. Moore is an excellent teacher, a distinguished researcher, and a philosopher, too. I remember he always tells a joke at the right moment when we try to solve a math problem in his class. It helps us to relax, and then have a clear mind to tackle the problem. Often students tease him on his “New-Yorker” accent but he makes fun of himself instead to save the embarrassing situation. Whenever a student comes to him, he is always ready to help. He is considered the best consultant there is for everybody.

One time, Patrick Market reminded the class to watch out for Doc.’s mood because Doc.’s cat (like a family member to him) was just given euthanasia. But instead of feeling depressed and sad, he was very calm.. We asked him how he felt and he answered, “It’s time for my cat to go. Euthanasia is the best way. So, don’t worry for me.” That showed us how he handled himself whenever faced with difficulty or failure. Just like a real philosopher. Another time when he told us he wanted to publish a book, we all thought it would be related to Meteorology, or another textbook, maybe. To everyone’s surprise, it turned out to be a “joke” book. We then understood that an optimistic attitude was the most important thing in his life. I thought that was the best thing and education I’ve ever learned in SLU.

In ancient China, a person with exceptional life wisdom was regarded as the “Philosopher” with great respect. Doc. Moore was the best example. In Chinese history, a philosopher was more admirable and memorable than a king or any millionaires. A China proverb says, “A wise man fades away gradually; however, his example exists forever.” Doc. Moore’s spirit will live forever in our memory, those who ever know him, including friends, family member, students, and readers.

Shinn-Der Sheu (John) from Taiwan
Saint Louis University, PhD 2000

“Radar Meteorology, it’s NOT all about Mie!”

Dr. James Thomas Moore made a tremendous impression on me by his work with the St. Louis Chapter of the American Meteorology Society from 1984 to 1991. He was the lynch pin that kept the group vibrant. Jim was my mentor when I held chapter officer positions. He was always willing to help. What impressed me most was how much he cared for his students, education, and life itself.

Respectfully submitted,

Lt Col Nancy Harris Lee
USAF, retired

Dr. Moore has had a profound influence on my life and career. With his knowledge and guidance, I have been able to accomplish far more than I ever would have thought possible upon entering graduate school. His enthusiasm for teaching, research, and life in general was contagious. I've never encountered someone who enjoyed what he did for a living more than Dr. Moore. This wasn't just a job to him; this was a lifestyle. Seeing this in him encouraged me to work harder so that I too might have the lifestyle that he enjoyed. But Dr. Moore was always a regular guy just like the rest of us. This made me realize that there was a place for regular guys in university teaching and research, if they only work hard enough and have enough passion.

I was lucky enough to have spent time with Dr. Moore in the months and weeks before he passed on. Even during his time of great illness and struggle, he still devoted his precious time to advising me on my dissertation. This just goes to show how much meteorology and his students meant to him. He literally devoted some of the last moments of his life to helping me graduate on time. Needless to say this means a great deal to me. I will never forget the last conversation I had with him at his house.

Thanks to Dr. Moore, I am now able to teach synoptic and give lectures at COMET. I find myself thinking of his jokes and how he would present the material. He always had a gift for making complicated material easy for students to understand. The course notes he spent countless years preparing in his office at work and at home will live on for generations. And just as importantly, his personality and passion for meteorology will never be forgotten by those who were privileged to know him.

I realize now how much I took for granted that I would always be able to pick up the phone and call him anytime, just to get his advice on teaching, research projects, and life in general. Now I will no longer have this luxury. I will miss him.

Marty Baxter

Saint Louis University, MS 2003 and PhD 2006

“Tornadoes are at the end of the forecast funnel.”

Exchanging puns with Jim was always something I looked forward to when visiting SLU, even though he was almost always quicker on the draw than I was. But a shared sense of humour was only part of what made me fond of Jim. He was such a good person, always helpful to students, cheerful and engaged - a great asset to the Department and to the University. He leaves a warm memory in the hearts of all who knew him. Along with so many others who counted him as a friend, I shall miss him and can only imagine, and sympathize with, the loss felt by Kathy and his family.

Michael Rochester

"WHY JIM MOORE AND I WROTE A JOKE BOOK"

by Pete Chaston

In the early 1970s, New York University had a meteorology department. At the beginning of the 1970-71 school year, I was in the meteorology lab where students would gather to purview the latest weather data. I took a magic marker to a printed copy of an upper-level weather map and jokingly drew a ship off the New Jersey shore. Suddenly, coming up from behind me was this college freshman who took my felt pen and then drew on the weather map the monster Godzilla moving out of the ocean onto California. I was a senior then, but that freshman, Jim Moore, and I became instant buddies because we shared the same off-beat sense of humor.

Over the years we lost touch, with Jim graduating with his PhD from Cornell and eventually teaching at St. Louis University, and I, after graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, taking several positions in the National Weather Service.

Lo and behold, some twenty years later while I was at the National Weather Service Training Center in Kansas City trying to teach our forecasters how to forecast, in walks this guy with a big grin on his face and he looks at me and I look at him, and we simultaneously say something such as, "You're you!!!" We reconnected after all those years, resumed our good friendship and worked together in the following years in promoting new concepts for weather forecasters to adapt.

Jim would be a guest-instructor in one of my forecaster classes for years.

On one of his visits with me, we got into a lively discussion on how we both inflict awful jokes and puns upon our students, interspersing them within the lectures and workshops when they least expected it, which typically resulted in the usual moans and groans, but the students loved it. We then decided to write down all the funny material we had invented or collected over the years, categorize it, and write a book! We wanted to share our wacky humor with the world (hopefully, to bring about world peace).

Jim and I decided to call our book:

"JOKES AND PUNS FOR GROAN-UPS"

by James T. Moore & Peter R. Chaston

The book became an instant hit! It made it into bookstores and is still sold by outlets such as Barnes & Noble.com. Jim's big moment occurred when he appeared on NBC national news on television, who found a story in two meteorologist friends who co-authored a humor book!

So, Jim leaves us with us greet contribution to meteorology, but also his captivating sense of humor.

Pete Chaston

Kearney, Missouri

When I was asked if I might say a few words about Dr. Moore at this gathering, I had to take a moment to reflect on whether I would be the best choice for the job. I hesitated, in part, because I had once jokingly threatened him that I would mark this occasion with a handout consisting of numerous bulleted entries. I hesitated, mostly, because I know about the dozens of graduate students that he mentored and the hundreds of undergraduates that he taught, many of whom are far more eloquent than I. I hope that I can do justice to our collective remembrance and, in so doing, honor our departed friend.

My most profound memory of Dr. Moore was his enthusiasm. Like so many synopticians, he possessed a passion not just for meteorology but for *the weather*. Equations would be derived, programs written and run, numbers crunched, and conclusions revealed, but when his work day was done, Dr. Moore had not lost sight of the reason why he did his work. To understand daily changes in the weather was his vision; those were the stars by which he navigated. Without a single intended word, he could inspire his students to believe (or continue believing) in that same vision. I came to SLU because of Dr. Moore's *Isentropic* manual. Not only was the material fascinating to me, but it was conveyed with a brevity, clarity, and vitality that evinced an engaged author and a devout scientist. In 1992, I was single-minded of purpose as well: ***I had to study with that person.***

Perhaps my fondest memories of Dr. Moore are the ones that involved his quick wit and his propensity for punning. Coupled with a love for "The Simpson's" cartoons that exceeded my own (and that's saying something), a day's work rarely seemed like one. It was actually more gratifying to get past a *minor* troublesome spot in a computer program, as it would elicit a "D'oh!" from The Doc.

In closing, I want to touch on the deep level of caring that Dr. Moore showed for his students. Of course, he was concerned about our work, but I never doubted that his greater concern was for our overall well-being. When he asked about my wife and my son (and he did so frequently), it was never an act of mere diplomacy---he wanted to know.

So, we say farewell today to a great teacher, a true mentor, a role model, and the best kind of friend. We will miss you, Jim. Rest happily knowing that we carry your lessons with us, as do our students, and their students, and so on down the line.

Peace be with you all.

Dr. Patrick S. Market
Saint Louis University, MS 1996 and PhD 1999

My fondest memory of Doc Moore...boy, that's a tough one, there are so many from which to choose: his legendary lectures, the road trips, the raucous lunches in the Gold Room that you couldn't get into without proper proof of age, the practical jokes (mostly aimed in his direction and always taken with good humor), the softball games (including a championship victory!), and those occasional instances when we got actual work done. The common factor among these diverse experiences is the laughter. I don't think I ever spent a day in the department without laughing with Doc at least once (including the days I took 550).

There is one instance that stands out in my mind: it was during my first trip to COMET in Boulder back in April 1996. At the time we'd been working together for a little more than four years. I have to set the stage, or this becomes a joke of geography (in other words, you had to be there). Boulder, of course, is the paragon of earthy-crunchy culture, and the COMET classroom was a reflection of that. At the time there were a number of computer workstations in the back, all named after foods common to that aforementioned lifestyle: yogurt, granola, hummus, and so forth. I caught sight of the nameplate on the machine I was using, and a pun came to me. (Did you know that Doc was really into puns?) Anyway, I called him over and said that I had one for him. I said, "I had some bad middle Eastern food last night and now I just falafel." You would have thought that I'd just told him the funniest joke he'd ever heard. He could not have been a more proud father than at that moment—my first pun. We'd worked together on countless presentations, published several papers, and he mentored me through two graduate degrees, and yet I think that this was THE moment for him.

He taught me that a word guy like myself should be able to appreciate a good pun (if that's not an oxymoron). Ever since that dark day in Boulder I've supplied Doc with the occasional contribution. I knew I had a good one when he'd remark "That one's going in the book," referring to his growing volume of puns. These days whenever I hear or tell a pun (good or bad), I still appreciate it, but it's just a little more painful.

Dr. Scott M. Rochette
Saint Louis University, MS 1994 and PhD 1998

Tribute to Dr. James Thomas Moore

Jim Moore was not only my colleague in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at SLU, but over the last dozen years, my best friend. We have shared research, mentoring, and of course the latest/greatest joke of the day. At times, it has seemed as if we were joined at the hip. Many times over these many years, I have tried to describe Jim to others. Inevitably, my descriptions failed to capture Jim's entire persona. I have come to realize that Jim had to be experienced in order to fully appreciate him. It has been my good fortune to have had many experiences with Jim.

Many students, as well as forecasters, have gotten to experience Jim as an educator. In these situations, Jim's passion for meteorology and sense of humor gave him the unique ability to create teaching moments. Those are times when we actually have the students fully engaged in the subject material. I generally have to rely on external factors to create those moments. One such moment, came about a year ago at the forecast office in Minneapolis. Jim was describing the characteristics of Convective Available Potential Energy, what we refer to as CAPE. He was discussing the importance of the "shape of the CAPE". As he is explaining it, Jim breaks into a batman routine, leading to the description of "fat CAPE" as batman, the later years. I sat there amazed and even embarrassed, but Jim continued on. I know those forecasters will never forget the importance of the shape of the CAPE and will remember it with a smile on their faces.

Jim was concerned not just with educating students in his courses but also in providing students with opportunities outside of the classroom. To this end, Jim worked to promote and develop a fund in the department know as the "met fund". This fund allowed students to attend workshops, meetings, or provide things critical for research or education. I used to tease Jim that he was more protective of the "Met Fund" than he was of his own money. Even in Jim's passing, he and Kathy thought of the students by asking that donations be made to the "Met Fund". We have now renamed the "Met Fund" the James T. Moore Meteorology Fund to remember and honor Jim and his efforts to assist students.

If you were asked to list Jim's priorities and passions, the list might be:

1. Meteorology
2. Weather
3. Puns
4. His Dog
5. His Lawn

However, having shared long car rides and hotel rooms with Jim, there is one item that actually tops this list. That would be his wife, Kathy. Jim loved Kathy and held her in the highest esteem. He was incredibly grateful that Kathy was his wife and wondered why he got so lucky. Actually, he was not the only person to wonder. Jim and Kathy often tell the story of a student who came up to Kathy at one of the department's social events and asked Kathy, "So what made you want to marry that man?" Having heard this story many times, I can only recall Jim answering by quoting Spock's father from Star Trek, "It seemed like the logical thing to do". While Kathy would say she was saving Jim from a life of geekdom. I am sorry to report that Kathy was only partially successful.

However, I do know that Kathy's love and support made it possible for Jim to achieve all of his accomplishments.

Finally, most, if not all of us have been bombarded with Jim's unique sense of humor. Many of us have noticed that Jim would often laugh at his own jokes or start snickering before the punchline. This was never more true than with Jim's favorite joke. I would often tell new students this joke and then relay to them that Jim would start laughing before the punch line. Of course, being sensible, they would look at me in disbelief. So I would send them to Jim's office to tell him this joke. More times than not, Jim would start laughing right on cue, before the punchline. When I first heard this joke, I dutifully told it to my daughter who was about 12 years old at the time. Her response was "that was just silly". I eagerly passed her response on to Jim, who replied how it spoke volumes on his level of sophistication that his favorite joke was deemed silly by a 12 year old.

So what was Jim's favorite joke? A man with a vast repertoire of jokes and puns must have an incredible, amazing favorite joke. Well, it begins as many classic jokes:

A horse walks into a bar...

And unexpectedly, the punchline immediately follows:

...and the bartender says, so why the long face?

This innocuous joke was Jim's favorite. It is only now that I know why the horse has a long face. I will miss Jim very much.

Charles E. Graves

Saint Louis University, Associate Professor of Meteorology