

## IN MEMORIAM

### WILLIAM J. MOORE

William Jefferson Moore passed away on March 15, 2006 at his home in Baton Rouge at the age of 64. Moore was the Gulf Coast Coca-Cola Distinguished Professor of Economics. He had been a member of the LSU faculty for more than 20 years.

Jeff was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1941. His family moved to Port Arthur, Texas in the 1950s and after graduating from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1959, Jeff enrolled at the University of Texas. This is where he met his future bride, Joan Gayle Vance and in August 1963 they married. Jeff went on to earn his Ph.D. degree from UT in 1970. He wrote his dissertation under the direction of Ray Marshall, who had sparked Jeff's interest in labor economics and in particular, what was to become a career-long interest in the economics of trade unions. Jeff's dissertation, which focused on the growth and development of teacher unions in public schools, formed the foundation for his future work on the growth and economic impacts of trade union activity.

Jeff's career began as an assistant professor at the University of Oklahoma (1968-70). In the fall of 1970, he moved to the Department of Economics at the University of Houston. In the early 1970s Jeff was among a group of young scholars in the department who led a successful "revolution" to transform the department and move it toward becoming a respected member of the research community in economics. Due in large part to his participation, the revolution succeeded. During his tenure at UH, Jeff developed a number of close friendships that would last throughout the remainder of his life. Then in 1980, Jeff accepted an offer to join the faculty at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio as the Julian G. Lange Professor of Economics. Finally, in 1985, he was recruited by the economics department at LSU as part of its Quality Thrust Initiative. Jeff's appointment was instrumental in raising the national visibility of the economics program at LSU. Jeff called the Economics Department at LSU home until his death in 2006.

Jeff was a dedicated scholar and teacher. His scholarly research consists of nearly sixty published papers and monographs. This included work on trade unions, pharmaceutical economics, right-to-work laws, earnings differentials in academic labor markets, and labor market discrimination. He is best known for his work on the economics of trade unions, publishing more than 20 peer-reviewed papers on this topic alone. His most significant paper on trade union growth, published in the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, continues to be cited 30 years after its publication. Jeff also served on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Labor Research*.

He was unselfish with his time and his ideas. Always a willing mentor, Jeff had a profound influence on a number of graduate students and young scholars just starting their careers. Several of his graduate students went on to become successful research scholars and teachers. He also directly influenced the careers of many of his junior

colleagues at UH, Miami and LSU; offering them advice, direction and sharing with them ideas that ultimately led to co-authored papers.

Above all, Jeff was dedicated to his family and his friends. He is survived by his wife, Joan, his daughter, Elizabeth and his two sons, Keith and Vance. He is also survived by two sisters, a daughter-in-law and four grandchildren.

The Department has lost a valued colleague, a close friend and a true scholar.