

Accounting Hall of Fame

Testimonial to Dr. Harold G. Beazley,

Given by David A. Hope,

Partner, Doane Raymond. Inducted November 23, 1990.

The first name to be entered into this Accounting Hall of Fame is that of Harold G. Beazley. I regret that it is being entered posthumously. Harold passed away one year ago.

Harold G. Beazley had many names. He was Dr. Beazley, Professor Beazley, Dean Beazley, Mr. Beazley, Harold, Babe. Behind the many names was a man of incredible accomplishments and a man of deep and abiding values. Tonight we honour this outstanding man's contribution to accounting as a builder, an educator and a mentor.

Harold built the accounting program at Saint Mary's University. He built it carefully, one block at a time. As Dean of Commerce he spread his enthusiasm and efforts over many disciplines, but he did an outstanding job with accounting. His secret: he saw no limits to what could be accomplished. When he retired as Dean in 1972 he had built a sound program, well staffed and housed and with the momentum to carry it forward for years.

While the Saint Mary's accounting program was the greatest beneficiary, it was not the only one. Let me list others. Harold was:

- Dean of the first separate faculty of business in Atlantic Canada at Saint Mary's;
- An organizer and charter member of the Society of Management Accountants of Nova Scotia;
- Charter member of the Financial Executives' Institute - Atlantic Chapter;
- Founding member of the Association of Deans of Canadian Schools of Business;
- One of three Canadian deans invited to participate in the inaugural meeting of the American Association of Deans of Collegiate Schools of Business;
- Participant in the great adventure of creating what is now the Atlantic School of Chartered Accountancy by hosting at Saint Mary's some of the early courses;
- Quiet leader of the Public Accountants Board of the Province of Nova Scotia, the regulator of auditing, to which he was appointed by Governor-in-Council in 1952 when the Board was created and on which he served for over 35 years;
- Builder and maintainer of the Nova Scotia branch of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada.

In all of these endeavours, he carried the torch of excellence in accounting in the broadest sense. The accounting community tonight recognizes the work of Harold Beazley, builder.

Harold was an equally impressive educator. His formal studies were at Saint Mary's and Harvard - no long list of degrees. However, he shared everything he learned - and he continued to learn year after year. In his last years in the classroom he still taught introductory accounting in such a way as to engender the interest of 18 year-olds - and he never compromised on standards. (Well, he did let people who were late attend the class, but only after some hard thinking about the matter).

Harold taught generations of Saint Mary's students both financial and managerial accounting. Many thousands were schooled by him. Each Christmas Harold received, year after year, the good wishes of a great many of these people: accountants in all walks of life; managers and leaders who acknowledged the important role the accounting courses of Professor Beazley played in their lives. They are all over the world.

This brings me to Babe Beazley, the mentor. There are countless CAs, CMAs, PhDs, and MBAs attached to the names of his students and fellow faculty members that are there simply because this man expected as much from us. He cared; he honestly cared. And he believed in his fellow man.

Harold was an athlete and an active member of his community. He was an avid golfer and bowler. He was a past president of Dartmouth's Brightwood Golf Club and club champion twice. He served as president of the Nova Scotia Golf Association, Governor of the Royal Canadian Golf Association, and an official at Canadian golf championships. He coached the 1942 Saint Mary's varsity hockey team to the Maritime championship. And as most of us gathered here tonight know, the fact that creates both awe and respect is that he had not walked without crutches since he was a pre-schooler. And as some here know, at 70 he could still beat most of us at golf.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Holy Name Society and a life-long member of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church. His life of service to God and leadership among his people is particularly evident through his life-long example to those who lived under his influence during their university years. The day he died he had shared Communion with his beloved Jesuits

of Halifax, as he did so many days of his life, so unpretentiously, so naturally.

The quality of Harold Beazley's life and work has been acknowledged many times. I cite the following recognitions so all who hear this will better understand the love and respect he received in his lifetime:

- appointed Dean Emeritus upon retirement from that office;
- voted Professor Emeritus by the Saint Mary's Senate upon retirement from his full-time academic appointment;
- honoured by the creation of the Beazley Medal for academic excellence in the Saint Mary's MBA program;
- made a fellow of the Society of Management Accountants of Canada - the first Nova Scotia academic to be so honoured;
- made an honorary life member of the Brightwood Golf Club;
- made an honorary life member of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada;
- awarded the Papal Medal, "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifica", by Pope Paul VI;
- awarded the Community Service Medal by the Saint Mary's University Alumni Association;
- awarded the degree, Doctor of Letters (Honours Causa), by Saint Mary's University;
- and most revealing of all, Harold Beazley received the respect and affection of the communities he served.

Tonight we add one more honour to that list: member of this Accounting Hall of Fame.

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