

William P. Glade (1929–2021)

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William P. Glade, a former president of the Latin American Studies Association (1979–1980), passed away on May 2, 2021. An economist by training, Bill had a long and illustrious career, serving as a professor at various universities and as a consultant, administrator, and scholar at the Ford Foundation, the United States Information Agency, and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Between 1970 and 2007, he taught at the University of Texas at Austin, from which he had received his PhD in 1955. He served as Director of the Institute of Latin American Studies at UT-Austin from 1971 to 1986.

Bill Glade was a perfect gentleman, kind and courteous to all. Professor Henry Dietz, his colleague at UT-Austin, described him as “a prince among men.” Dr. Glade was always willing to help out those who needed it whether they were students, junior faculty, or international colleagues. Ricardo Lagos, the former president of Chile, once recounted how Bill found him a visiting position when he needed to leave Chile during the dictatorship. Others remembered special efforts Bill made to include them when they first arrived at UT-Austin.

Bill’s research focused on Latin America, an interest he developed at a young age. He published more than a dozen books and countless articles and chapters on the region’s economies and the challenges they faced. He was also widely sought after as a lecturer and consultant. His knowledge of Latin America was encyclopedic and he could hold forth on a wide range of topics ranging from privatization to Mexican cuisine. Yet he was always eager to learn more.

Bill loved teaching and his students loved him. He stayed in close contact with many of them and they were a source of great pride to him. He, in turn, inspired many of them. As Dr. Elsie Echeverri-Carroll, a former student who is now a Senior Research Scientist at UT-Austin, put it: “Bill is gone, but he was a role model we will always try to emulate. His legacy will endure forever.” //