

University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law

UMKC School of Law Institutional Repository

Faculty Works

Faculty Scholarship

Summer 2014

In Memoriam: Professor Patrick A. Randolph Jr.

Timothy E. Lynch

Follow this and additional works at: https://irlaw.umkc.edu/faculty_works



Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#)

IN MEMORIAM

Timothy E. Lynch*

In October 2012, Professor Patrick A. Randolph, Jr., a long-time faculty member at the UMKC School of Law and an academic trailblazer into China, passed away. It is my honor to write this short memorial in his honor.

Pat joined the UMKC law faculty in 1980 and was an expert in property and real estate development law. In the early 1990s, UMKC solicited its faculty for those professors with an adventurous spirit who would be willing to travel to China to teach and lecture and begin a process of forging institutional relationships with Chinese universities. At the time, Chinese universities were increasingly reaching out in the hopes of forming deeper and more extensive relationships with foreign universities. UMKC was at the forefront of this effort, and Pat, delighted by such an opportunity, was one of the handful of UMKC professors who pounced on it. Pat volunteered, and in 1994 he was off to Beijing to teach a short course on American business organizations law at the prestigious Peking University. Thus began a love affair with China.

For the rest of his life, Pat devoted considerable time and energy to teaching, lecturing, and developing professional and personal connections in China, even living there for parts of each year. Pat became a valuable resource to his Chinese colleagues and Chinese policy makers and other scholars at a time when China was reforming its real estate development and finance laws. His expertise and willingness to teach and share garnered him a great deal of respect and accolades. He would eventually become a member of the Peking University faculty. He co-founded the Real Estate Research Center at the Peking University, becoming the first foreigner to direct a research center at Peking University. He also co-authored the leading English-language text on Chinese real estate law. In 2006, the City of Beijing awarded Pat the Great Wall Friendship Prize in recognition of his contributions to the Chinese legal system. In 2008, the Chinese national government awarded him the Friendship Award, the highest award given by China to foreigners who have made outstanding contributions to China's economic and social progress.

But it was the human connections he forged that may have been his most valuable contributions to international understanding. Pat was a self-styled curmudgeon on the UMKC faculty, proudly so. But his sometimes brusque manner hid a warm, gentle, and very sweet heart, one which easily expressed itself in China. Pat became dear friends with many of his colleagues and even paid for several of them to travel to the United States where he hosted them for weeks at a time in his Kansas City home. He also sponsored dozens of Chinese students, often awarding them scholarships out of his own pocket to study in the US and letting many live in his home while they studied in Kansas City. Throughout the years his house often became a dorm for Chinese graduate law students and a hotbed for Chinese social life. Pat also brought several of his UMKC colleagues to China so they too could experience and learn about the

* Associate Professor, UMKC School of Law.

country. I know that all of his colleagues, Chinese and American, and all Chinese students he recruited and sponsored are tremendously grateful for having such opportunities.

For several years before he died, Pat lived with cancer. Nevertheless, he still made several trips a year to China to lecture, direct the Real Estate Research Center, recruit students for graduate studies in the United States, and simply spend time with friends. I met Pat only a year before he died. Although sick, he was still extraordinarily energetic and enthusiastic. I was brand new to the faculty and eager to learn. For whatever fortunate reason, Pat took a shine to me and took me under his wing. We quickly became friends. He has since passed on to me the responsibilities of directing the UMKC/Peking University Summer Program in Chinese Law, a summer study program he established in 1999 for American law students, but he also introduced me to this amazing and intriguing land and his Chinese friends and colleagues. He passed on his love of China. I am grateful to have met Pat Randolph before he passed and will be forever grateful for the legacy he has left for me, for the legacy he has left the UMKC School of Law, and for the gifts he has brought to all our alumni and friends throughout China. Pat, my friend, you were one-of-a-kind and irreplaceable—and now you are terribly missed.

Timothy E. Lynch
Associate Professor
UMKC School of Law