

appreciate most about Bill was his friendship. He took his friendships seriously and always gave more than he asked for. He was a true friend, and I will miss him very much.

*Michael H. Smith*  
Past-president, IEEE SMCS

### **My Recollections About Bill Gruver**

We all miss Bill. If I can summarize him in one word, it would be *reliable*. When he promised something, he always delivered on time, no matter how complicated and time-consuming the task, no matter how many unexpected obstacles would appear—and, as everyone knows, such obstacles frequently appear—no matter what, he would do it. Whether it was about urgent changes to the Society website or his enormous help in organizing the panel of the Norbert Wiener Award winners at the 2014 IEEE SMC Conference, he always delivered.

The second word would be *helpful*. He was always willing and eager to help, often offering his help even before someone asked. These offers were very useful—especially to those who were new to the board or conference organization. His help was often significant, and it was always offered and given in a very friendly way.

The third word would be *modest*. Bill Gruver was a Norbert Wiener Award winner and one of the top researchers in our area, but you would never guess it from observing his service to the profession. His own research never got in the way of the tremendous amount of volunteer work that he did for our Society. We will all miss him.

*Vladik Kreinovich*  
VP Publications SMCS

### **A Model Volunteer**

I was fortunate to know Bill Gruver for more than four years as a fellow member of the board of governors. As many others had, I learned of his keen love of liturgical choral music and exacting sense of good food and where to find it. In my experience, he was also

a good leader. We worked together over a year to develop the new SMCS website. He was always enthusiastic and interested in exploring new ideas and the best way to enact them, which made it a real joy to work with him.

*Chris Nemeth*  
SMCS VP Planning

### **A Professional Approach**

I am saddened to hear of Bill Gruver's passing. He and I were on the IEEE board of directors at the same time and served on at least one board level ad hoc during that time dealing with what was then a sensitive issue. We had biweekly teleconferences and several onsite meetings outside of the normal board series. He was a pleasure to work with. I was impressed with Bill's approach to issues and the cordial but professional demeanor that he had. We worked well together and were successful in our efforts.

*David Green*  
IEEE Treasurer and Secretary

### **A Brilliant Mind**

I was blessed to have known Bill, especially during my time serving with him on various committees of the IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB). He was such a fine person who always had a cheerful outlook, a friendly demeanor, and was highly respectful of all people. His voice was filled with keen insight and wisdom, seeing things that other people overlooked. Bill had a brilliant mind, and he was curious about all things technical and nontechnical. It was such a great pleasure being with him, and I will indeed miss him.

*Alan Willner*  
University of Southern  
California

### **In Memory of Bill Gruver**

The IEEE will certainly miss Bill Gruver. He was a very long time volunteer who contributed in many areas of IEEE. He was a quiet, thoughtful, highly intelligent, soft-spoken, and

gentle man. People were always comfortable dealing with Bill, as he was polite, had a good heart, and made good suggestions and decisions.

Bill was president of SMCS, a position you cannot achieve without many years of successful contributions to the Society in many positions. He was a Distinguished Lecturer for the Society, which speaks to his many technical accomplishments as well as his ability to convey an interesting message. In 2010, thanks to his contributions to the TAB, a board with over 50 members, Bill was considered as a candidate for vice president, technical activities.

Bill had a breadth of experience in IEEE that spanned beyond the strictly technical. He also represented SMCS on the governing body of the Technology Management Council from 2012 to 2014. I had the pleasure of working with him again in this capacity. He was honored by IEEE Canada in 2011 with a medal for his international contributions to intelligent automation.

Bill will be sadly missed by his many colleagues worldwide.

*Celia Desmond*  
Division III Director

### **Bill Gruver Will Be Missed**

I knew Bill for more than 20 years, and I was shocked to learn about his passing. We exchanged visits between Vancouver and Naples to our respective labs. Since our first meeting, I was impressed by his deep devotion to the scholarly chores of academia as well as to voluntary Society service. When I started becoming involved in the activities of the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS), he was one of my favorite coaches, and I felt indebted for his valuable advice throughout the years. During my RAS presidential term, I had the privilege of interacting with him closely in his capacity of Division X director, and I learned a lot from him. I also had the pleasure of sharing social moments with him, and I always admired his courtly manners, wide culture, and