

## Finley Lee Remembrance

Joseph Finley Lee, Jr., (1939-2022), known to one and all as Finley, died peacefully in Naples, FL on February 12, 2022. He was a Huebner Fellow during 1962-1965 and earned his Ph.D. in Applied Economics at Penn. Finley was a fine scholar and wrote his dissertation on the subject of "Functional Operations and Competitive Role of the Associated Factory Mutual Insurance Companies" under the guidance of Dr. Clyde Kahler.

Huebner Fellows knew each other especially well during those years, gathering in the Foundation's room in Dietrich Hall to study, lunching as a group, and socializing occasionally in the evenings (although the rigorous academic requirements didn't allow for much of that). Each Fellow had a distinctive personality and Finley's truly was unique.

Of all Finley's traits, perhaps the strongest was his ability to set goals and achieve them. His intense focus was not obvious in that he had lots of fun along the way. However, nothing distracted him from his plan, and he was very efficient in carrying it out—often in an unusually creative way. For example, he earned his Ph.D. at the height of the Vietnam War and fulfilled his service obligation as a Captain in the US Army by teaching Political Science at the U.S. Naval Academy. Afterward he accepted a job at Florida State University but had always wanted to teach in North Carolina, his native state. Within a few years he accepted an appointment at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he served on the faculty for 25 years.

Finley had a droll sense of humor and was a great gentleman. In some ways his was a storybook life. He met his wife, Jean, in the fifth grade and never thought about another girl. Bill Rabel recalls, "Finley and Jean were a most gracious couple and were very kind to a hayseed from South Texas when I arrived in Philadelphia a year after they did. Everyone used to dream of living in a carriage house on a Main Line estate, but Finley and Jean were the only people I ever heard of who actually found one. As I recall, the estate owner was taken with the young couple's charm and knew they would appreciate and care for the apartment. I remember well their invitation to watch the Texas A&M-Texas game on Thanksgiving and that helped a lot with my homesickness."

While at UNC, Finley developed a thriving consulting practice that he continued into retirement. He and Jean moved to Naples where he was able to continue his business and exercise his passion for golf. He also played bridge competitively, something that comes as no surprise given his ability to evaluate odds and other people, and he earned the status of Grand Master. All in all, this was a great life for a bright young man who grew up in Charlotte, attended Davidson College, earned a doctorate at Penn, and truly lived his life "his way."

Expressions of condolence may be sent to:

Mrs. Jean Lee  
28571 Calabria Court, #202  
Naples, FL 34110

Finley's obituary may be found at the following:

<https://www.naplesnews.com/obituaries/ndn024350>