



James A. Cunningham (1954-2014)

Long-time interests and educational pursuits launched Jim's career path. He received his B.S. in Real Estate and Construction Management at University of Denver's College of Business Administration, where he graduated cum laude in 1977. Among his honors were the Dean's List and Beta Gamma Sigma (national business honor society). After working four years as Real Estate Lending Manager at Denver's Empire Savings, Building and Loan Association, Jim decided to study law. He earned his Juris Doctor at University of Denver's College of Law in 1983. He graduated in the top 5 % of his class with honors including the Order of St. Ives, a Mobile Oil Fellowship, and AMAX scholar to participate in Colorado School of Mines Collaborative Program in Mineral Economics. In Denver Jim worked as an Attorney for Gulf Oil Corporation, and later for Roath & Brega PC before moving to California in 1986 when the San Jose Redevelopment Agency hired him as Deputy General Counsel. In San Diego Jim utilized his considerable legal, real estate and construction experience working in various legal, academic and government positions. From 1988 to 2006 Jim served successively as an attorney at the San Diego firm of Higgs, Fletcher and Mark, as Legislative Mandate Specialist for the San Diego Unified School District, as Manager of Real Estate for the North County Transit District, and as General Counsel for Filanc Construction Company.

An interest in teaching real estate courses led to adjunct instructor positions in the San Diego and the Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College Districts prior to his becoming an instructor of real estate and business classes at Long Beach City College in 2006. Jim loved teaching and he believed strongly in community colleges as they made higher education affordable and accessible to students of all backgrounds and ages. A dedicated educator, besides teaching, he served on the Curriculum, Career and

Technical Education, and New Faculty Orientation Committees, and Course Review, and Policy and Standards Subcommittees.

In his leisure time, Jim took pleasure in all aspects of remodeling his homes. He had tools organized and at the ready for nearly every job except electrical work—and he abhorred sheet rocking. He was as talented at remodeling as he was at any other endeavor he pursued. Scuba diving, underwater photography, kayaking, and travel got him outdoors. To relax he played guitar, often accompanying some of the 7000-plus songs on his IPOD, and took his beloved dog Sugar on walks. A consummate host, Jim enjoyed visiting with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and colleagues. Intelligent and conversant in many topics, he liked engaging in lively, thought-provoking conversations.

When he was a little boy, our mother asked him what he was good for. He answered: “Helping and loving.” As evident from correspondence received from students, faculty, and staff at LBCC, he was always ready to assist with any issues or problems that arose. We, the family of Jim Cunningham, extend our gratitude to his LBCC community for sharing with us your experiences of Jim. These have shed light on that part of his life and brought us great comfort in our time of sorrow. Thank you.

Elizabeth Cunningham and Skip Miller, Jim’s sister and brother-in-law
Sam and David Cunningham, Jim’s brother and nephew