

Life Legacy Award

William Chunestudy was selected by the Class of 1977 as the recipient of the Life Legacy Award for his ongoing contributions to Adventist Education and the role he plays in inspiring students to pursue careers in music and education.



William R. (Bill) Chunestudy, DMA, served at Georgia-Cumberland Academy as band director from 1975-1981, when he left for Maplewood Academy. He then quickly found his way to the west coast. Bill is currently the Associate Academic Dean at Pacific Union College and has been a leader in Adventist education for the Pacific Union in various positions, going where the need was greatest to inspire and coach young people. These have primarily included administrative roles since completing his doctorate in 2004, including the Assistant VP for Financial Administration at La Sierra University. A quick look at his Facebook page shows he still loves working with young people, providing encouragement and motivating them to stretch their talent and perform at their best. In addition to his other duties, Bill now leads the PUC Vocal Octet. Bill attributes his success to the support of his loving wife, Julie. Many of us remember the wonderful meals Julie prepared for us and their precious babies, Trevor and Nichole.

Mr. Chunestudy is admired by his students for his dedication and personal concern. One of his former students, Steve Martin, '77, shared this tribute:

When I think about my career, I think about Dr. William Chunestudy, the person I point to as the most influential person in my life. He captured my teachable moments, and is the one I admire as a model music teacher.

Here is just one of many remarkable stories about our class sponsor, band director, guide and mentor. Our wonderful English teacher, Mr. Haluska, assigned us a term paper and had given very specific instructions. Due to my inattentiveness, I did not quite grasp how important the instructions were. The night before it was due, Dr. Chunestudy somehow realized my situation and stayed up with me all night to get it done. He helped me put together the jumbled mess of notes I had taken and showed me how to assemble my term paper. What he did for me was above and beyond the job description. He did this because he has a “heart of love” and had an interest in my success. What he did that night went a long way to setting my life course to be a teacher as well.