



Jimmy Lee (Jim) Turpin

January 26, 1937 - August 15, 2019

Jimmy Lee (Jim) Turpin, age 82, passed away Thursday August 15, 2019 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He was born January 26, 1937 in Marianna, Arkansas, the son of Carlie Andrew and Sallie Elizabeth (Bates) Turpin. He was preceded in death by his parents and by his brother, Leon Turpin.

Jim received his B.S and M.S. degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Arkansas in 1960 and 1961, respectively, and his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma in 1966. He married Joyce in 1963, and upon his graduation, they made their home in Fayetteville where Jim taught Chemical Engineering at the University of Arkansas until his retirement in 2009. During his distinguished career, he was the recipient of multiple teaching awards including the UA Alumni Association Outstanding Teaching Award in 1982, the Catalyst National Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1991, the Carnegie Foundation Arkansas Professor of the Year in 1996, and the College of Engineering Outstanding Service to Students Award in 2003. He was also a founding member of the UA Teaching Academy. More importantly, he made it his goal to personally know each of his students, and in doing so encouraged, mentored and profoundly impacted hundreds if not thousands of young lives.

Jim was a long-time member of University Baptist Church. He was a committed Christian throughout his life, and he never hesitated to share God's truth with the thousands of students who came through his classes during 40+ years of teaching. After his retirement, Jim never stopped teaching as he poured years of wisdom and love into his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife Joyce Turpin; two sons, Tracy Turpin and wife Amy of San Antonio, Texas, and Terry Turpin and wife Kirsty of Fayetteville; five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Visitation will be held 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday August 20, 2019 at Moore's Chapel in Fayetteville. Funeral Service will be held 11:00 a.m. Wednesday at University

Baptist Church with burial to follow at Fairview Memorial Gardens under the direction of Moore's Chapel.

Cemetery

Events

Fairview Memorial Gardens
1728 East Mission
Fayetteville, AR, 72703

AUG
20

Visitation

05:00PM - 07:00PM

Moore's Chapel

206 West Center St., Fayetteville, AR, US, 72701

AUG
21

Funeral Service

11:00AM

University Baptist Church

333 W Maple St, Fayetteville, AR, US, 72701

Comments



“ Dr. Turpin was the complete package. He was a wonderful Christian man with a great personality and the best professor I had in college. Once my alarm failed me and I arrived in his class on test day near the end of the period. He computed my grade for that semester without that test. Not many professors would have done that. His passing is a great loss to thousands of his students and to this State.

Tommy Miller - August 26 at 09:44 PM



“ Nora Warr Files...Jimmy is a great loss to me personally . We were classmates in Brinkley,AR. Until we graduated. He was always So kind to everyone . (A great athlete in every sport) .he came to our class reunions thru the years. Don't tell his pastor but he even missed church one Sunday to visit with us on our short trip to Fayetteville. His wife Joyce was a perfect companion to Jimmy. Our class will have a heavenly reunion with Jimmy soon

ora Warr Files - September 01 at 12:41 AM



“ Dr. Turpin was one of the reasons I chose to attend the University of Arkansas and to major in Chemical Engineering. He was my advisor and was the professor of my very first Chemical Engineering class at the U of A. He made the classes and content interesting. What made him special though was not just his knowledge/intellect...he had a true gift for connecting with people and invested time in personally connecting with his students. He had a joy and inner spirit that drew all students towards him, which I am certain came from his strong faith. What an incredible man and what a legacy he has left. He touched so many of us in an impactful way.

David Bacon - August 23 at 01:49 PM



“ Dr. Turpin as he had a huge impact on my life both while I was at the U of A and long afterwards.

Dr Turpin always took a very special interest in his students and had an open door policy which I greatly appreciated. His ability to remember students and names and the interest he had in what they were doing even many years after graduation was astounding. He was the professor I most often looked up whenever I was back on campus. One of the life lessons I remember him teaching in his class was the value of saving money. He recommended that when we get our first job we could go ahead and spend that amount on every day living expenses but whenever we got a raise we should continue to live on the original amount and save the rest. After the second raise then we could expand our spending to equal what the first raise was. By doing this we would always be saving money without feeling any sacrifice. Dr. Turpin was full of practical advice like this and I thought about him often throughout my life and

he has been an inspiration to me ever since....he will be greatly missed and I am still in mourning over this loss.

Tom Pierson, BSChE 1979

Tom Pierson - August 23 at 01:13 PM



“ Dr. Turpin was simply the best. He was the best professor that I had while getting my undergrad degree at UA. He gave the best advice, life-lessons, comments about football, everything. He was always more concerned about others than he was himself. While traveling behind him from Fayetteville to do a presentation in Little Rock, Dr. Turpin was run off of the road and had a pretty serious accident where he ended up in the ditch facing the wrong way and his door was pinned closed by the ground. Stotts Isbell and I ran up to make sure he was OK. He quickly replied that he was fine and that we could probably just go ahead and go to the presentation (as he say there and couldn't get out of his car). Of course, we didn't leave, but this is a great example of the type of person that he was. He will forever be missed and can't be replaced. My prayers go out to the family for peace during this difficult time.

Brian Pinkerton - August 21 at 04:24 PM



“ I'm so grateful to have had Dr. Turpin as a professor. An amazing teacher, mentor, and friend. It's sweet to read the comments by former students, many of whom were my classmates. Dr. Turpin was so brilliant but humble. I think of all the times I'd hear him say "well I don't know much, but ..." then he would go on to solve a problem brilliantly with no notes. And of course no one ever forgot his lecture on priorities. We were all so blessed to have him teaching us about life and faith. My prayers go out to Joyce, Tracy, Terry, and their families. He was dearly loved and he will be greatly missed. There aren't many men who have left that kind of impact on so many people!

Heather Walker - August 21 at 03:43 PM



“ Dr. Turpin was a very kind and gentle man. He always had wisdom, good advice, and words of encouragement to share. He was one of those people who is a gift in your life and for whom you have nothing but good memories. Thank you for the example you were for us all.

Rick Wise, BSChE 1983

Rick Wise - August 21 at 02:18 PM



“ Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Jimmy Lee (Jim) Turpin.



August 21 at 11:07 AM



“ Jim was a great friend and mentor. He was unfailingly supportive and always available to discuss anything from technical to personal; offering carefully considered guidance every time. He was instrumental in my eventual decision to pursue an academic career and a major reason that I returned to UA where we became colleagues. His advice as I began my teaching career was and remains invaluable. He will be sorely missed. Rest in Peace.

Greg Thoma

BS 1976; MS 1985

greg thoma - August 21 at 07:37 AM



“ Thank you to the family of Dr. Turpin for sharing the time, love, and energy of an educator that touched the lives of so many. There are now multiple generations of graduates that are better professionally, personally, and spiritually because of time spent in the classroom or office with him and away from you at home.

It is incredible to see the shared memories and tributes are so similar yet span decades across these messages. For all of us, the academic spark to succeed was lit by Dr. Turpin and his teachings of "learning to learn" still ring true years later. My path from Chem E led to medicine, yet I still use so many of his messages in my work today teaching medical students, residents, and fellows. Dr. Turpin, be proud to know that from a distance a ChemE is still influencing all of these "pre-med" now physicians.

A very sincere "Woo Pig" from a grateful student.

David B. Nelson, MD...BS ChemE '03.

David Nelson - August 20 at 10:55 PM



“ Honoring a man and family that invested much in our lives.

Dr. Turpin was the spark of encouragement that ignited a struggling Thermo 1 student's life long passion.

We are so grateful to be part of Jim's legacy.

All our love to the Turpin Family,

Jean, Patty, Michael, Gina and Krista Leger

BS '81, MS '83

Jean Leger - August 20 at 08:37 PM



“ Dear Terry (and Mrs. Turpin and Tracy),

My parents shared the news with me today - I was so sorry to learn of your dad's passing. I remember him as a kind and gentle man, always so welcoming of us kids. All of you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Sending hugs,
Cara Ardemagni LaRoche

Cara A LaRoche - August 20 at 07:51 PM



“ Fields of Europe for Spring was purchased for the family of Jimmy Lee (Jim) Turpin.



August 20 at 04:44 PM



“ Dr Turpin was a special person. He was able to reach out to students in a real and personal way. As many people have said, Dr Turpin also had a big impact on my family. He sparked my interest in chemical engineering. Coming from a small Arkansas town the idea of chemical engineering was unknown. My original plan was to be high school math teacher and a coach. Dr Turpin helped change my plan. I was able to work for Dow for many years and then as a consultant. One of his favor sayings was “learn how to learn”. I applied this for entire career. Dr Turpin was my

main contact for recruiting for Dow. He was always aware of the students and the correct match with companies. Our families stayed close as my 2 sons both became "Turpin ChemE's". It was special to me to have Dr Turpin as a mentor and then to have my 2 sons also mentored by him. It is a bond we will always share. We enjoyed dinner with Dr Turpin and Joyce when I would return to campus. I felt very proud to be an inaugural member of the Chemical Engineering Academy among with Dr Turpin. The world was better because of him. He will be missed. Because of Dr Turpin, I am committed to a life dedicated to learning.

Michael W Mourot
BS 1976; MS 1977

Michael Mourot - August 20 at 12:55 PM



“ Becca, Doug, Scott, Mandy, Josh, and Mark purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Jimmy Lee (Jim) Turpin.



Becca, Doug, Scott, Mandy, Josh, and Mark - August 20 at 10:18 AM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Jimmy Lee (Jim) Turpin.



August 20 at 12:39 AM



“ Dr. Turpin was a great man who profoundly impacted my life. He cared deeply for all of his students and encouraged all those fortunate enough to have an opportunity to learn from him to pursue their dreams. His contributions to the engineering community are immeasurable. Rest In Peace, Dr. Turpin. May God Bless your family and all who knew and loved you.

Crystal Strunk - August 19 at 09:52 PM



“ Rest in Peace Prof. Jim Turpin. I would like to pass on my condolences to his family, friends, and other members of the Chemical Engineering fraternity at U of A that were impacted by this great man's teachings. I was lucky to have taken a couple of my undergrad Chemical Engineering classes at University of Arkansas with Prof. Turpin.

He taught the Intro to Chemical Engineering class for all incoming wide eyed freshmen Chemical Engineers at the University of Arkansas for more than 30 years and instantly made you feel that you belong within the Chemical Engineering fraternity.

He had a great style of teaching, a masterful way that simplified complex subjects and phenomena. This could only be experienced if you took a class from him and cannot properly be expressed in words.

He was well known for his quick wit, wry sense of humor, and his memorable quotes. One of his great quotes I remember on the first day of freshman ChemE class that will stick with me forever is his quote asking all of the students to "BE A LIFELONG LEARNER" which i have definitely tried to incorporate and will pass on to future generations.

Thank you once again Prof. Jim Turpin for gracing this planet with your presence and positively affecting thousands of Chemical Engineers from the University of Arkansas. You will always be remembered but can never be replaced.

Dev Toutu

B.S.ChE 2006

MBA 2009

University of Arkansas



Dev Toutu - August 19 at 03:40 PM



“ Red, White & Blue Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Jimmy Lee (Jim) Turpin.



August 19 at 03:08 PM



“ Multicolor Bright Mixed Flower Fireside Basket was purchased for the family of Jimmy Lee (Jim) Turpin.



August 19 at 02:03 PM



“ I'm celebrating the life of Dr. Turpin and his impact on my life as lift prayers for his family, friends and thousands of lives he influenced. Reading through other posts, I am so moved by his consistent love for his God, his students and his family. He remains a mentor and friend... I can still hear his words of wisdom. I still tell stories (like the one about "Moose" who had to climb through a cooling tower coming out soaked) because they were always right to the point and could be used forever.

His greatest teaching, however, was that God has a plan for each of us.

Thank you, Dr. Turpin, for sharing and living those truths and breathing words of life and encouragement into Kelly and me. I know that many people have a richer faith in God today because of your influence.

Brent Hankins
BS ChE -- '91

Brent Hankins - August 19 at 12:38 PM



“ My condolences to the Turpin family. Dr. Turpin was and will continue to be an inspiration to me. He was my teacher, advisor, and friend. There was never a doubt about how much he cared for those that had the privilege of knowing him. Twenty years after leaving campus and after his retirement, he made time to sit with my

daughter and I as she contemplated selecting a college. I am so thankful for his sage advice that day and all the previous days. He did the hard work of making sure you knew he believed in you, and that anything is possible if you will trust God and apply yourself.

Mike Sparks BSChE '83

Mike Sparks - August 19 at 12:14 PM



“ Lynsey & David Wilkins - Tucker & Lauren Leech purchased the White Sympathy Standing Baskets for the family of Jimmy Lee (Jim) Turpin.



Lynsey & David Wilkins - Tucker & Lauren Leech - August 19 at 12:01 PM



“ Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of Jimmy Lee (Jim) Turpin.



August 19 at 11:08 AM



“ I owe my career to Dr Turpin! He was the best Chemical Engineering professor at UofA. A Godly man who cared about each student. He knew us all by name and he took a personal interest in each student. I was struggling my first semester at UofA. I was 6 hours away from home and I was overwhelmed with the size of the University and my course load. Dr Turpin could see that I was struggling and he asked me to come talk to him during office hours. I did because Dr Turpin was like a dad. You just knew he cared. He is the reason I didn't transfer to UCA (because all my friends from CBC were at UCA) and choose a major they offered. When I graduated, Dr Turpin did not stop reaching out to companies until he knew every Chem E in the class of 1996 had a job. And two years later when I needed to find a new job, I reached out to Dr Turpin. He found me a job in Environmental Consulting where I've made my career for the last 20 years.

Dr Turpin, thank you teaching me not only the basics of Chemical Engineering but

the basics of being a human being! Your life mattered. You touched every student that came through the Chem E program at UofA. You changed the trajectory of my life and I will forever be grateful!

Jesslynn Spence Hale - August 19 at 10:47 AM



“ Dr. Turpin influenced me and my husband, Joe, in profound ways as young adults at the University of Arkansas. Our hearts our sad, but I have no doubt that his wisdom will continue to reflect in those of us who were lucky enough to be his students.

He taught me engineering, but more importantly he taught me to learn how to learn because that journey never ends. He taught me to find the optimal time of day to buckle down and get the work done. He taught me to that working with integrity is more important than winning.

Tracie Nutter - August 19 at 10:20 AM



“ I love my memories of this man. Of any teacher I've ever met, he cared the most. This world now has a giant hole to fill.

Jason Griffin - August 19 at 10:04 AM



“ Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Jimmy Lee (Jim) Turpin.



August 19 at 09:37 AM



“ Dr. Turpin was an inspiration. He was an excellent professor and role model. I remember during my senior year site interviews, I would relay messages to him from Arkansas alumni I would meet and he would immediately recall their graduation year and some interesting anecdote about them. He not only understood the subject matter, but was truly interested in the students. It is refreshing to know that his legacy will live on through the enrichment he provided for so many.

Rest in Peace Dr. Turpin

Paul Gathright - August 19 at 09:23 AM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White was purchased for the family of Jimmy Lee (Jim) Turpin.



August 18 at 09:29 PM



“ Dr. Turpin was a great and wonderful man, and very humble. He touched thousands of lives and made a real, positive difference to those fortunate enough to have known him. God had placed him into the perfect place on campus to have maximum impact on young lives as they took their next big steps into independence, careers, and families. I remember the Jesus, marriage and career choices speech that someone else mentioned. He definitely had priorities correct. And he didn't stop with his students – he gave my daughter lots of good advice as she grew up. Dr. Turpin always cared first about the person above the school or schoolwork. He was and remains a clear, personal role model for us to follow. He and his wife Joyce remained good family friends of me and Sherry throughout the years. I will certainly miss our visits to their house at Christmas, including the “homemade” cookies. I will certainly miss his smile and optimism, and the joy he brought to others. He confided to me once that he had at times been somewhat envious professionally of some of his students and others that had gone on to successful careers. I told him he had that completely backwards. He was the true success. It's what you leave behind you when you go that matters, through the love, caring and joy you share with others. My life has certainly been much better for the sheer blessing from God to have first met him as a student and then to have him as a lifelong friend. Dr. Turpin had asked me to call him Jim, which I never did out of respect (plus Joyce had said Dr was better since he earned it).

Jim, I am really going to miss you! Thank you for all you have done! I love you! May you rest in peace and enjoy your well-earned time in Heaven! May God bless your family!

Sean Gattis - BSChE '89
Sherry Gattis - BSChE '89
Marisa Gattis - BSIE Georgia Tech '2018

Sean and Sherry Gattis - August 18 at 08:08 PM



“ I am forever grateful for the time, wisdom and love that he gave me. I called him my father away from home. He is a true mentor in every way. I am soooooo blessed to have known him. What a beautiful example of walking out God’s love and Truth on the planet. May all his family be truly blessed beyond your fondest dreams!!! Love in Christ, Becky Nye

REBECCA R NYE (Becky) - August 18 at 07:33 PM



“ Dr. Turpin was a great and wonderful man, and very humble. He touched thousands of lives and made a real, positive difference to those fortunate enough to have known him. God had placed him into the perfect place on campus to have maximum impact on young lives as they took their next big steps into independence, careers, and families. I remember the Jesus, marriage and career choices speech that someone else mentioned. He definitely had priorities correct. And he didn’t stop with his students – he gave my daughter lots of good advice as she grew up. Dr. Turpin always cared first about the person above the school or schoolwork. He was and remains a clear, personal role model for us to follow. He and his wife Joyce remained good family friends of me and Sherry throughout the years. I will certainly miss our visits to their house at Christmas, including the “homemade” cookies. I will certainly miss his smile and optimism, and the joy he brought to others. He confided to me once that he had at times been somewhat envious professionally of some of his students and others that had gone on to successful careers. I told him he had that completely backwards. He was the true success. It’s what you leave behind you when you go that matters, through the love, caring and joy you share with others. My life has certainly been much better for the sheer blessing from God to have first met him as a student and then to have him as a lifelong friend. Dr. Turpin had asked me to call him Jim, which I never did out of respect (plus Joyce had said Dr was better since he earned it).

Jim, I am really going to miss you! Thank you for all you have done! I love you! May you rest in peace and enjoy your well-earned time in Heaven! May God bless your family!

Sean Gattis - BSChE '89

Sean Gattis - August 18 at 07:07 PM



“ To the family of Dr. Turpin, my deepest condolences. He was not just my favorite teacher, mentor, and friend. He is one of my favorite people. I am a teacher today and can only wish that a student of mine would ever want to speak to or remember me 40 years later. I say this on the eve of beginning a new school year. He once gave me permission to just call him Jim. So next week, Jim, I walk into that classroom and be just like you! Amen.

Judith James - August 18 at 07:04 PM



“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Jimmy Lee (Jim) Turpin.



August 18 at 05:47 PM



“ I am so very sorry to hear this news. Dr. Turpin was an amazing professor and an even more amazing man. I always refer to him as the Father of the Chemical Engineering Department. He certainly had a profound influence on my life while I was at the U of A and I'm so thankful that I had a chance to know him. I know he has touched so many lives and had a huge impact on so many students!! My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Kristal Scott Nutt - August 18 at 05:32 PM



“ He was my favorite CHemE professor and helped me get my first job. Later he was a true friend. Kind hearted and considerate. Peace and comfort to his family.
Linda K. Martin Smith

Linda K. Smith - August 18 at 04:36 PM



“ There was no one more impactful during my college journey than Dr. Turpin. He was my advisor, my guide, my cheerleader, my teacher, my friend. He cared for me the way a father would, have me sage wisdom the way our Heavenly Father does. He was truly living the way Christ wants us to live for others to see him thru us, even when we aren't saying any words. His impact on my has lived on throughout my professional life and I quote him routinely, and think of him fondly always. When sharing my career journey has been “non-traditional” for an engineer I always share Dr Turpins words that what we gain from our degree that is most valuable is the ability to “learn how to learn”... that helped me see that there was no new challenge that was too tough for me. His lessons live on in each of us that were blessed enough to get to learn and grow under his leadership. Look forward to catching up with him again someday on streets of gold!

Raegon Barnes - August 18 at 03:52 PM



“ Dr. Turpin was a very fine teacher and a very fine man. What he taught me in his Chemical Engineering classes stayed with me throughout my 40 year career in the field.

John Parks

John Parks - August 18 at 02:45 PM



“ Dr Turpin loved God and loved people. As a student in Chemical Engineering he taught me more than just engineering. I will never forget what he said on Day 1 of the intro to Chemical Engineering about the 3 biggest choices you will make in your life: (3) career (2) who to marry (1) Jesus Christ, accept Him or reject Him. What a great legacy he will leave as he impacted 1000s.

Tim Cain - August 18 at 02:02 PM



“ I'm so sorry. And you had a wonderful life with Jim and many memories to share with grand- and great-children shirlene Martin Levart With love from 1940 memories with you



shirlene levart - August 18 at 01:36 PM



“ I don't have the words to express what a tremendous impact Dr. Turpin had on my life. He was my adviser, mentor, and friend - as he was to all who went through the UA Chemical Engineering Department during his tenure.

As a senior I was in his Process Control class and, like most seniors, was just doing the minimum to maintain a decent grade. I somehow got lucky enough on the final to pull out an A in the class. I went in to his office and he said (with a wry smile), "Baker, you pulled out an A. It's the most undeserved A in the history of Process Control." As always he was right.

Knowing Dr. Turpin was the most undeserved blessing I've ever had in my life. Thank you is not nearly enough Doc. God bless you and your family.

Phillip Baker, BSChE '82

Phillip M Baker - August 18 at 01:13 PM



“ We had some great times in Dr Turpin classes. You were one of his favorites. I look forward to a reunion one day.

Jeff Scott - August 19 at 09:57 PM



“ Jeff I thought of you immediately when I heard of his passing. It'd be great to make contact. Email pmbaker@madisoncounty.net

Phillip Baker - August 20 at 10:02 PM



“ Dr. Turpin was a favorite professor of the students in Chemical Engineering when I graduated in 1985. I was lucky enough to have kept in touch through the years. I remember his last day lectures when attendance was optional and he taught us common sense financial moves as we started our careers.

He was a very kind man also. My grandmother passed away before a test and he found out and offered to reschedule my exam. I never forgot that act of kindness.

I'll remember Dr. Turpin as a pretty good softball player at the AIChE student picnics also.

Woo Pig Soovie and Godspeed Dr. Turpin. You will be missed. You made a great difference in the lives of many students.

Greg Goodwin - August 18 at 11:27 AM



“ I was privileged to have been in one of Dr. Turpin's classes, but also to have been counseled by him during my six years as a student in the CHEG department. He tried to teach us how to live along with how to work. His lessons still ring in my head, both the ones I used and the ones I wish I had used. My condolences to his family and the University family for this great loss.

Deva Hupaylo - August 18 at 11:23 AM



“ Andy Crews and family. purchased the In Comfort and Peace for the family of Jimmy Lee (Jim) Turpin.



Andy Crews and family. - August 18 at 11:19 AM



“ Prayers for the entire Turpin family. Im so sorry for your loss. May the wonderful memories bring you peace during this difficult time. Hugs and prayers! Amy J

Amy Johnson - August 18 at 09:12 AM



“ What an amazing man! I am so so sorry to hear of his passing. He always had a smile to share and words of wisdom (or a joke) to share also. Joyce, Terry and Tracy know that I am sending hugs and love and prayers y'all's way.

Robin Guadagnini - August 17 at 11:50 PM