IN MEMORIAM:
HOMER GLENN ANGELO
(1916-1998)

Homer G. Angelo:
An Appreciation

Harrison C. Dunning*

UC Davis School of Law lost a splendid friend and a long-time faculty member with the death of Homer G. Angelo on August 25, 1998. His passing followed soon after that of his lovely wife, Ann, who died on May 12, 1998. Both Homer and Ann will be greatly missed by the law school community.

Homer’s father, Heath Angelo, was a passionate conservationist, one reason perhaps that Homer devoted a substantial portion of his work to environmental protection. He dedicated much of his public service activity to environmental groups, for example as a Founder-Governor of The International Council of Environmental

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Law, as Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Legislation of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and as a member of the Board of Governors of the Foresta Institute for Ocean and Mountain Studies. In the early 1970s, when the need for a more comprehensive and aggressive approach to environmental protection was being felt throughout much of the world, he submitted a paper to the first International Conference on Environmental Future, which was held in Finland in the summer of 1971. The agenda of that conference was a broad one, dealing with concerns about humans and the biosphere which would become central topics for international environmental law as the field developed in the balance of the century.¹

Homer’s paper for the Finland conference dealt with the legal aspects of environmental protection.² It reflected the foreboding common at that time that the very survival of humankind might be at stake in, he wrote, “a legal jungle . . . [where] there exist vast areas of ‘no-law,’ in which much human conduct brings widespread biospheric consequences without subjection to legal standards or societal regulations.”³ He was critical of traditional international law — the field he had studied at Columbia Law School after World War II — which “by consecrating state sovereignty . . . has created expectations of right and duty in successive national governments which permit unbridled national action to despoil the globe . . . .”⁴ And he expressed particular concern for international commons areas existing outside national jurisdiction,⁵ a concern to be reflected later when he initiated a course in space law at UC Davis.

At the time of the Finland conference, the United Nations was new to the problems of the environment. In December 1968, the General Assembly had declared that a need existed for “intensifying action at the national, regional, and international level in order to limit and, where possible, eliminate impairment of the environment.”⁶ But little more was done until the United Nations Confer-

¹ See The Environmental Future (Nicholas Polunin ed., 1972). Among the topics considered were the atmospheric environment, marine pollution, biological productivity, and global responsibility.
³ Id. at 618.
⁴ Id.
⁵ See id.
ence on The Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, a conference that led to the establishment of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Homer attended the Stockholm conference and later was active on behalf of environmental nongovernmental organizations in their liaison work with UNEP. His participation in these activities contributed directly to the course on international environmental law that he taught on several occasions at UC Davis School of Law.\(^7\)

Homer took both his undergraduate and law degrees at UC Berkeley, and after his graduation from Boalt Hall in 1941 he served four years in the military. The experience of intense combat on Guadalcanal and service on the staff of General Eisenhower's mission to the Netherlands during that country's liberation in 1944-45 developed his interest in international affairs, which led to work after the war for both the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. But in addition to his interest in public matters, Homer had a deep interest in business and the practical aspects of representing business entities. He practiced law for many years in both Nevada — where he had some family roots — and California; then in 1961 he moved his practice to Europe. After a year in Geneva, he set up an office in Brussels, where his focus was on assisting American companies to establish a presence in the new-born Common Market.

Homer's experience as an American lawyer in Brussels no doubt led to the honor he received when he was invited to lecture in 1968 at The Hague Academy of International Law.\(^8\) That academy, founded in 1923 with the support of the Carnegie Endowment, is a leading center for international law work. Homer's lectures were on "Multinational Corporate Enterprises — Some Legal and Policy Aspects of a Modern Social-Economic Phenomenon."\(^9\) They dealt

\(^7\) In addition to his global focus, Homer had a particular interest in environmental protection in Europe, where he worked for much of the 1960s. See, e.g., Homer G. Angelo, Protection of the Human Environment — First Steps Toward Regional Cooperation in Europe, 5 THE INTERNATIONAL LAWYER 511 (1971).

\(^8\) In 1968 he was also appointed a professor at the Institut d'Études Européennes, Free University of Brussels. For several years he held that position concurrently with his position as Professor of Law at UC Davis.

systematically with the rise of the multinational corporation; identification of participants in the world arena of trade, production, finance and services; representative types and structures of multinational corporate groups; characteristic problems of multinational enterprise under diverse international and national law, regulations and customs; and private and public measures regarding international authorization, regulation, and harmonization of multinational corporate activities. They reflect a rich understanding of many different transnational business situations in Europe and elsewhere.

Homer retired from the faculty at UC Davis in 1986, but he continued to teach occasionally at Davis as an emeritus and at Boalt Hall and Golden Gate as a visitor. In fact, he developed a new course that built on his prior work but focused on the powerful emergence of telecommunications as a highly significant aspect of international affairs. His course, “Institutional and Legal Aspects of International Telecommunications,” was a thorough introduction to many important legal and policy questions about today’s information society.

On a personal level, Homer was a fascinating figure. He traveled widely, had many diverse interests, and was deeply committed to his family, friends and students. He will be remembered with great fondness by many around the world.

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Homer Angelo: One of a Kind

Floyd F. Feeney*

Homer Angelo was part of the generation that fought World War II. The awful realities of that experience were burned into his memory, and he devoted much of the rest of his life to the tasks of winning the peace and making the world a better place. His contributions to both were immense.

Half Nevada cowboy and half highly sophisticated international

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lawyer and professor, he was a wonderful teacher, thinker, and doer. Believing that education was the key both to a saner world and to personal happiness and fulfillment, he never allowed teaching to be very far removed from his thoughts. He loved being with students, and even after he had to give up full-time teaching he frequently gave seminars and lectures. In one of his last conversations, he was planning a seminar for the year 2000.

As a young professor trying to learn how to run a seminar, I remember attending one of his classes. His enthusiasm and his pace were infectious, and the quality of class was breathtaking. I wasn't sure the students really knew what they were getting, but having just spent seven years in top governmental and private law offices in Washington, I thought what he had to offer was priceless. Long before the teaching of lawyering skills was fashionable, he had found a way to share not just his knowledge of rules and ways to manipulate rules, but how to use legal knowledge to get things done in the outside world — how to be effective in helping a client or promoting a cause.

His enthusiasm for students didn't end at the classroom door. He met frequently with them outside of class and helped many to get a start. Whether it was arranging an internship at the UN, locating a position with an international organization or firm, or just giving advice, he was a constant source of encouragement and help.

Nearly everything that he did had a message. When he taught, when he practiced law, when he hiked in the mountains. The message often had to do with making connections — connecting his love of the outdoors with his desire to ensure that the environment would be around for his grandchildren, helping California students to realize how much their professional and personal lives were tied up with other countries and other cultures, putting friends from one part of the world in touch with friends from another part of the world.

In the age of the Internet it is not particularly startling to have friends all over the world. But when Homer Angelo started doing it, it was not commonplace at all. People liked to visit other countries as tourists, but not many took the time to learn the language, savor the culture, and make lasting friends. Homer, however, did, and the world is today a better place for his efforts, and the efforts of those who thought like him.

He was more a thinker than a scholar. He respected scholarship
and liked learning about things. But his real strength was thinking. When he became interested in something, he zeroed in on it and probed it to its very roots. It might be biofeedback or international finance or world citizenship; the technique was almost always the same. Read widely, exchange thoughts with as many people expert and non-expert as possible, think deeply. He had an uncanny ability to spot where the world of business, law, and politics was going, and he was often years ahead in what he was doing and thinking. That led him to be one of the early American legal practitioners in Europe; made him one of the first law professors to teach regularly on two continents and to be uncommonly wise in what he taught; made him an international environmentalist when international environmentalism was first being born; and led him in his last years to focus on international telecommunications.

Above all he was a doer. He did not make pronouncements and hope that the world would beat a path to his door. He took his ideas out into the world and tried to make them a reality. He helped many American businesses expand their horizons to Europe and Asia, he helped European businesses to come to the U.S. and other parts of the world. He worked hard for environmental causes both inside the U.S. and around the world. And, in his own quiet, thoughtful way, he made many very important contributions to the development of King Hall.

He was constantly on the go. Just reading his travel schedule was enough to make an ordinary mortal tire. London today, Paris for the next two days, Vienna for a day, then Rome, and back to Davis. Exactly what he did on all these trips was for a long time something of a mystery. In 1983-84, however, I spent a year in London, and learned a little about what he had been doing. He had contacts in Parliament and the top law firms and was using these to promote environmental and other causes. I still remember a marvelous cocktail party overlooking Hyde Park thrown for him by the former Iranian oil minister.

A devoted husband and father, he loved life and lived it to the fullest. He had an attention span of about two minutes. But he could do more in those two minutes than most people in an hour. Even when he played tennis, it was at a frenetic pace. He had a wide range of interests, traveled constantly, and seemed never to fatigue. He would arrive back in California from Europe or Asia one evening and be in the office early the next day. He had a wide range of friends, and more than anyone with whom I have ever
been acquainted, he found ways to stay in touch.

Homer was truly one of a kind. We will miss his wisdom, his idealism, and his friendship.

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Homer Angelo: A Remarkable Friend

Carol S. Bruch

Homer Angelo was as understated as he was accomplished, as undemanding as he was generous. His unassuming manner and soft tone masked the pace at which he led his life and the amazing range of his professional activities. Because Homer's office was just down the hall from mine, however, I often noted his comings and goings. The comings were marked by a quick hello, perhaps a question or two about current law school events and sometimes a brief comment, punctuated always by, "Don't you think so, Carol?" The goings were signaled by posted notes or astonishing itineraries. Each told his students exactly where he was and how he could be reached (often with directions to "call collect"). I have come to wonder whether the cellular phone might have been inspired by his peregrinations!

To the careful observer, Homer's rapid speech, disinclination to idle chatter, and walk (should I say run?) gave hints of his faster-than-a-speeding-bullet lifestyle. The personal reservoirs that enhanced what must have been an extraordinary gene pool were less evident. I well remember the day when, searching for a library book, I knocked on his office door, then used my passkey because I received no response. I entered, only to almost trip over Homer, who was lying on his office floor, meditating and practicing his yoga. Homer had learned to recharge his batteries long before others were talking about a "mind-body connection" or had opened themselves to the wisdom of other cultures. Later, when

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severe allergies appeared, he made accommodations with hardly a complaint, donning a blue mask but barely breaking stride. Homer gave this devil, like others, its due, but not one scintilla more.

An unusual generosity of spirit and concern for innovations in the academic enterprise marked his Davis career. Homer's courses, particularly those he crafted to deal with legal issues of the environment, space and telecommunications, brought him joy. They also brought our students incomparable benefit, both in the classroom and beyond. In the classroom, Homer frequently supplemented his own expertise with lectures by other leading practitioners and academics. Outside it, he opened professional doors for our students around the world.

There was yet more. Together, Homer and his gracious and talented wife, the late Ann Berryhill Angelo, played an active role in building the law school. The home they enjoyed for many years on College Park was donated to the University, providing a fund to support faculty activities in the field of international law. Their additional generosity and the memorials of friends and family will support a faculty chair and research in international telecommunications law.

As we bid farewell to Homer, I have a few lingering regrets. Too little support was sometimes given for Homer's exciting new course proposals. Too few of his colleagues knew the remarkable role he took in the growth of the law. Too few of them knew the degree to which his activities and efforts enhanced both international developments and, with it, our international reputation and opportunities. And too few knew how truly generous he and Ann were to our joint enterprise.

Yet Homer and Ann would have had it no other way. As they move into history, we remain, the beneficiaries of their extraordinary lives and uncommon dreams.