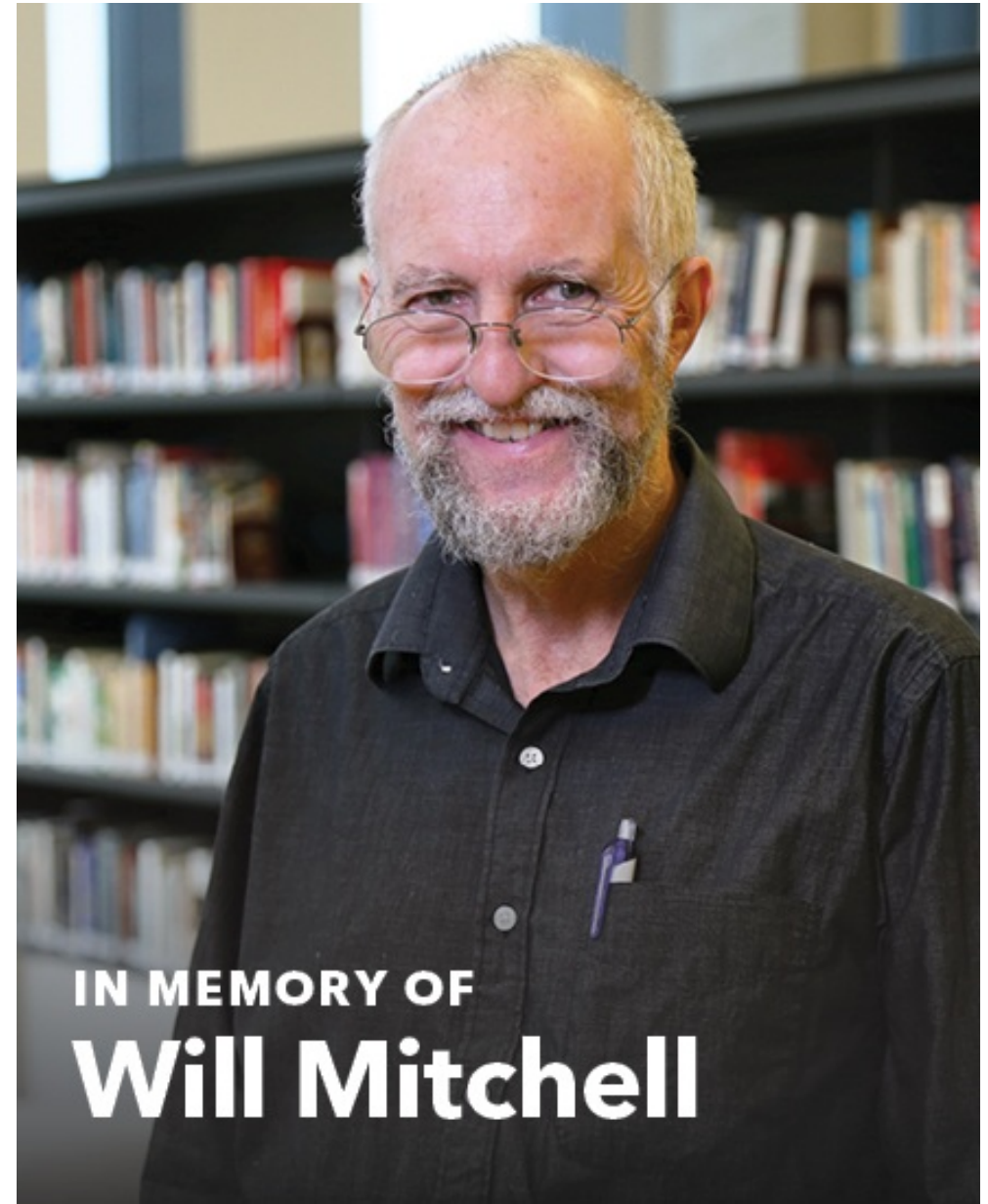




This card helped plant a tree through the non-profit
OneTreePlanted.org. Thank you for supporting our goal of planting
1 million trees.

Sending appreciation one card at a time.
www.groupgreeting.com



Will was a prolific scholar, a remarkable teacher and an active and engaged academic administrator. he will be deeply missed. we are so sorry for your loss. From the Central Marketing team

Pym Buitenhuis

Will's office was just next to mine. It was always filled with students, junior faculty and other young scholars. The conversations were lively and it was clear he was inspiring the next generation. I will miss all of the energetic activity just down the hall.

Sarah Kaplan

We are privileged to have known Will. We are great full for his commitment to education and his dedication to the efficiency and delivery of health care. He was a great Canadian, we will all miss him.

Sandra Rotman

Im so very sorry for this extraordinary loss. It is with incredible gratitude that I think of Will. He was such a central figure of my entire career -- over the course of more than 30 years of friendship and more than 20 of collaboration -- that it's hard to imagine what life in the field of Strategy will be without him. Scores of others feel the same way. Will's contributions have been so extensive and wide-ranging that he will continue to be with us in thousands of ways. Wishing you all the best,

Anita McGahan

Will was a connector. He brought together health leaders, policy makers, medical products makers, researchers, and academics. This is a rare skill in Canadian healthcare and his immense contributions, along with his smile and sense of humour, will be missed. RLP

Melicent Larers Saily

I'm so sorry for your loss. Will was both an extremely kind person and a consummate scholar, a combination which is very rare. I remember working late at night as a junior faculty member and seeing Will's light on, and we would chat together late at night. He was genuinely curious about all aspects of strategy and always a pleasure to speak with. His devotion to his students and his research sets a high example for all of us. He will be sorely missed by everyone in the strategy group and at Rotman.

Mitchell Hoffman

My deepest sympathy and condolences for your loss. It's still hard to believe that Will is gone - he was an inspiring role model and an important mentor at many crucial turning points in my career. A consummate scholar, life-long teacher, and generous human being.

Joanne Oxley

Will had so many leadership positions, awards, and a CV a mile long, but also this: It didn't matter who you were—if you had ideas, he was interested, and he wanted you to be a part of the field. I benefited from that curiosity first as a PhD applicant at Michigan and here as faculty at Rotman. So did so many others. He will be missed.

Anne Bowers

Will was a force of nature on so many positive dimensions. I'll always remember his whip-smart humor and unmatched, infectious love of discovery.

Patrick Rooney

It is sadening that such a great man is no more with us. I studied under him for 8 months and he was a fantastic mentor. I reached out to him last month and he gave me great advice for my future. I am sorry for your loss and I pray that his soul rests in peace.

Arjoon Vohra

I'm really sorry for your loss. Will was a great mentor for every PhD student in the department. I personally learned a lot from every conversation that I exchanged with. Will's mentorship in many aspects was and continues to be hugely valuable to a number of students not only in Rotman but all over the world. I wish all the best.

Andy Back

Will was one of the most generous members of our area. Always stepping up. It's a rare thing and there is a huge hole now. All the best.

Joshua Gans

Will was one of the most influential academics in my career. This was not in terms of his work, but rather as an example to follow in his humanity, humility and willingness to help and guide. I will miss him terribly.

Alvaro Cuervo-Cazurra

I am saddened and sorry for this loss. I did not get to interact with him as frequently as I wished to, but his genuine interest in novel ideas and love for students left a deep impression on me. I will remember his positivity and curiosity. May he rest in peace.

Hyeun Lee

I cherish my memories of Will, as he was always ready to listen, to be engaged, and to support you to his best extent possible. His friendliness and open-mindedness drew many people into his circle. He will be dearly missed!

Beatrix Dart

I first met Will in 2006 when he invited me for a job talk at Duke. We were scheduled to have dinner after the seminar. He asked me if I was afraid of motorcycles. I said I wasn't, so he came to pick me up with...his motorcycle. We chatted for hours. We would become colleagues only a few years later, at the Rotman School.

Beyond his influential scholarship, I like to remember his passion, sense of purpose, generosity, and love and care for the students. And, yes, his coolness. He was so very cool.

The academic community has lost a great scholar. The world has lost a wonderful person.

Nico Lacetera

Will selflessly gave so much of his time and energy to the Rotman community. Will agreed to take the helm as academic director of the Full Time MBA program in summer 2020 - in the midst of a life altering pandemic. Even in more "normal" times this is a job that requires patience, empathy, and compromise. But he knew that the community needed his compassion and leadership now more than ever. And we did.

Thank you, Will. You will be missed and we will endeavor to carry on your legacy of care and respect in our community.

Maria Rivera

Will's dedication and passion for helping the development of students and their ideas were remarkable. He will always have a special place in our hearts! Thank you so much for everything!

Leo Pongeluppe

I will always look up to Will. I was so proud to have him as a colleague and in the relatively short time that I knew him I learned so much from him. I struggle to express how much I will miss him and how much I feel his absence. I am so sorry for your loss.

Stefan Dimitriadis

I had the honor of working with Will when I was the Executive Director of the Strategic Management Society and Will served on the Board of Directors, among many other roles. Will always brought great insight and thoughtfulness to critical organizational questions, and his leadership among his peers was evident. But I will always especially treasure his grace and kindness and the generosity of his spirit. My deepest condolences to Will's family.

Eileen McCarthy

Will always came across as a nice and gentle person. Last year, I got to know him better when he served as the academic director of the MBA program. He offered me valuable assistance to move a live case event online in order to accommodate all of our first-year students spreading across multiple time zones and over 50+ Scotiabank volunteers. Will was not only a skillful administrator but also a prolific scholar - a rare combination for a professor. RIP.

Franco Wong

I will remember Will for the sharp mind, kind heart, warm soul. Always ready to step up, always curious, deeply human. I will miss him.

Ken Corts

Will was a great scholar, a stellar teacher, and a fantastic colleague. He was an example to all of us on how to mentor junior and new faculty. I will miss him a lot.

Alberto Galasso

Will was brilliant, but also a very warm person who always put me at ease. He was incredibly supportive of my research and took particular interest in my global health work. I was so lucky to have him as a senior colleague, and I will really miss him.

Laura Derksen

Will is going to be sorely missed by our department, the Rotman school and the wider strategy community. I hope we can all carry on his legacy of inquiry and engagement!

Andrew Steck

My heart is heavy thinking that we have lost such a wonderful member of our Rotman community, both personally and professionally. Will could always be counted on for wise counsel and thoughtful input on so many issues. As an Academic Director for our MBTA and Co-Academic Director for GEMBA-HLS, Will showed enormous commitment to the well-being of our students, navigating the uncharted online world posed by COVID. My sincerest sympathies to his family. We have lost someone who cared deeply for others and who we all cared for deeply.

Susan Christoffersen, Dean, Rotman

Deeply saddened, our community lost a phenomenal and selfless leader. Will in addition to what you've done for the field of Strategy, your early work as a baker in a co-op has benefitted us in so many delightful ways, thank you for sharing your light with us. I'm so grateful to have learned so many valuable life lessons from you. My deepest condolences Dilys, Mairi, Tamzin and Luc (your partner/father was a remarkable person who left a profound impact on me). Thank you for sharing him with our community, I will cherish the time we spent doing what Will would describe as meaningful work.

Neel Joshi

Will's investment in our future, our careers was palpable. A huge impact in short time. HLS4 will miss you.

Maitry

Will was a great colleague. We'll miss his energy, intelligence, and leadership.

Avi Goldfarb

Will has been such a kind and thoughtful colleague, passionately dedicated to his students' learning. A great loss to all of us.

Maja Djihic

Prof. Will is the first Rotman professor that I first met when he came to Nigeria to give a sample class in 2018. He delivered the strategy class with much energy and that I fell in love with Rotman classes even before stepping into Canada. Prof. Will is very passionate about everything he does. He is the first person that agreed to join the pioneer advisory board of the Rotman African Caribbean Business Club (RACBC). Prof. Will always stood to support RACBC to execute those tough ideas to the later. RACBC has lost a strong advocate.

Wale Oyeбанjo

I'm so sorry for your loss. I had the great honor of working closely with Will for the past two years, as he was Program Co-Chair for the 2021 SMS Annual Conference that I managed. Will always showed a (refreshing) respect for and trust in my ideas and advice, and I was constantly in awe of his energy, passion, leadership, vision, unique perspective, collaborative spirit, and willingness to step in and help out. I am devastated that I won't have another opportunity to work (or just hang out) with Will. I hope he knew how much I-- and so many others in the SMS community-- appreciated him.

Anna Allen

I am beyond sad for losing Will. Our community is beyond sad. So grateful to have had him on my side, as a mentor and as a pillar of strength. He was truly kind, generous, thoughtful, and patient.

Mahka

I met Will when he was bridging Duke and Rotman. He brought a burst of new thinking, new relationships, and new energy at the exact time our school needed to expand its health and life sci platform. I always loved meeting in his office because I enjoyed learning about his life outside academia from all the cool stuff in his office. I also tried many times to picture his home with all the guitars on the wall. Will was such a well rounded, interesting fellow, refreshingly with no ego. He will be so missed.

Layna Khayat

Will was an extraordinary scholar, family person, and thought and organizational leader. His research was both rigorous and important, his training and support of students exceptional, and he stood out for his willingness to help even those more removed from him. Befitting his energy, the amount of service that he provided to the field of strategy as well as to the schools that employed him was remarkable. For me, losing him is more than losing a supervisor, mentor and coauthor: It is losing an inspirational force. My heartfelt condolences to Will's family, friends and colleagues far and wide.

Xavier Martin, Tilburg University

I am very sorry for your loss. Will Mitchell was an incredible professor who genuinely cared for his students. I had the pleasure of taking his International Strategy course. Will's passion for his subject matter and for imparting that same enthusiasm upon his students was sincere and palpable. He had a good-natured humour and zest for teaching that made him an exemplar of the Roman spirit. He will be greatly missed.

Sunny Yun

I feel very lucky that I was able to hear Will speak and teach in the GEMBA - HLS 4 this past October. His passion and energy while he taught was palpable. So grateful to have met him and had him grace us with his presence. He has made a lasting impression.

Stephana Hung

Will made everyone feel valued for their work, whether it was a big or small task. I never met Will in person, but I did reports and small administrative tasks for him while he was in the role of Academic Director at FT MBA. I would send him about 5 emails everyday during busy times and he would reply to each one with a "Thanks" and a comment on how he found it helpful. He was very busy but he still sent those replies – I will always cherish that! He always showed limitless patience, empathy and kindness in his interactions. I wish I could have worked with him more. May his soul rest in peace!

Fatema Khan

I wasn't in Will's area but will miss bumping into him on the stairs (that he always walked up) and his taking the time to chat, and his interest, patience, kindness and wise advice. My sincere condolences. May his memory serve as a blessing to you and to us all.

Heski Bar-Isaac

Will interviewed me when I was on the market over 20 years ago. Most of that trip was a blur. But I vividly remember him asking me questions at a makeshift desk he set up in the entry to his hotel room ... and a young kid bouncing around on the bed in the next room. He made no introduction nor provided any explanation - just carried on with the interview as if nothing unusual was going on. I imagine that young person is a grown man or woman now - and experiencing a deep sense of loss. My deepest condolences to the whole family.

Michael Ryall

Will was an amazing professor and a lovely person to work with. I am greatly saddened by the news of his passing and would like to offer my deepest condolences to his family. I will miss him, and I am certain that all those who knew him will miss him as well. His kindness and thoughtfulness with his colleagues and students will always be remembered.

Jasmina Djikic

I first met Professor Mitchell in the summer of 2019 in his office. I was in my 1st year Rotman MBA program and navigating a new career in Life Sci. Professor Mitchell gave me the inspiration and confidence in continuing to love and pursue this industry. I was then lucky enough to be his student in the Pharma Strategy class - it was one of the best classes I had and played an important role in my future career as a Marketing Manager in Life Sci.

He will always be remembered as one of my most respected and favorite professors.

I am very sorry for your loss and hope that you'll stay strong.

Nadine Dinh

I will miss Will - for his kind heart, for his generosity to young scholars, and for being someone everyone looked up to in this time and age of disagreement (with Gandalf look).

Daniel Keum

I first met Will in 1993 as a new doctoral student at U Michigan. I was initially intimidated by him. No small talk, no nonsense, always business. But two characteristics of Will became apparent:

First, his enthusiasm and curiosity regarding research were exemplary. His "no nonsense" behavior was driven by his intense love of research.

Second, he had a gift for clarity of thought. In his seminar he could quickly whittle down to its essence any research idea a student would present. If Will liked an idea, it was a good idea.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to study with Will. RIP.

Arturs Kalnins, U of Iowa

Will had a broad impact on the strategy community. He was an intelligent and insightful scholar, and also an empathetic and supportive colleague and mentor. I will well remember how he saw potential in some research ideas I was working on, and generously helped me sort through them.

Elizabeth Pontikes, UC Davis

I took a course with Prof. Mitchell when I was nine months pregnant. In fact, I was in his class on my due date! Will's voice was so soothing that the baby always reacted well to it. I couldn't believe it. But when I brought my baby into Rotman for a visit after his birth, we ran into Will, and my son was completely enamored. He was truly a bright light, and such a kind person. I will never forget his contribution to my education and my son's earliest days. I am so sorry for this immeasurable loss, and am sending my sincere condolences.

Meaghan Northey, PT MBA Class of 2018

I had the fortune of learning from Will both in the classroom and while travelling halfway around the world. Will had a genuine love for sharing knowledge and experiences with others. He was eager to encourage new thought and discovery, and did so with such energy that was so fresh and enlightening for those involved. I am lucky to have crossed paths with Will, and will fondly remember the time we shared.

J. Mason

Once in a while, a colleague comes along to make us feel supported, listened to, and appreciated.

Will did that always, with a thank-you note, a thoughtful comment, or a helping hand. And he was a great scholar to boot, though he never felt the need to point that out. His work spoke for him. And his generosity will not be forgotten. We have lost a wonderful person.

Tiziana Casciaro

I WILL MISS OUR DISCUSSIONS. YOU FORCED ME INTO THE UNKNOWN AND HELPED ME DISCOVER THE ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES. WILL WAS THE GENTLE SOUL WHO PUT HIS STUDENTS AHEAD OF HIM ALWAYS. ROTMAN COMMUNITY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU...I KNOW I WILL
ADIL KHAN

I will always remember your intro to strategy class and all the discussions. What you have taught us, we will carry forward for the rest of our lives and careers.

Sri Venkataramani, MBA Class of 2014

Will was a great professor, having taken several of his courses and gotten to know him and his desire to help his students succeed, his passion for teaching was evident. He aided several students in finding their path to a career and better understanding the world around them. I was lucky to learn from the keenest mind in my field - for his passion aided me in finding mine. Rest in Peace Will, your kindness, sharp-mind, and you will be missed.

Nav

I will always remember Will's kindness and leadership as an editor of the SMJ. Will helped me so much during my time as the managing editor. What a shock to hear of his passing. My condolences to his loved ones.

Lois Gast

I am deeply saddened by this news. Will was the best of the best. He was passionate about his students and his craft. I greatly benefitted from his mentorship

Doug Sanford

I am constantly going on about how Will was my favorite professor. Our class even honored him with an Excellence in Teaching award. The world is a better place thanks to his influence and I will do everything I can to credit the things I learned from him throughout my career.

Ben Scoggin

Will was a truly special person that seemed to see the world with more clarity than most and less influenced by the common biases that hinder us. He helped me understand the power of business in building community and its role in innovation. I hope to realize the vision he helped craft as my mentor. He'll be missed.

Jeff Pike GEMBA-HLS 2020

I was shocked to hear about Will's passing. I want to extend my sincere condolences to his family, friends and other colleagues. I have always been very impressed by Will's energy and by his lasting contributions to our School and his many fields of expertise. It is a great loss for all of us.

Tom McCurdy

Dear Professor Mitchell's Family,

I'm heartbroken and devastated by Will's passing. I was inspired by Will's career and feel extremely blessed to have been taught by him. If I could wave a magic wand I would want the international career and perspective that Will brought to the classroom and all of our lives every day. Know that he has inspired and blessed countless students and colleagues and that he is looking down smiling on us. Thank you for everything Will, God Bless you and your family.

Jinesh Desai

I will miss Will's energy, excitement and dedication to the university, students, and colleagues. I benefitted greatly from the latter. After meeting him briefly while recruiting at Michigan I jumped at the chance to join him on the faculty at Duke (even if it meant leaving London which I had loved). I was never disappointed. Will made sure my colleagues and I had the best possible opportunities in teaching and research, supported us, and built a strong community that lasts to this day.

Scott Rockart

I want to extend my sincere condolences to his family and friends. Will was a kind and thoughtful leader and I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to work with him.

Linda Dudek

WILL IS AN EXEMPLAR WHO FOCUSED ON THE GROWTH OF OUR FIELD AND THUS HELPED SO MANY OF US IN OUR OWN JOURNEYS INTO THIS COMMUNITY. WILL SHARED HIS KNOWLEDGE, ADVICE, AND SUPPORT FREELY AND GENEROUSLY. SO COPIOUS IS WHAT I GLEANED FROM WILL THAT I CONSTANTLY QUOTE "WILL-ISMS" TO MY GRADUATE STUDENTS. AS I SHARE HIS WISDOM WITH FUTURE STUDENTS, HE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE ALL OF OUR EXPERIENCES THAT MUCH RICHER.

WILBUR CHUNG

Will was always so appreciative of anything anyone did for students. Every time I was on a call or email with him, he would end it with 'thank you for all you do' - he was always so grateful. He was so passionate about helping students and supporting their successs. It was such a pleasure working with him. He will be truly missed!

Lyla Korhani

Very shocked and saddened to hear about Will. He provided me with my first real teaching opportunity at Rotman. I was looking forward to working with him in January. Thanks for being a great colleague and person. RIP.

David Elsner

our paths crossed in the realm of international developments. will surprised me with his broad perspective on the world at-large. He was curious and his interests were wide-ranging, not confined merely to his specialization. His sudden departure came as a shock as I thought he had much more to give and share. May he continue to guide, lead and inspire us with his examples. A life well-lived. He shall be missed. And remembered.

Anil verma

I AM PROFOUNDLY GRATEFUL TO HAVE HAD THE JOY AND PRIVILEGE OF CALLING WILL MY COLLEAGUE. HE WAS THE REAL DEAL, A ROLE MODEL FOR ME, AND AN EXEMPLAR OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A GIFTED SCHOLAR AND A WONDERFUL HUMAN BEING. I WILL MISS HIS WARM AND WELCOMING WAY, HIS NO-NONSENSE ATTITUDE, AND HIS WITTY OUTLOOK.

BILL MCEVILY

It's been an honour to work with Will, most recently with GEMBA-HLS. Will was a true scholar filled with wisdom, knowledge and ideas. At the same time he was a kind and thoughtful human being.

David Goldreich

I struggle to express how much I will miss him. For me, Will was more than a supervisor and coauthor: he was an inspiring role model and always the first person I talked to at many crucial points in my career. I cherish my memories of Will, his passion, open-mindedness, and generosity. He will live on in our memories forever. May his soul rest in peace. My heartfelt condolences.

Kwangjun An

First, I was a reader of Will's papers and knew he was one of my doctoral supervisor's dissertation committee member in Michigan. I was admired his research works. A few years ago, it's my honor to be connect with him via FB. I am regret to hear this sad news.

Sincerely express my deep condolence to his family and friends.

Der Chao Chen

Will Mitchell was a rare gem and an incredible coach, mentor and professor. He was my professor during my MBA and I was lucky enough to have him on my PhD thesis committee. It is difficult to express how influential Will was in my training as a graduate student. I always marvelled at his deep intelligence, insight, energy and how generously he gave his time to students. His passing is a huge and devastating loss. We have lost an extraordinary human being. There are simply no words.

Raman Sohal

I interacted with Will quite a bit while teaching the core Stats course. Will was a very active Academic Director of the MBA program. Had a lot of useful tips on how to promote engagement in class. My heartfelt condolences to his family. We will miss him at Rotman.

Sridhar Moorthy

I am honoured to have had the pleasure of working with Will. He was profoundly professional, kind, engaged, and focused on the students and his colleagues. He will be missed. With deep condolences,
Katie Armstrong

I'm so sorry for your loss. Will was one of the most generous members of the Rotman family, sharp and kind, always ready to offer help. He will be deeply missed. I wish all the best.

Baohua Xin

To the Mitchell-Bowman family;

Will has had a profound and permanent influence on my life. He was an incredible advisor during my PhD and became a friend I looked forward to seeing at conferences. He shaped the way I approach my career in more ways that I can recount here - I still have the printout of his succinct advice on how to craft a paper hanging above my monitor at work. I know our loss pales beside yours, but take some comfort in knowing how many hundreds of people he helped over his career, and what an impact he had.

Glen Dowell

To The Mitchell-Bowman Family

I first met Will while completing my MBA, where he taught the Strategy Class. I enjoyed his teaching style and approach so much, I continued to take classes with him. We shared long conversations and debates on the current and future climates of the Pharma industry. I viewed Will as a role model, mentor, and someone who always pushed me to be more. Will was a genuine and caring person, and left a lasting impression on anyone he spoke to. He will be dearly missed.

I am truly sorry for your loss, may be Rest in Peace.

Chris Antaris

Will is always generous with his time and helpful to all who need him. I remember all the seminars and research activities with Will during his many visits to Singapore. He will be sorely missed.

Kenneth Huang

Will was a tremendous inspiration for me at Rotman. His passion for the healthcare system was palpable. His knowledge of the system, coupled with a formidable ability to inspire and teach made him a huge asset to the healthcare community and the people it serves. The wisdom he shared with me I will carry with me into the future.

Erin Trescases, MBA class of 2022

I first met Will in my PhD seminar at Berkeley. I remember him making a point in mild disagreement with me. It was well argued--- he had a way of cogently expressing his views that compelled you to pay attention. Our exchange was no aberration: Will always had his own ideas and thoughts and he was fearless in explaining them. Even as a student, I had no doubts about his future career success as a scholar. Not only was he smart, he worked as hard as any student I have known. It saddens me deeply to see his life cut short, as I am sure he had much more to give.

Glenn Carroll

I met Will during my first year in graduate school. We took stats together and he attended all the required courses in the Org Behavior & Industrial Relns program, even though he was in Bus & Public Policy program. He was a delightful colleague, with a dry wit, a quick intellect, and a thirst for knowledge.

Heather Haveman

I had the pleasure of interacting with Will to discuss staffing of courses for the MBA, EMBA and GEMBA HLS courses. I was always amazed at his dedication towards the students and absolute professionalism. I was even more amazed when I looked up his CV and saw what an amazing researcher he was in his area. A tremendous loss for the strategy area, all of Rotman and U of T. Deepest heartfelt condolences to his family.

Partha Mohanram

I got to know Will through my involvement with the HLAB and found someone that was always had a insightful, thoughtful perspective on advancing business strategy. Will became someone I would go to with some of the more complex business problems I have faced and I always came away with valuable and unique feedback. Will made me think differently, he was an exceptional facilitator and was someone I looked forward to speaking with regardless of what the topic was. I miss him already.

Andy Williams

I was lucky to have had Professor Mitchell for the Middle East study tour in 2017. It was one of my favorite courses during my time at Rotman. Professor Mitchell was not only a great professor but also such a nice person. Thoughts and prayers are with Will's family and friends at this time- he will be dearly missed.

Robin S



*Great and Understanding
Professor. Was a privilege to be
student in his class. Will be
dearly missed.*

Alex Varghese

*Will was warm, compassionate and authentic. His
intellectual curiosity and perspectives on different
topics are one of a kind. He truly cares about his
student's learning.*

Nicole Encarnacion HLS4

I had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know Will as a fellow PhD student at Berkeley years ago. He was always thoughtful and insightful in the courses we shared. Outside of the classroom he was remarkably kind and generous. Over the years he has always been someone I enjoyed reconnecting with at meetings and conferences. He will be deeply missed.

Warren Boeker

WILL COULD WALK LITERAL CIRCLES AROUND ME. I DON'T THINK I EVER SAW HIM TAKE AN ELEVATOR, EVEN THOUGH HIS OFFICE WAS ON THE 7TH FLOOR. HIS DOWN TO EARTH ATTITUDE, KINDNESS, WISDOM AND GUIDANCE WILL BE MISSED INCREDIBLY. HLS WILL NOT BE THE SAME WITHOUT HIM. I WILL MISS WORKING WITH HIM AND IT IS NOT LOST ON ME THAT I'M INCREDIBLY LUCKY TO HAVE KNOWN HIM.

LARS FONTEYNE

Will and I were graduate students at Haas (way) back in the day. Will was a consummate academic in that he had a strong and informed point of view. But, he was also Canadian which meant that he remained kind even when engaging in fierce debates. I admired him for this unique quality and will miss him.

Jenny Chatman, UC Berkeley

Will was a wonderful colleague who was always ready to help whenever he had an opportunity. His advice was always honest, genuine, and altruistic. I learned a lot from him, and I will really miss him. My most sincere condolences to his family.

Ruben Gaetani

The first time I met him was when I was invited to interview for the GEMBA-HLS program. I was honoured to be his student, and I had my Capstone under his supervision. As I am presenting my Capstone on January 25th, I can not express how I miss his presence there. He was more than a teacher, he was my mentor and my inspiration, and his leadership is hard to find. RIP Will, we all miss you and keep our commitment to help our healthcare improve.

Elham Khalkhali,
GEMBA-HLS 2019

Sending my deepest condolences to the Mitchell and Bowman families. Will's encouraging presence and ability to build others leaves lasting memories. You will be greatly missed!

Susan Perkins

Deeply saddened to hear of Will's passing. This is such a significant loss for our life science commercialization ecosystem and to me personally. Will was a huge supporter of UHN's direction in commercialization. Will and I created and ran a MedTech seminar series for several years about the ethos of commercializing discoveries to benefit society. He was a mentor and supporter, a sounding board, a leader in educating others, and an instrumental part in building our life science ecosystem up onto the global stage. My thoughts go out to the Mitchell and Bowman families.

Mark Taylor

I first met Will as his teaching assistant for his MBA emerging markets course. Since then, Will has been an endless source of inspiration, knowledge, and support for my development as a scholar. I'm deeply saddened by his sudden passing and wish the best for his loved ones.

Kevin

I knew Will since the start of his academic career, but my most memorable interactions with him were when we were both Co-Editors of SMJ. It was there where I most clearly witnessed Will's tireless devotion to advancing knowledge and, more specifically, advancing the strategic management field. He was a special person.

Ed Zajac

I had the pleasure and privilege of benefitting from Will's advice several times. When I was a PhD student he gave me plenty of his time to discuss ideas of mine that – I realize now – were so underdeveloped. Still, he never hinted at the fact these were bad ideas, but always helped me see how they could actually make a contribution, if developed in a certain way. Will's knowledge, dedication and generosity were unique and he will be missed. My thoughts are with his family and dear ones.

Paolo Aversa

Inquisitive, generous, intelligent and with a great sense of humor. I was one of the many young scholars Will helped, with a few chats here and there, some great pieces of advice, seemingly effortless, probably without even noticing, but leaving a deep mark. He leaves the world a better place than he found it. Not just for his scholarly contributions, but by the time and intention to help us become better researchers... I will treasure his advice and pass it on, and if I ever become as wise, I will follow his steps and help younger generations. He will forever be remembered.

Elisa Alvarez-Garrido

What a loss to the field of Strategic Management. I wrote last spring to congratulate Will on the STR 60th Distinguished Service Award that he received for his significant contribution and service to the community — Will humbly wrote back that he was “delighted and honored by the award”. To Will's family; I am so sorry for your loss — he was taken from you much too soon.

Louise Mors

When Will spoke, people listened. Everyone did. Sat up and paid attention. Always closely. I always wondered: was it the voice? Maybe the way his eyes peered above his glasses. Or perhaps his stern, serious expression. But all that dissipated instantly, once the substance came through and registered in my mind. Always on point, potent, refreshing, incredibly educational. Will, what a blow to our field your passing was. What a loss to all who knew you. Hope you are better wherever you are.

PK Toh

I've known Will beginning in the late 80s in the PhD program at Berkeley, as a colleague at Michigan in the early 90s and as a friend over the years. He had a knack for pulling others along with him in his enthusiasm for his chosen profession, in my case by easing a foreign student into a graduate program and an ABD into academic life, and for countless others as an advisor and mentor. I will miss not only Will the accomplished scholar with impassioned views about research but also Will the friend who read widely and voraciously and amassed an impressive collection of PlayMobil figurines.

Anand Swaminathan

I had many fun conference dinners with Will and will miss his sparkling conversation. Condulances, and best wishes from everyone at SPRU (the Science Policy Research Unit), here at The University of Sussex Business School

Paul Nightingale

I can only echo the comments made by others at the Memorial event. Will was a co-founder with me and 2 others of an interdisciplinary course between Rotman, Dalla Lana School of Public Health (my connection), engineering, and Munk School of Global Affairs. Such an exciting course and Will made the business and management concepts accessible to the rest of us. I appreciated his perspective and we were in the middle of a publication together when he died. He leaves such a great legacy!

Suzanne F. Jackson

It is with great sadness that I learned of Will's passing. What an amazing person he was! I met him often at conferences - the smaller ones geared towards the development of junior faculty - and he was so generous with his time and knowledge. He was someone we could all look up to, his breadth of knowledge was wide, and he truly cared about not only research but importantly, impact. He will be greatly missed. May his soul rest in perfect peace.

Lite Martey

I had the honor of being a student of Prof. Will. An inspirational person and a catalyst of change. You will be dearly missed and a great loss to the Rotman Community. May your soul rest in peace. Mutaz Qamhie

In the short time that I became aware of Will's work, I learned a lot as a scholar in the field of entrepreneurship. Although he never knew me, I will miss him. May he rest in peace. Jackie Csonka-Peeren

Will Mitchell was one of the most impressive people I have ever met, in the sense that every interaction with him left an indelible impression. In terms of scholarly vision, generosity, and humility, he was just an outstanding person all around. What a devastating loss to the profession and to everyone who was fortunate to know him. He will leave a profound legacy of people in the profession who pass on the kindness and care for others that he modeled. He will certainly remain a model for me always in many ways.

Aline Gatignon

I had the pleasure of interacting with Will several times over the last twenty-five years. Beyond his tremendous research contributions, his dedication to the field was exceptional. I recall his late night work on SMJ decision-letters, his willingness to offer gentle and insightful guidance during SMS committee meetings, and several thoughtful personal conversations over the years. A generous and kind spirit that made our organizations better. I extend my deepest condolences to his family.

Michael Leiblein

Generous, caring, highest standards, legacy, many perspectives, everywhere, open, funky, like-hearted, deep currents, thoughtful, positive, humble...

Blessed to have known Will, lucky to have received his guidance, melancholy about his loss.

I am so very sorry for your loss,

Jackson Nickerson

Dilys, This is so hard to write. I will never forget the jolt and numbness after getting your call of Will's passing. It won't go away, not only for me, but for everyone who knew him. He will never leave us, though every day we will feel the void. We'll always keep him with us and ask "what would Will do?". He will be so missed.

Brian Golden

What a terrible loss! Will was a wonderful colleague and a great human being. Early during the COVID epidemic I wrote a paper that was very critical of the public health response to the pandemic (lockdowns, etc.). I sent it to Will, among others, for feedback. Will's was immediate: he said that though he did not agree with me, he would like to publish my paper in his journal. That, to me, epitomizes a great researcher - clear on his own viewpoint, yet humble enough to see the merit in the opposing ones, and recognizing the importance of having diverse opinions heard.

Dmitry Krass

I have known Will professionally for many years; where I found him a real breadth of fresh air. He was generous and forthright and also a calming influence in an field of endeavour where angst and ego are always present. He was always, in my experience, great at giving the right advice at the right time and with the right tone.

I know it is no consolation, but our immortality is not related to our careers and accomplishment but is ultimately how we have made the lives of others more fulfilling. In that, Will is immortal because he lives in all of us. I will miss you my friend.

Timothy Devinney

It was a deep sorrow to accept the news of Professor Will has passed in the past month. Though I have not met Prof Will in person, but I had the privilege to attend the International strategy class in 2021. I enjoyed Prof Will's humour and deep business knowledge across the world. He was a tremendous support to our course paper on Tim Horton's expansion into Southwest China. Prof Will be dearly missed and please accept my deep condolences to your family.

Scarlett Shao

Will was an incredible colleague, collaborator and leader. He was an amazing supporter and champion for our students, alumni – our entire community. We will all miss his presence and spirit. Our deepest condolences to Will's family. May he rest in peace.

Jennifer Hildebrandt

My sincere condolences on Prof. Mitchell's passing. Our paths crossed on two occasions—once when he was a Faculty mentor for a case competition, and second when he taught my favourite course in my MBA, Pharmaceutical Strategy, right before the pandemic began.

His insights and teachings were invaluable and inspiring.

The Rotman community will miss him dearly.
Nazleen Lobo

**I will miss Will's wisdom, inspiration and friendship.
GEMBA will not be the same without you!**

Michael Guerriere

Dear Will,

Thank you so much for everything you offered to our community and to me as a colleague, coauthor, and our friend. I feel very privileged having been able to interact and work with you over the past years. You have been such an inspiration to me as a person and will treasure your generous contributions -- how you so enthusiastically responded after 1 minute whenever i emailed you is such one small way that reflects how kindly you always contributed. You will remain an inspiration to me for the rest of my life.

Koen Heimeriks

Please accept my deepest condolences. Will's intellectual curiosity was inspiring and will continue to influence many including myself.

Ha Hoang

My deepest condolences to Will's family. I had the privilege to co-teach a course with Will (he at Rotman, me at the Munk School). He was an extraordinary scholar, obviously, but an even more extraordinary teacher and mentor. Generous beyond words. Inspiring. Human. Humane. Will - you will be missed.

Joseph Wong (U of Toronto)

Learning of Will's passing was truly heartbreaking for me. It was an honour to have had the opportunity to know him, work with him, and learn so much from him. May he rest in peace. My deepest condolences to Will's family, friends, colleagues, and the academic community.

Anna Brady, University of Toronto

I knew Will as a fellow faculty member at Duke for over a decade. My fondest memory of him was the conversations we had about the sad political state of the world. He was a kindred spirit and we will miss him terribly.

Ellen Jane Baker

I am deeply saddened by Will's passing. We crossed path only a few times, in PhD seminars and conferences, but Will had a profound impact on me as a scholar. I loved how he made complex problems look like fun puzzles. His philosophy on academic work, research and writing (he would always say "how cool is that we are being paid to do interesting work and we can decide what questions we want to answer") is something that continues to drive me. Thank you Will for everything you have done and for inspiring so many people. My thoughts are with Will's family.

Aleks Rebeka

We had the honor of travelling to south east asia with Will. One of the memories of the trip is one night I felt sick and I had to arrange a cab to go to the hospital in middle of the night. Will was notified through the group chat, he woke up walked to the lobby and stopped me from going. He ensured that the tour lead taking me to the hospital in a safe way. I came back from the hospital after a few hours and he was still sitting on the couches in the lobby (napping of course) but he waited there till he ensured that I am safe and sound. He was a caring father to his students. RIP Will.

Maryam Roberts (Mirzajani)

What impressed me the most about Will was how disarming he was in his interactions - whether in writing or in-person. There was no pretense, no stifling formality, no ceremony, just a genuine care and concern to do what was good and right for people and the field. I'm grateful for the brief time I worked with Will and am blessed and better to have known him. Thank you, to his family, for your generosity in sharing Will with us. God bless and keep you during this difficult time.
- Forest Kim

Professor Mitchell was such a wonderful man. I got to know him well as he lead our study tour to India and the Middle East in May of 2018. He was so knowledgeable and wanted us to learn, but also really encouraged us to experience the whole trip for what it was. I have several fond memories of him on that trip from dinners, adventuring through the Slums, and bus rides where we got to learn about the countries we visited.

My sincerest condolences to his family in this sad and difficult time. I hope you can find some comfort in knowing he has had such an impact on so many students.
Jocelyn Jarvis, MBA 2019

I got to know Will when I was a PhD student. Although not my advisor, I was struck by his kindness and openness; he was always willing to share from is enormous experience. He will be missed. My sincere condolences!

Razvan Lungeanu

I had the pleasure of taking Prof. Mitchell's pharma strategy class and it quickly become one of my favourite classes. His passion for the subject was clear, but what stood out was how he encouragingly engaged everyone in the class. From this card and his remembrance service it is clear his legacy and passion will live on.

My deepest condolences to his family and friends, he will be remembered fondly.

Stuti Mathur, MBA 2020

Dear Mitchell/Bowman families,
Will's sudden passing was very sad news, I am sorry for your loss. Will was my professor and mentor. I'll remember his encouraging words, his generosity, and his kind and genuine nature.
He was certainly busy with his many accomplishments, but whenever we met to discuss academia, he made me feel important - as if he had all the time in the world to listen and share ideas. His support will be missed.
I am comforted knowing that he loved what he did, and found joy in supporting others. His memory will live on in my heart in this way.

- Amanda Herold, Rotman Part-time MBA, 2018.

My deepest condolences for your loss. Will had such a profound impact on everyone around him. It was a privilege to have had the opportunity to learn and to be challenged by him. I will forever remember and cherish Will's passion, energy, kindness and curiosity. He will be greatly missed.

Nina Mathers Voigt

My most heartfelt condolences go out to Will's family and friends. I will never forget how pleasant and welcoming he was in my interview for the GEMBA HLS program. It was my first impression of the program, and he made me feel like I was worthy of being there. I will miss his warmth and kindness, and cannot imagine the program without him. Thank you for sharing such a wonderful man with us, his students.

Deirdre Shipley (HLS 2)

*Will,
Thank You for being
an amazing HUMAN,
your impact on all of
us will never be
forgotten! I'm
honoured to have
met you!
- James Kisyk*

I had the privilege of traveling and working with Will for several years on international programs. They say that you really get to know someone well when you travel with them and I really got to know Will, not just as a professor, but as a person who was kind, caring and humble. He was a globe trotter extraordinaire, a self-effacing scholar who insisted on carrying his own bags through long airport terminals and had double the energy of any one of us. His energy, passion and enthusiasm will be greatly missed. My heartfelt condolences to his family.

Freeda Khan

Will was an extraordinary person along many dimensions and it was great to hear from Dilys that he was equally extraordinary as a family member. I learned a lot from Will, and now I learned from Dilys that we could have had excellent conversations about soccer as well.

Alfonso Gambardella

I met Will at the BAHM Board and was intrigued by the seemingly tireless way he ran HMPI, even adding a special COVID edition! Indeed, COVID fostered virtual collaboration - I was honored to be invited in Jan 2021 on the Rotman Health MBA to talk about COVID in Europe, while later, Will related on COVID in North America to the IESE MBA health class. What a great experience! - Will was such a great source of knowledge and inspiration. A collaboration to be just starting, so sad this will not be the case. We will miss him! My condolences go out to his family and the wonderful team at Rotman.

Magda Rosenmoller, IESE Business School

My dealings with Will were always enjoyable and I admired his openness. I was very moved and inspired by the remarks and stories I heard at the virtual ceremony of remembrance. A man to emulate!

Suzanne Tobin

YEARS AGO, WHEN RUNNING THE TOBACCO ROAD IN NC, I SAW WILL RUNNING: FOCUSED, HAPPY, AND SERENE. ALTHOUGH I WAS NOT WEARING MY GLASSES, HE RECOGNIZED ME (WE BOTH WORKED AT DUKE, THEN). AFTER THE RACE, I TOLD HIM ABOUT MY CRAZY PLAN TO DO MY DOCTORATE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ON A PART-TIME BASIS. HE WAS IMMEDIATELY SUPPORTIVE AND HIS FACE LIT UP. THAT'S THE PICTURE I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER. TIRED FROM HIS RACE BUT ALWAYS IN HIGH SPIRITS ABOUT RESEARCH, SHARING, LEARNING, HELPING OTHERS, AND NEVER STOPPING. ... R.I.P., WILL. YOU WILL BE MISSED AROUND THE GLOBE AND ACROSS GENERATIONS. BERTRAND GUILLOTIN, TEMPLE/FOX, PHILADELPHIA, PA-USA

Thanks to Will's sincere concerns about students being isolated during the pandemic he started the CCC virtual visiting program and gave a chance to many students like myself to connect with him and the wonderful community of Rotman. Our field has lost a generous guru.

Ouafaa hmaddi

Many of us, including myself, continue to be deeply saddened by Will's passing. I was fortunate enough to learn from Will as a PhD student, then as an assistant professor struggling to navigate the tenure process, and recently as an advisor myself and co-author. Thank you Dilys and family for "sharing" him with us. Thank you, Will, for making the world a better place. Rest in peace, you've made a difference.

Denisa Mindruta

Will was one of the kindest professors that I ever encountered. For all his multiple commitments, he always found time for his students, and while a scholar of the highest calibre, he always treated them as equals. He'll be warmly remembered and dearly missed.

Mike Kalisiak

Dear Mitchell families:

I just want to say thank you for letting Will share his time with us. I've always loved how wonderful, smart, and kind and generous Will was with us, his students, in challenging our ideas, helping us dream, and making the world a better place.

We will miss him dearly.

Kevin Chan

Like many in our community, I was shocked and deeply saddened to learn of Will's sudden passing. We have lost an extraordinary human being who inspired so many of us with his passion, his courage, his generosity, his kindness, his commitment to excellence, and his dedication to our community.

My condolences to the Mitchell and Bowman families. Thank you for so generously sharing Will with us.

Manuela Hoehn-Weiss

I deeply miss Will and still tear up when I hear his name mentioned. What he did for me as a junior faculty who was not even his student is beyond words. In his erudite, soft-spoken way, he encouraged me to pursue my research in a way that was risky but closer to my identity; he was pivotal in where I am today. Everyday, I hope to hold myself to how he was both personally and professionally. No doubt this is an aspirational bar but with his continued shining light, I hope to get ever closer to that standard. Many hugs to his family for so generously and kindly sharing him with us,

Daniel Erian Armanios

I'm so very sorry for your loss. Will's kindness and concern for others, coupled with his intellect and ability to make change, were a special force. He cared for others and his scholarly community to a remarkable degree, encouraging us all to do research that would make the world a better place and inspire others.

Sonali Shah

I had the privilege of working with Will on the Toronto Health Organization Performance Evaluation (T-HOPE) team. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to work with this team and Will. I will remember him for being a dedicated researcher & teacher, for his incredible ability to distill complex data, and for his desire to help others, particularly in the area of global health. But mostly, I'll remember his generosity & kindness as a mentor & colleague. He was a wonderful person, and I am so incredibly sorry for your loss.

With deepest sympathy,

Kate Mossman

Will and I were never at the same time at the same university. But Will was a presense in my scholarly life since the first CCC doctoral conference in 1994. I just want to highlight how dedicated he was to CCC, serving on the board since we formalized the organization 10 years ago. I will miss you Will!

Peter Murmann

My deepest condolences to Will's family. My family was a close friend of the Mitchell family oh so many years ago. While I haven't seen nor talked to Will for some 50 years it was heart warming to listen to all the people speak of his accomplishments over the years. Rest In Peace Will

Barbara Moen

My deepest condolence to Will's family. I am still astonished and awfully sorry for his sudden and unexpected disappearance. He is leaving a huge void in all of us
Giambattista Dagnino

Will was an incredible, admirable, and integral gift to our GEMBA-HLS program. His unique kindhearted, and calm demeanor had created a distinguishable safe environment for reflections during his sessions. He was a strong believer in equity, diversity, and inclusion. Personally, he taught me to question status quo, dream big and tap confidently towards uncertainty. Over the past two years I have learned a tremendous amount from Will about Health Strategy and life. Will will always be missed. My deepest condolences to Will's family.

Rola Shaheen MD FRCPC MBA

Will was an exceptional Professor and advocate for students. I had the pleasure of taking two of his classes and working with him as part of the HMA. He was a wonderful teacher and mentor who was always intellectually pushing his students to think differently and expansively. Beyond this, it was clear to anyone who met him that he was an incredibly kind and generous person. I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to learn from him. My deepest condolences to Will's family, I hope the knowledge that he impacted the lives of so many brings you comfort during this difficult time.

Yael Chapman

My sincere condolences to Dylis, Mairi, Tamzin, Luc, and the countless number of Will's colleagues, collaborators, and friends. To say Will was special would be a severe understatement. Like SO MANY others, Will fundamentally changed my career trajectory, and thereby my life. It was in the Med-Tech seminar he invented at Rotman in 2013 that I realized my passion for healthcare-tech. I have worked in the space ever since. He was a brilliant thinker, a rare mentor, and an incredible person. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he impacted, and I am proud to consider myself among them.

Mark Kostove