

Remembering Bishop-in-Residence Bob Morgan

We are sad to write that Dr. Robert C. Morgan '56, who served at Birmingham-Southern for more than a decade, passed away March 16 at the age of 80.

A native of Birmingham, Morgan joined BSC in 2000 as bishop-in-residence after serving a year as president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, the highest elected office in the church. He was an honorary life member of the BSC Board of Trustees and received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the college in 1980.

He received a Master of Divinity from Emory University's Candler School of Theology, which named Morgan as one of its three distinguished

alumni in 2010.

Morgan taught and mentored many Birmingham-Southern students over the years through his coursework, which included "The Gospel of St. John," John Wesley and the People Called Methodists," and "The Parables." He also guided groups of students on Interim term trips to Greece, Turkey, and Italy to explore the journeys of the Apostle Paul, and to England to follow the footsteps of John Wesley.

"In the office next to him, I could hear his voice say 'Come in!' with great excitement to *every* student who paused at the threshold," said Laura Sisson, director of church



Morgan



Bishop Bob Morgan lecturing to students in Rome

relations at BSC. "Students would often come out of his office with a book to read, and many times with permission to be added to his class."

"Bob was a tremendous resource as to what the mission of the college should be—focusing on service to the church by nurturing intelligent faith in a high quality academic setting," said Dr. Neal Berte, BSC president emeritus. "His remarkable ability to teach, speak, and write about the gospel opened students' minds to new insights."

Morgan is survived by his wife, Martha Storey Morgan '60, and four children: Carol Morgan Carmichael of Birmingham; Lesli Morgan Blair '82 of Toney, Ala.; Ken Morgan of Waynesville, N.C.; and Robert Morgan Jr. '85 of Birmingham.

At the request of the family,

memorial contributions can be made to the Bishop Robert C. Morgan Scholarship through the Office of Institutional Advancement at BSC, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254. The scholarship was established in 1984 by Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church to honor Morgan upon his election to the episcopacy and in recognition of his service to the church. The scholarship is given annually to any deserving students.

Rev. Dalton Rushing '05, pastor of North Decatur UMC in Decatur, Ga., posted a tribute of Morgan titled, "On the Passing of a Giant," on his blog: <http://networkedblogs.com/V42DZ>. Read these other moving tributes from some of his former students, posted and shared on Facebook: