



## Clifford R. Kern, Ph.D.

May 10, 1945 - June 24, 2024

Clifford R. Kern, PhD, 79, of Vestal, NY, passed away Monday (June 24, 2024) at Guthrie Lourdes Hospital in Binghamton, NY. Born in Hartford, CT, he was a Vestal, NY resident since 1973. Cliff was a graduate of Williston Academy in Easthampton, MA, in 1963. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Columbia University and his Master's and Doctorate from Harvard University. He was a Professor of Economics at Binghamton University, a part of the State University of New York system, for the past 51 years. During his tenure, he held a number of high-level positions in the Department of Economics, including Placement Officer, Masters Student Advisor, PhD Student Advisor, Department Chair, Director of Graduate Studies, and Director of Undergraduate Studies. He had a life-long passion for teaching and has been universally acclaimed by his students as being a key influence in their academic and career success.

He leaves a brother, Roger J. Kern and his wife June Kern of Essex, CT; a nephew, Robert Kern and his wife Katie Kern of Southington, CT; a niece, Catherine Kern of Frederick, MD; three grandnieces and nephews, Charlotte, Addison and Matthew Kern.

The funeral service and burial in Fairview Cemetery, New Britain, CT, will be private. There are no calling hours. Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain, CT is assisting with arrangements. A memorial service will be held at Binghamton

University in September at a time and place to be announced. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at [www.carlsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall

MH

“ Professor Kern shaped my life. His teachings made everything make sense. Microeconomics with Mr. Kern changed my life. Thank you professor!

Mike Has - March 28 at 02:09 PM

MV

“ I just learned of Cliff's passing. I was his first Ph.D. student's dissertation that he advised. Cliff was a terrific economist and an even better person. I never would have received my Ph.D. if it hadn't been for Cliff.

Michael J Vernarelli - June 30, 2025 at 06:43 PM

NG

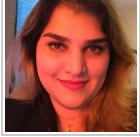
“ Cliff was a wonderful friend of my late husband, Bob Kalter, and to me. They first met at Williston and then attended Columbia together. Bob and Cliff were wine buddies and we spent many happy hours eating and drinking together. He was such a kind and thoughtful individual. I miss him terribly.

Nancy Glass - October 10, 2024 at 01:51 PM

SS

“ I first met Cliff during an economics seminar at Columbia. He was a brilliant student and an extraordinarily warm and kind person. We remained in touch over the years, seeing each other at reunions and in between. It was always great to see him. I will miss him very much.

Stephen Stern - August 30, 2024 at 10:52 AM



“ Professor Kern was my graduate advisor when I first joined Binghamton as a Master's student in 2013. He took a chance on me and let me take PhD courses from the get-go, allowing me to switch to the PhD program after the first semester and follow my path. He was always very positive and soon turned into a friend I respected. He always cared about the community and the people around him, supporting them without expectation and, in many cases, without taking credit.

*It's a great sadness to hear of his passing!*

*My sincere condolences to his friends and family.*

*Leila Salarpour Goodarzi*

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**Leila CN** - August 05, 2024 at 03:46 AM

RH

“ When I started at the BU back in 1980, Professor Kern was one of the first Professors to welcome me and make me feel comfortable. He was well liked by students and was always available to answer a question.

*My sympathy to his family and his friends*

*Robyn Henderson*

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**Robyn Henderson** - July 11, 2024 at 09:42 AM

KF

“ *My condolences to the family. He will be missed by many.*

*Probably my favorite memory of cliff was we were traveling in California and after visiting a museum in L.A. our route ws change by a road closure. Cliff said pull over. Then he said . I was here about ten years ago. Looked around and said. We'll go this way. Sure enough we were back on track. His ability to remember details on timelines always amazed.*

*I know he's smiling down on us. With this I'll say . Cheers and raise a glass of vino to my friend.*



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**Karl Faruzel** - July 11, 2024 at 08:37 AM

MG

“ *Kern was a wonderful teacher, mentor and friend who impacted the lives of so many for the better. A very decent man who will be missed by his friends and former students. Mark Gottlieb*

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**Mark Gottlieb** - July 07, 2024 at 10:16 PM