In Memoriam: Harvey H. Kaiser

Longtime APPA member, friend, and colleague Harvey Kaiser died in early October after a short illness. After spending 23 years as the senior facilities officer at Syracuse University, Kaiser embarked on a long career as a consultant and advisor, providing architectural guidance and strategic planning to campuses worldwide.

Harvey’s work was monumental as he defined, explained, and provided solutions to the issue of campus deferred maintenance. His first major work, the 1979 monograph Mortgaging the Future: The Cost of Deferring Maintenance, began a long publishing career with APPA, SCUP, NACUBO, AGB, and other education associations and publishers. His most popular titles were Facilities Audit Workbook (later revised as The Facilities Audit), Crumbling Academe, A Foundation to Uphold, Strategic Campus Development, and The Facilities Committee.

Harvey taught for years at APPA’s Institute for Facilities Management, and he wrote several chapters in the BOK (Body of Knowledge). In addition to his work for educational facilities, he was enamored with the architecture of U.S. national parks, and he wrote and photographed several guidebooks for the National Park Service, including the beautiful Great Camps of the Adirondacks and Landmarks in the Landscape.

I was honored to work with Harvey on many books, articles, and research reports over the years. He was a true gentleman who also was a demanding, particular writer who worked painstakingly over every word, sentence, and paragraph. When Harvey, Lander Medlin, and I were working on the Foundation to Uphold capital needs study in the mid-1990s, he was visibly pained when he had to submit chapter drafts for review by our research colleagues at Sallie Mae. “Steve, it’s like letting them see how the sausage is made,” he told me, but he was redeemed by the knowledge that most of his writing was retained with only minor alterations.

Harvey Kaiser’s contributions to higher education, architecture, National Parks appreciation, facilities management, and more will be remembered and have an impact for decades to come. It was a pleasure knowing and working with him.

APPAS FPI SURVEY DEADLINE: JANUARY 17, 2020

The deadline for submitting this year’s FPI (Facilities Performance Indicators) survey data is January 17, 2020. You can access the survey at https://www.appa.org/fpi-survey-access/. For additional information or assistance, please contact APPA staff member Christina Hills at christina@appa.org.

COMING IN JAN/FEB 2020

- Getting to Workforce Excellence
- 2019 Regional Conference Reports