

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**JAMES CLAYTON BROWNE**

James Clayton Browne was Professor and Regents Chair of Computer Science and Physics at The University of Texas at Austin from 1968 until his death at age 83 on January 19, 2018.

He was born in Conway, Arkansas, on January 16, 1935. He graduated from Conway High School, then studied chemistry at Hendrix College. In 1960, he earned a doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of Texas and joined the Physics faculty at UT. Although he used a slide rule and abacus for his doctoral research on electron orbits, he quickly became fascinated by computers. From 1965 to 1967 he was a Professor at Queen's University of Belfast, helping Queen's to establish its first computation center. He returned to UT as a tenured Professor in 1968.

He was one of the first faculty of the Computer Science Department and served as Chair of Computer Science for a number of years, while retaining his appointment as Professor of Physics; he was a faculty member at UT for over 45 years.

He had a prolific academic career, publishing nearly 500 research papers and supervising 69 Ph.D. students and 65 masters degree students as well as numerous undergraduate honors students. He was a Fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery, the American Physical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the British Computer Society, and the Institute for Constructive Capitalism. He was the recipient of numerous awards for his research in multiple research areas, including the UT Career

Research Excellence Award in 2004. He was an internationally recognized expert in parallel programming and computation and performance optimization.

In 2000, the Computer Science Department established the James C. Browne Graduate Fellowship Fund. He supported numerous graduate students during his career, sometimes out of his own pocket. His concerns for the welfare of the junior faculty were appreciated by them and their families.

He was deeply devoted to his wife Gayle, with whom he had three children, son Clayton Browne, son Duncan Browne, and daughter Valerie Bradley, and six grandchildren.

For many years, he generously opened his house on the Guadalupe River for tubing and a faculty barbecue, a unifying event for the department.

Completely unpretentious and straightforward, Jim brought a country wisdom to academic life: "If you want to make a deal, you'll have to put something on the table besides your elbow."

We will especially miss the integrity, strength of character, and the deep and calm wisdom that Jim Browne brought to academic life. In faculty meetings, he would listen to the faculty debate at cross-purposes for a while; then he would clearly summarize the issues and state the just resolution of the problem. That would be the end of the matter: nobody could dispute what he said, and the faculty would simply adopt what he suggested.