



James "Jim" Meiman

October 22, 2024

Jim Meiman was born in 1933, in Louisville, Kentucky, to Thelma and Alphonse Meiman. After growing up in Louisville, he attended the University of Kentucky, where he earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agronomy and Soil Conservation. He then attended Colorado State University (CSU) and in 1962 received a Ph.D. in Watershed Management, with a focus on snow hydrology.

In the fall of 1965 while teaching at CSU, Jim met Louise, his love and life companion. She had come to campus as a Teaching Assistant to pursue a Master's degree in math. They married in August of 1966. Shortly before getting married, Jim bought 24 acres near Wellington, Colorado, fulfilling a dream to own a piece of land and embarking on a dream to tend to it.

The early years of Jim and Louise's new life together were busy. In addition to being a college professor, land-owner and farmer, he became a father of three children! In 1975 the young family moved into the house they had built on the farm, and rural life began. Jim worked hard on Windy Ridge Farm raising various crops, including blue spruce trees, along with a few animals over the years. The farm work always provided him a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment, and oftentimes, he even enjoyed it! He also loved spending time in the mountains, whether for work or recreation, appreciating their beauty in every season. He was always happiest in the high country, above tree line.

His family was a great source of pride, though he was not a proud man. He is survived by his wife Louise, and his children Lisa, Andrew and Paul and their families. His six grandchildren and his great-grandson gave him great joy.

Professional Life

In Kentucky, Jim worked for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service on the Small Watershed Pilot Projects Program from 1954 until 1959, when he moved to Fort Collins, Colorado to attend CSU. He was the second graduate student in CSU's new Watershed program, and then joined the Watershed Science Faculty at CSU after earning his degree. He spent fourteen years in the department, where he developed CSU's snow hydrology program and expanded CSU's Little South Poudre Watershed research programs.

In 1975, Jim became the Dean of the Graduate School and Director of International Programs at CSU, focusing heavily on expanding CSU's international involvement. As a result, he was hired as CSU's Associate Vice President for Research and Director of International Programs in 1981. Under his direction, CSU became a leading university in overseas technical research and assistance under USAID Title XII. Jim retired from CSU in December 1991.

As a professor and administrator at CSU, Jim researched snow hydrology with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) at Fraser Experimental Forest. Beginning in the mid-1980s, Jim and Dr. Charles Lovelace, Director of the USDA Rocky Mountain Station, developed the concept and led in the early planning of the Natural Resources Research Center in Fort Collins.

Jim continued to consult internationally after retiring from CSU. From 1992 to 1993 he served as Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director for the Consortium for International Development (CID). He was external training

director for the World Bank Eastern Anatolia Watershed Project (1994 to 1998). From 1998 to 2000, Jim developed the Middle East Watershed Monitoring Project for the USFS, and led the USFS International Seminar in Forestry and Natural Resources from 1996 to 2001.

Jim's professional associations, activities and publications are numerous. Many of his papers are available in the CSU Digital Archives. (<https://archives.colostate.edu/repositories/2/resources/166>)

Donations requested in lieu of flowers:

- Trees, Water & People (<https://treeswaterpeople.org/give-a-gift>)
- Doctors Without Borders (<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>)
- Bread for the World (<https://www.bread.org/give/>)

For live streaming of the Memorial please go to: <https://www.firstchurchfc.org/watch-worship/v/celebration-of-life-service-james>

Previous Events

Memorial

NOV 5. 1:00 PM (MT)

First United Methodist Church
1005 Stover Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524
<http://www.fcfumc.net/>

Tribute Wall



“ Goes Funeral Care & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of James "Jim" Meiman



Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - October 31, 2024 at 03:19 PM

GT

“ 1 file added to the album Jim Meiman pictures



George Taylor - November 03, 2024 at 02:46 PM

“ Jim Meiman – mentor, colleague & friend: a remembrance

I first met Jim when he arrived in Kathmandu, Nepal to lead the Washington DC-mandated "Special Evaluation" of the USAID/Nepal supported Resource Conservation & Utilization Project (RCUP) in the Fall of 1984. (Link included below) I had arrived in Nepal a few months earlier, had been assigned to manage RCUP, and had a growing list of questions and concerns about both the direction(s) and sustainability of the large, integrated rural development project (designed within a watershed management framework). Jim was a proactive, effective Team Leader for this assignment. He was an excellent listener with a low-key style that allowed him to develop rapport with the many different stakeholders of the project. The recommendations of the evaluation helped us shut down the pieces of RCUP that were not working and focus on continuing to support the pieces that were working, including the Institute of Forestry, with its new campus in Pokhara, and support for community forestry that was put on a much firmer footing after the completion & approval of the Forestry Master Plan in 1989.

I reconnected with Jim after moving to Boulder in 2011 and connecting with CSU, first as a Visiting Fellow at CSU's School of Global Environmental Sustainability (SoGES) and then at the Colorado Water Center. Jim, his former student Sam Kunkle, and I started getting together several times a year in Fort Collins to catch up over lunch, talk about international development, and exchange perspectives about the world, including CSU's ongoing, award-winning efforts at "internationalizing" its campus, efforts that were started under Jim's visionary leadership as far back as 1975 and had gained momentum from 1981 when he was appointed Associate Vice President for Research and Director of International Development. Among his early projects was pulling together a Faculty Directory of International Expertise & Experience. Published in the Spring of 1983, it listed 353 CSU faculty who had worked in 123 countries, spoke 42 languages (from Arabic, Chinese and Cree through Persian, Punjabi & Quechua to Swahili, Turkish & Yoruba),

and were working on 17 international projects that involved 18 cooperative agreements with 15 institutions. This document was well ahead of its time.

Jim left an important legacy both at CSU and around the world. He will be missed by many of us.

*George F. Taylor II
Boulder, Colorado*

PS. For anyone who is interested, the RCUP Special Evaluation is available at https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDAAS327.pdf

George Taylor - November 03, 2024 at 02:39 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Meiman.



October 31, 2024 at 11:55 AM

KJ

“ I will treasure my memories of Jim: puttering around the Meiman place together, examining ditches, futzing with old tractors, riding to town (glacially slowly) in his tiny old truck. A steady stream of conversation all the while, Jim always thoughtful and kind. I am grateful that circumstances brought us together for a while and was sad to not see him anymore when life changed on my end. Jim was proud of his family and of the work he had done, at CSU and around the world. He was also humble and hopeful, a good man who lived a good life. Louise, Paul (PJ), Tonya, Landry, and the whole Meiman family- you will be in my prayers as you grieve this great loss.

Kevin Jablonski - October 31, 2024 at 11:09 AM

TB

“ My condolences to the Meiman family. I had the privilege of working with Jim assisting with tours for foreign groups to illustrate watershed conservation related work in Northern Colorado. As the manager of the Fort Collins Field Office for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service), my staff and I enjoyed working on and discussing conservation issues with Jim on his farm near Wellington. Jim's passion for addressing natural resource issues not only on his own land but also nationally and globally encapsulate Jim as a true conservationist. Thank you, Jim for making all of your fellow conservationists better at their careers.

Todd Boldt - October 30, 2024 at 12:21 PM

BB

“ My condolences are extended to the family of Jim. He always had a smile and such a kind spirit. I knew Jim during my years in CSU Research Services, 1982-1998.

Beth Wright (nee Borden) - October 30, 2024 at 11:04 AM

DT

“ To the Meiman family, Linda and I give you our deepest sympathy for your loss. Jim was a great neighbor and friend. He was always ready to lend a hand and also let me barrow his 8ft. ladder. In return we would both come over and do each others driveways during winter storms. We would work on sprinkling systems, gardens and trees. We helped Jim and Paul take a tree down in the back yard and talked about needing a cat to help get the mice in our yard and that's how we got Tippy. Thanks to Landry we adopted him and he is now will known in the hood as Mr. Tippy the Mayor of Ridgecrest. Andrew and I did fence repairs and Lisa would help hold the 8ft ladder for me so I could blow out the gutters and then play the piano for Jim. Louise would share garden veggies and make wonderful banana bread. I would say Jim was very blessed with a beautiful family and it's been a pleasure living next door.
Doyle and Linda

Doyle Thornton - October 30, 2024 at 10:58 AM

NG

“ Jim was a fantastic CSU Ram and provided great leadership in several roles. We had a super relationship going back a long time and I valued his contributions, common sense, and friendly approach very much. We shared work and ideas on water, international programs, and CSU affairs, and I always respected Jim's wisdom and insights. I also appreciated the contributions that Louise and family made to CSU and the community, and I wish you the best going forward without Jim. I know it won't be easy.

Neil Grigg

Neil Grigg - October 30, 2024 at 06:05 AM