



With great sadness, we announce the passing of **Professor William Michael O'Keefe**. We are grateful for his contributions to Pace University and the Lubin School of Business.

Our thoughts are with his wife—**Lubin Professor Hsu O'Keefe**—other members of his family, and his friends during this difficult time.

To learn more about his life, please see the obituary below:

**William (Bill) Michael O'Keefe**, D.Bus., passed away on January 17, 2026. O'Keefe was born in Buffalo, New York, on March 21, 1943, to William Leo and Marie Eleanore O'Keefe. He was the fourth of five siblings preceded in death by his parents, brother John O'Keefe (Georgia), and sisters Helen DiGesare (Anthony) and Mary Lou Johnson (Robert).

Dr. O'Keefe served in the United States Peace Corps in Ethiopia between 1967 and 1969 as an Agriculture Volunteer. He attended St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in Buffalo, earned his undergraduate degree from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, and went on to receive a master's degree and doctorate at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

O'Keefe retired from BASF as Director of Executive Development. Over the course of his career, he also served as a professor of business management at the University of São Paulo, Pace University-Lubin School of Business, and Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Dr. O'Keefe is survived by his beloved wife of 52 years, Hsu O'Keefe; children William O'Keefe (Ann Marie) and Jennifer O'Keefe (David Saunders); grandchildren Christian and Preston O'Keefe; sister Patricia Bethge (Dave); and several nephews and nieces.

Bill O'Keefe taught by example, loved without condition, and gave without expectation. He was a faithful husband, a steady and loving father, and a mentor whose wisdom shaped many lives. With a humble heart and adventurous spirit, he explored the world with wonder, gratitude, and joy. Kind, patient, and endlessly generous, he leaves behind a legacy not of words, but of lives forever changed. May he rest in God's peace and may his journey now be eternal.

Memorial contributions may be made to the United States Peace Corps or Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and Smithsonian Affiliations.

<https://www.peacecorps.gov/donate/>

<https://www.sites.si.edu/s/about>



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