



Robert H. Shumway

Jan. 21, 1936 — May 13, 2025

Robert H. Shumway, affectionately known as Bob, was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and professor. He leaves behind a legacy defined by kindness, deep respect for learning, and devotion to the people and passions that shaped his life.

Recognized in the field of statistics, Bob was best known for his contributions to Time Series Analysis. His work helped statisticians develop an appreciation for the richness and versatility of modern time series analysis. As a professor and author, he inspired generations of students and colleagues. He launched many careers by guiding PhD candidates throughout their research journey as a mentor and critic, helping students navigate the complexities of doctoral research.

Born in Northfield, Minnesota, Bob attended Carleton College. After graduating, he enlisted in the US Navy and was assigned to the National Institutes of Health, where he analyzed atomic bomb test debris. While working fulltime at Teledyne Technologies, he proceeded to earn his PhD in Statistics from George Washington University under Solomon Kullback. He joined the faculty at GW in 1965, and in 1980 was one of the first faculty members of the newly formed Statistics Department at UC Davis. He also worked with the US Air Force on nuclear test monitoring for the Salt Ban Treaty.

Bob was both mathematically and musically minded. He had a lifelong love of music, from Beethoven to Bob Dylan and Willie Nelson. Bob had the rare gift of perfect pitch, though in typical Bob fashion, he rarely mentioned it.

Bob will be deeply missed and forever cherished.