

# Tom as a Research Advisor

The Warner Memorial Symposium

NCAR Foothills Lab

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# Tom—The Person

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- Calm, hardly ever got his feathers ruffled
- Hard worker
- Dedicated to advancing the art and science of meteorology
- Immensely enjoyed NWP and working with students

# 1970s PSU NWP Environment

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- PSU Computer Center had IBM mainframes
- Cray 1 at NCAR, only access terminal was at Land and Water Resources Building
  - Submit card decks for weekend or over night runs
  - Output mailed on microfilm



# Forecaster vs Modeler

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- The forecaster is unhappy when the model makes a poor forecast
- The modeler is amazed when the model doesn't blow up!

*John Hovermale*



# Tom—As a Research Advisor

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- Ingredients of a meteorological NWP modeler:
  - Meteorology
  - Mathematical approximations [finite differences, etc]
  - Code [efficient implementations, FORTRAN]
- *Tom excelled in all three ingredients*
  - *PSU MM's efficient memory use was Tom's creation*



# Tom—As a Research Advisor

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- Master of helping to set up model runs to address specific problems
- Master of interpreting results



# Tom—As a Research Advisor

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- Tom epitomized: “Seek to understand, then to be understood”
  - Excelled at reading and commenting on drafts
  - Excelled at assisting advisees with research plans



# Tom—As a Research Advisor

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- Tom was the master of the open-ended question, the probing question





# Tom—As a Research Advisor

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- Always made time for students
  - Advisees had weekly meetings but could drop in at any time
  - Taught by example
- Always encouraging
  - Never made advisees feel like there was no hope



# Tom—Many Thanks!!

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- Research Advisor
- Friend & Mentor
- Father & Grandfather
- Scientist
- Researcher
- Meteorological Modeler

*Tom will long be remembered for his numerous contributions to meteorology and by the colleagues he interacted with over several decades*