

Professor Weil, I hope this note finds you well. I am writing to extend my thanks to you for a career's worth of value that you imparted to me many decades ago.

I was a student of yours in the first year sequence of Financial Accounting (the green FACMU book which still proudly sits on my bookshelf) at the U of C GSB in 1983-84. I am retiring later this year after 35 years in the Treasury Department of General Mills.

Over the years I have leaned on the lessons you imparted on both accounting and finance. In your biography on the Booth School website you say "In 20 years, they'll have to understand new transactions and the accounting for them, which haven't been conceived yet," and I can personally attest to this. Right out of school I began working on new pension accounting, and have subsequently worked on many iterations of debt accounting, derivatives hedge accounting, M&A accounting, among others. The thoughtfulness and rigor that you imparted to me so many years ago stuck with me and I implemented this philosophy and imparted it to many people who have worked on my team.

Many times I have imparted your wisdom about "the three L's of paying taxes" and if a transaction seemed too immaterial to worry about I said "add a few zeros to the end and let's figure this out." And when implementing a Treasury workstation, I really had to dig into all the potential debits and credits of a wide variety of Treasury transactions.

I recently came across your name in Richard Thaler's book in an anecdote about wine bottles that make me chuckle and I wanted to reach out to you.

As I near my own retirement, I wanted to pass along my thanks for the help you gave me at the outset of my career.

FROM A STUDENT OF 35 YEARS AGO

Best wishes to you,