

"CB believed in us and then left us alone to do what we wanted. That's what made us (the Mabel team) win. That's what made at least three of us earn advanced degrees after we left. Right now, I am an assistant professor at a research institution. And I can tell you, when a group of young students with too little experience and too much enthusiasm come knocking at my door with a crazy idea, I think of my friend and mentor CB and give them a room, a robot, and the freedom to follow a crazy path. It was the best gift that I got from CB and the one that I'm most eager to pass on."

—*Dave Feil-Siefer '03 (member of Mabel, the Mobile Table Team), USC PhD '12, Assistant Professor, University of Nevada–Reno.*

Brown has published more than 100 papers in peer-reviewed outlets and 18 book chapters in addition to Computer Vision.

He is a member of the Association for Computing Machinery and the Cognitive Science Society. Throughout 40 years at Rochester, he served on countless program committees, editorial boards, and grant review panels, operating at the center of the international computer vision community.

An enthusiastic teacher, Brown created many graduate and undergraduate courses in machine vision, robotics, and artificial intelligence, as well as the department's foundational data structures and advanced programming classes. An undergraduate team he supervised built "Mabel the Robot Table," a mobile service robot that won Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) robot competitions in Edmonton, Alberta, and Acapulco, Mexico. He earns exceptional praise from his students for patience, encouragement, practical advice, and not taking himself or his field too seriously.

Brown is famous (or infamous) for quirky advice and memorable quotes, including

- "You have to be conservative with these bloody computers. I'm growing to hate them cordially as I grow older."
- "Never use a piece of prose only once."
- "If anything in life troubles you, roll a Gaussian over it!"
- "You don't want to see symmetry out there in the jungle. It means someone's looking at you."
- "Textbooks are [manure]; they're written by people like me."



Brown has a wide range of interests outside of computer science. He plays (or has played) trombone, banjo, classical guitar, and electric bass. As part of the department band, the Algo-Rhythms, he has, for the last several years, serenaded the department's graduating classes with irreverent lyrics to great acclaim. He was visible on campus daily with his noontime run and annually at Rush Rhees Library's Halloween Scare Fair, reading Poe's "The Raven" while dressed as Dracula.

He spent two seasons in summer stock on Cape Cod and continues to be active in community theater, especially with the Gilbert and Sullivan troupe the Off-Monroe Players. He crossed the Atlantic in the USA Bicentennial Tall Ships Race in 1976 and was

third in his age group in the 1981 Rochester Marathon. He retired from the Computer Science Hockey Club early on as a danger to himself and others. Brown is known as a brewer, bicyclist, cigar smoker, and stalker of the wily stag.

As a researcher, teacher, and inspirational leader as well as a colleague with wide-ranging interests and knowledge, unexpected talents, and a wry sense of humor, Brown will be sorely missed.

Not quite that fast though—in various roles, CB will likely remain around the department for a good while to come.