

In Memoriam

Joshua R. Gerow

April 29, 1941 - December 4, 2015

Josh Gerow, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, passed away on December 4th, 2015. Josh received his B.A. in psychology from the University of Buffalo in 1963, and his PhD in experimental psychology from the University of Tennessee in 1967. He taught for two years at the University of Colorado at Denver before joining the faculty at IPFW in 1969. Josh retired in 2001 but his love for teaching led him back to teaching at IPFW again in 2007, first as an LTL and then as a Continuing Lecturer. By the time of his second retirement in June of 2015, Josh had taught at IPFW for a total of 40 years.

Josh simply loved to teach. He had a booming voice that carried far and was perfect for teaching from the stage in Neff 101 to an auditorium full of intro psychology students. He had a great stage presence and made teaching a form of performance art. He used story-telling, humor, and wit to captivate and engage students while at the same time making them think. Josh also was a prolific writer of introductory psychology textbooks and he gave many presentations and invited addresses on the teaching of psychology. In a unique project done in collaboration with students from his History of Psychology class in the spring semester of 1984, Josh and the students compiled articles related to psychology in Time magazine from the 1920s to 1980s to give a sense of the nature of psychology during each decade. This compilation became the focus of a special retrospective issue of Time magazine in 1988, which according to the issue editor, presented a story of psychology's past in a way that was both informative and entertaining, and most definitely not found in textbooks.

Upon his return to teaching in 2007, Josh assumed responsibility for supervising the teachers in our dual-credit psychology classes in area high schools. One of his favorite parts of this role was to organize a campus visit day each year for students in a dual-credit class taught by one of our former majors, with whom Josh had a particularly close relationship. Josh cajoled the rest of the department into joining him in giving brief presentations to the high schoolers to excite them about psychology on our campus. Four years ago, Josh expanded this program into an annual conference for all of our dual-credit psychology classes, with attendance of 200-300 and keynote addresses, breakout sessions, lunch, and campus tours. Even after Josh retired (the second time) last June, he continued to share his love of teaching by supervising the dual-credit teachers, and he organized, and was in attendance, at our conference for the dual-credit students this past November.

Josh touched us in so many ways, both personal and professional. He was a founding member of the department and many of us feel that he had a hand in shaping our careers. He also had an

extraordinary cheerfulness and enthusiasm that made one smile. He loved to tell stories about his outside interests, which included fine wines, cars, and traveling to France. He was truly part of the life of our department.

As I was searching for information about Josh's scholarly work and service, I found this note at the end of his 2014 annual productivity report: "POSTSCRIPT: I would like to acknowledge the incredible encouragement and support of my colleagues in the department during this difficult time period. It has been very much appreciated." In turn, I would like to add this postscript from the department and the IPFW community: We wish to acknowledge Josh R. Gerow's incredible passion for the teaching of psychology and his support and encouragement of his colleagues and generations of IPFW students. It has been very much appreciated.

Josh is survived by his wife: Nancy Gerow; his brother: Richard (Rose) Gerow, of Warner Robins, GA; daughter: Leslie Essary, of Halls, TN; four grandchildren; and god-daughter: Jaymi Moody, of Eighty Four, PA.