

James E. Hoxeng
(-, August 9, 2013)

Jim Hoxeng passed away on August 9, 2013 in Arlington Virginia where he lived for many years. He leaves behind his son [Alan Hoxeng](#) and his daughter [Megan Blocker](#) along with three grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Karen Hoxeng of California. He worked for the Agency for International Development for over 30 years and was tirelessly devoted to non-formal education. A Memorial Service was held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, August 14, 2013 which was attended by many from CIE (Steve and Margaret McLaughlin, Steve Anzalone, Steve Grant, Ginger Smith, and John Hatch) as well as other friends and relatives.



Ginger Smith compiled some comments which she shared at the memorial service.

As e-mails have popped up among friends who knew him at UMass, Ecuador, and Northern Virginia - some characterizations and themes have emerged. I am here for Bill & me, but I feel like I'm representing all those others who were unable to be here today, too. So, I'll share some of those thoughts.

Words mattered to Jim. One of my early memories is from 1970 in Western Mass when we 4 would play word games, and he often won. With that in mind, I've been searching for the right words to say about him.

Was Jim really the prototype for Garrison Keillor's Norwegian Bachelor Farmer? Who knows if it was his upbringing in those Norwegian-American traditions and the Lutheran Church, or simply the essence of who he was, but Jim seemed not to expect much from the world. And he rejected some that he had rightfully earned - including his doctoral degree at UMass. Instead of celebrating his own success, he quietly went about cultivating the ideas and work that drove him. And his celebrations were saved for the victories of those around him. For example, he radiated when talking about his sister, Susan, and her work in education. And his pride & delight in his children and grandchildren were palpable.

Was Jim the personification of Winnie the Pooh's pal Eeyore? Not given to exuberance, he would respond to questions with something like: "About as good as I deserve." Some of this might be due to disappointments that came his way. While he would have preferred to work internationally, he was unable to move in that direction for medical reasons. That had to be rough.

These anecdotes point out Jim's dogged determination - whether playing a drinking game (for which he paid sorely the following day) or completing a project. He saw things through. And he often did that by elevating his every day heroes. Jim's work was best illustrated by his ability to lead from behind - encouraging talented local people to shine and to lead in the efforts to reform or develop programs on the ground. His dissertation entitled "Let Jorge Do It" became important reading for people working in development.

Some of the many comments we have received are below.

*Jim Hoexing and I were among the first few who joined CIE in 1968 to learn while doing, designing courses, experiences and structuring CIE in a revised School of Education; perhaps we learned more by doing than those who followed. At least, as the first and only woman during those early years in CIE, I have reason to believe we were the best. I remember Jim well throughout those formative years, for his thoughtfulness, his depth and strength of character, his reasoning capacities, for his jovial and thoughtful nature, and for his insightfulness. I was delighted when in later years, he joined me at USAID where I was Chief of Education and Human Resources Development for Africa Bureau. He brought with him the same attributes witnessed at CIE, adding to them his maturity, handsomeness, and eagerness to enable our efforts toward African development. I remember him as a friend, compatriot and supporter, who helped to make my job easier. I was happy to know he remained with AID/W long after my departure in 1986 to become Ambassador to Sierra Leone. My sympathies are with his family and with all those who knew him in our attempts to build a better and more humane world. **Cynthia Shepard Perry***

*Jim was instrumental in setting CIE on the path of nonformal education which was a new idea in the early 1970s. He organized a trip to a conference in Washington where Paulo Freire and Ivan Illich were featured speakers. That trip led to a series of visits to CIE and UMass by both of them. With Jim's tireless encouragement, that led to CIE's involvement in nonformal education in Ecuador where Jim then served as our field coordinator for several years. Jim's influence on CIE continues to this day as an example of commitment to the principles of NFE (his refusal of his degree) and his ongoing support for decades during his time at USAID. He leaves an indelible mark on the history of NFE and the Center. **DRE***

*This one deeply hurts. Jim's sincere and level-headed approach to the evolving Center was very special. When he contributed to the on-going dialogue we all carefully listened to his calming influence. Many years ago I had the privilege of working with him for a short time on the Ecuador Project. He was deeply respected by the Ecuadorians and held in high esteem. The last time I spoke with him on the telephone was when he retired. He was looking forward to this new phase when he had more time to relax and reflect. Unfortunately that time was short. **George Urch***

*I'm very sorry about the loss of another creative and out-of-the-box thinker from CIE. **Flavia Ramos***

*I never met another man more committed to those he worked with and for. Always striving to make nonformal education a success, he may be more responsible than anyone for the good it produced. **John Bing.***

*This is a big loss to humanity as a whole. As one of the 4-H Club, we all enjoyed each others company. His humor was infectious and kept us in stitches at times. I'm sorry to see him go. **Michael Hagerty***