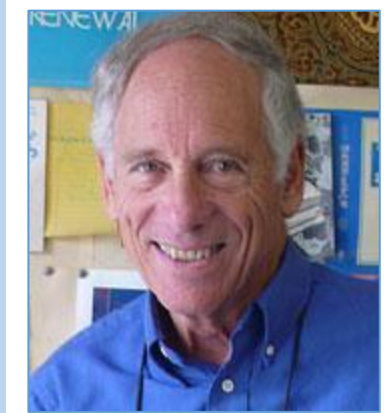


David Schimmel
(March 1934 – May 2018)

The following is taken from the obituary posted by the University of Massachusetts.

David M. Schimmel, 84, of Amherst, professor emeritus of educational policy, research and administration (EPRA), passed away in May 2018.

With Harris Wofford, later a U.S. senator from Pennsylvania, he served as an assistant to Hubert Humphrey. Schimmel and Wofford came up with the idea for the Peace Corps, and Humphrey promoted it during the 1960 presidential campaign until John F. Kennedy defeated him in the West Virginia primary, after which Kennedy took the idea as his own. Kennedy charged his brother-in-law Sargent Shriver with getting the Peace Corps off the ground, and Schimmel worked with him in the Peace Corps' early years, serving in administrative posts from 1962-68.



He joined UMass Amherst in 1968 as an associate professor in education, and he retired from EPRA in the College of Education in 2009. He worked post-retirement in same department from 2009-14 and in Continuing and Professional Education from 2010-11.

His teaching, research and writing focused on promoting legal literacy for teachers.

In the forerunner of what would become EPRA, he worked with both international education and educational leadership faculty. Along with faculty member Lou Fischer, he wrote books on the civil rights of students and the civil rights of teachers. A survey of education leadership graduates who became principals indicated that they considered his “law for educational leaders” course to be the most useful course for their jobs.

He was the author or coauthor of more than 75 articles and seven books about law and education, including “Principals Teaching the Law: 10 Legal Lessons Your Teachers Must Know” and “Teachers and the Law,” 9th Edition.

He was the recipient of the Education Press Association of America’s Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in Educational Journalism, the Education Law Association’s McGhehey Award for lifetime achievement, and the UMass Amherst’s Distinguished Academic Outreach Award.

Cynthia Gerstl-Pepin, Dean of the College of education, said, “David played a campus-wide role in at least two ways. One was his activities related to promoting civility. The other was in launching the campus effort to create service-learning programs and courses. David devoted his life to legal literacy and civic engagement and was the co-founder of the university's Citizen Scholars’ Program that promotes social justice through citizen action.”

He leaves his wife of 57 years, Barbara; his children Sue, John, and Josie, their spouses Shawn, Christine, and Len; and his sister, Bella.

A celebration of his life will be held this summer at the Amherst Jewish Community Center.

Donations in his memory can be made to Bend the Arc: Jewish Action (bendthearc.us) or UMass.edu/give to one of three funds in his name: The Schimmel Maloy Fund for Civic Engagement and Learning, The Schimmel Keene Citizen Scholar Endowment, and The Schimmel Fischer Endowment for Legal Literacy.

Those wishing to send comments to Barbara Schimmel, David's wife, and his family should send them to Susan Schimmel, his oldest daughter, at sueschim@aol.com.

Some of the remembrances we have received are below.

*I have wonderful memories of David (Dave) Schimmel, who was a member of my dissertation committee. He would listen quietly to remarks by George Urch (my chair) and Tom Clark (my defacto Co-Chair since George was on sabbatical while I was writing). Dave's comments added further clarity. He also shared comments, at times, about his Peace Corps experiences and those with then Massachusetts Senator Paul Tsongas. Such profound gestations (when they were young men) emerged into the Peace Corps that is continues decades later. **Beverly Lindsay***

*David brought a keen intelligence, a gracious style and an unbounded dedication to his to his many remarkable endeavors. I kept in touch with him over the years and will miss him. **Michael Haviland***

*Dave was the definition of class. Compassion, intellect, commitment, global citizen, leader, educator, dignity, all defined him. Along with hundreds of others, I am honored to have known him as a friend, a colleague and an inspiration. **Dave Magnani***

*David brought a keen intelligence, a gracious style and an unbounded dedication to his many remarkable endeavors. I kept in touch with him over the years and will miss him. I never knew his opinion but I always sensed he had one. It's that time of life when wonderful old memories flood back - for all the wrong reasons. **Bill Smith***

*He was a fine man. I remember evenings with him & Barbara – in his home & in ours as well as at larger CIE gatherings. His contributions make quite a legacy – what an honor to have known him. **Ginger Smith***

*David Schimmel brought community service learning to our campus. He will be missed but his work will continue to grow. **Dan Gerber***

Remembering David Schimmel

"The following are remarks delivered by Gordon Schimmel at David Schimmel's memorial service in Amherst, Massachusetts, July 22nd, 2018"

I was superintendent of schools for many years and once, a staff member told me that my speeches were actually pretty good but the best part was that – thankfully - they were short! So, in deference to others who wish to speak in David’s memory, I hope to continue the tradition.

In that spirit, please forgive me, Rabbi, for this abridged version of Psalm 19: “*May the words of my mouth and the meditations from my heart, be pleasing to you...be pleasing to you.*”

My thoughts are some personal moments of appreciation as I’m sure others will speak to David’s professional accomplishments more ably than I.

A bit of history: after returning from two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco, I was fortunate to get a job at the Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C. As a newcomer, I introduced myself around the building – Hi, I’m Gordon Schimmel – and, without fail, everyone always asked if I was related to *David Schimmel*. I heard all about him, about how, along with former Pennsylvania Senator Harris Wofford, he previously served as an assistant to Hubert Humphrey.

As many of you know, David and Senator Wofford came up with the idea for the Peace Corps and Humphrey promoted it during the 1960 Presidential campaign until John F. Kennedy defeated him in the West Virginia primary, after which Kennedy co-opted the idea. Kennedy charged his brother-in-law Sargent Shriver with getting the Peace Corps off the ground, and David worked with him in the Peace Corps’ early years.

It was such common knowledge that I began by introducing myself as “Gordon Schimmel, no relation to *David Schimmel*, except perhaps in spirit.” This went on for several weeks before I actually met him. I think he was out of the office much of the time on assignment overseas somewhere, until one day I got on an elevator with a colleague. My friend Steve said, “Gordon Schimmel, I’d like you to meet *David Schimmel*.”

I managed to mumble an appreciation about sharing a last name with someone who was so admired and accomplished and David was his usual unassuming, gracious self, assuring me it would be good to have another Schimmel in the building. And, thus began a relationship that would last years.

I soon learned that David was someone who was always available, someone you could bounce ideas off of, without fear of being judged too harshly, someone who would stretch your mind a bit with insight that was clear and frequently rare.

When Dwight Allen accepted the Deanship at the School of Education at U/Mass and invited me along as a grad student to help start a Center for International Education, my first assignment was to help recruit instructional staff for the Center. David was the first person that came to mind and, as it turned out – he was ready to move on as well, so he was my first staffing victory.

Now, it may be hard to picture this scene, because it was so long ago, but this was 1968, a tumultuous year in the country and it certainly was one at the School of Education. We doubled the teaching staff and number of grad students in a little over six months and the mix was rich with diversity, impassioned discourse – at times rancorous – and often we wondered if we were ever going to make progress and get the Center organized on a firm footing.

Throughout our ups and downs, David was the rational anchor in a sea of high expectations, frequent confusion, with uncertain outcomes. He was, often, the only adult in the room; no matter how heated the discussion, he always could manage a smile. His trademark was a bit of a head-bob; he would roll his eyes, smile again and then ask if you might want to think of what you just said perhaps, in another way. And then he would proceed to argue your side of the debate better than you had, pointing out nuances you had not even considered.

His was always a calming influence, one that commanded quiet respect and reflection and, on numerous occasions, he got the group re-focused and back on track. He believed in *civility*, and he *walked his talk*. He persisted through many Tuesday morning Center policy meetings, even gamely participating in one of those management-school fads, where none of us had chairs and we all *stood* around the conference table, presumably to streamline our decision-making. Thankfully, that idea lasted only for one session!

Over time David agreed to act as head of my dissertation committee – probably something he might have regretted; after two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer, three years on the training staff in D.C. and four trips to the Center’s demonstration girls high school in Uganda, I did one of those infamous grad school student U-turns, and changed my program from *international* education, to U.S. education!

David wasn’t the only Schimmel who helped me during those uncertain years and I wish to thank Barbara, a professional in her own right, who occasionally helped through some personally difficult times – usually hearing me out until she couldn’t stand it any longer. Her conclusion was something like “Goodness, why would you want to do *that!*” Actually, at times, she was even more blunt but I’ll spare you the details. She was David’s great partner and ally in many, many ways.

So, David M. Schimmel, teacher, mentor, advisor, good friend, *mensch* – blessed be your memory – and, indeed, your memory is blessed.

“May the words of my mouth and the meditations from my heart, be pleasing to you...be pleasing to you.”