

Edgardo Rothkegel Ortuzar (1935 –2023)



Edgardo passed away in Asuncion, Paraguay on March 17th 2023, a few weeks before his 88th birthday.

Edgardo was born in Valparaiso, Chile where he later became a catholic priest and worked with students as part of the Association of Catholic Universities. He came to the US in 1966 and was first admitted as a graduate student to the Spanish department at UMass Amherst. He then taught Spanish in a local high school.

In 1974 he was admitted to CIE, along with his wife **Adriana Gomez** (M.Ed. 1976). He worked with CIE's NFE project in Indonesia, including working in Jakarta. While still in the degree program, he also worked as a consultant training Peace Corps volunteers. In 1982 he was hired by CHP International as Director of the Peace Corps training center in Asuncion, Paraguay. According to a colleague, Edgardo applied what he had learned at CIE about the philosophy of Paulo Freire in his approach to training. He stressed the need for volunteers to integrate into the communities they were serving. He held the Director position for more than 20 years before retiring.

Remembrances from CIE Colleagues

*En verdad triste noticia. En mi estancia en UMASS (79-82) conviví mucho con Edgardo, gran compañero y amigo. Lo encontré años después en Asunción, Paraguay. Lo recuerdo como una persona tranquila, confiable, y amistosa, ayudando a los miembros latinoamericanos del CIE. Descanse en paz. **Vicente Arredondo***

When I Think of Edgardo I remember a man with a positive outlook on life and ready to assist other Center members whenever necessary. He was a true Gentleman. **George Urch**

Edgardo was quick to engage in healthy dialog about philosophy, theories of development and visions for the future of economics and politics. His hearty laugh rang through Hills South and the twinkle in his eyes was unforgettable! I am happy to know his son, Edgardo Junior, works in the area of development. **Jan Droegkamp**

I am sad to know Edgardo is not on this 'planet' any more. I remember his charming manner and his (sometimes) devilish humor. He had this way of pronouncing 'room' that was hilarious...maybe copying the Pink Panther. Anybody else remember that? **Gail vonHahmann**

Edgardo had an infectious sense of humor which was always on display. I remember an incident during a friendly soccer game at one of CIE's spring picnics. Edgardo and his friend **Julio Ramirez** were on opposite teams. At one point the two of them stood belly-to-belly, gesticulating wildly and shouting – pretending to dispute a call! It was hilarious. Edgardo was committed to issues of social justice, but never took himself too seriously. **David R. Evans**

In the spring of 1980 a group of us at CIE, at Edgardo's suggestion, decided to have monthly dinners with the host preparing and offering food of one's heritage. I'm German American from Eastern Pennsylvania and decided to go home to purchase food from our farmers' market. Returning to Amherst I served Tripe, Sauerbraten, Lebanon and ring bologna, pickled red beets and shoofly pie. As we were eating, Edgardo had tears in his eyes. His explanation: "I haven't eaten German food like this since I left Chile." Eduardo was of German descent. **Nanette Brey Magnani**

My memories of Edgardo and Adriana go back to the late 70s. They offered me to stay in their home in Amherst with them. It was very generous and welcoming of them and made my transition to a new life in the U.S much easier. Thank you, Edgardo and Adriana, for receiving me. Unfortunately, after I left the Center, I lost contact with Edgardo, but I always remember the time at his home and working together at the Center with warm and positive feelings. Bye Edgardo. **Julio Ramirez de Arellano**