



Remembering Jeff...

Susan Sobelson

As a faculty member at Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC), Jeff's students included many first-generation college students, working adults, single parents, English language learners, and people with disabilities. In the Human Services (HSER) and Addiction Counseling programs, he taught counseling and group skills courses based on role-play, as well as two very popular courses he created on using personality styles and wellness resources. He was instrumental in getting MCTC program courses accepted for credit when students transferred to bachelor's degree programs statewide. Jeff cared deeply about students' success and making learning both practical and enjoyable.

Jim Strohecker

Jeff was such a bright, wonderful and dear soul. I will deeply miss our animated and insightful conversations. I am sorry for the loss. Peace and blessings.

Sue Brokaw

Jeff was never afraid to speak the truth when those in power at the Adler Graduate School were doing wrong. I remember well our battles to save the school on more than one occasion. I am grateful for all that he did in those difficult times.



Remembering Jeff...

Paula Pursley

Jeff's and my Friendship began 6 years ago, though it sure feels like it's been more like a lifetime of friendship. We had some of the craziest and weirdest and fun phone and text chats. His imagination would run wild and I'd do my best to keep up.

Jeff was a thoughtful card writer and gifter — colorful sox, wind chimes for my lakeside deck, cuddly stuffed animal when I was ill, fresh flowers, taking turns treating lunch at The Crossroads Deli. Sometimes he would first ask or tell me about the 'potential' gift but then tell me to be surprised when opening it - He couldn't contain his glee! One time I acted SO surprised, it surprised him and we collapsed in laughter! That was Jeff.

I'm thankful for our special friendship, all the times we shared and all that I learned from Jeff. He helped me better understand my family members who are dealing with addictions. He fed me more and more information on the Enneagram when I became intrigued. He told stories of growing up in Pipestone, of his dad and favorite uncle. He would giggle after mimicking the voice of a favorite person in his stories. He prayed for me. He talked about his love his sons Nic and Joe, and how proud he was of you. He marveled over having 'daughters' and the magic of having a granddaughter. And I marveled over the unique friendship he and Marilyn and Jim crafted over the years.

(Paula — continued on page 3)



Remembering Jeff...

(Paula — continued from page 2)

Jeff touched many lives through his counseling work, his time as a professor, his active participation in AA. And he touched mine. Thank you my Friend.

EV Haas

In the twenty-five years I worked with Jeff at Adler Graduate School, there was never a dull moment. Jeff was a dedicated and intense instructor, an amazing colleague, and a loyal friend. He was always, in true Adlerian fashion, willing to contribute and help. He gave up a few Wednesday nights a month for years to speak at Open Houses to recruit new students and was always there to solve problems. Like one day, when the printer ran out of ink, Jeff decided to change the cartridge but picked up a red one instead of black. The students were treated to the most beautiful magenta handouts and syllabi for weeks. Best of all was his sense of humor – a little skewed to the left- which made for so many lunchroom belly laughs. He will be sincerely missed.

Jim Brandon

Jeff meant so much to me. I was in the first class at St. Mary's. I have recently retired after 45 years as a counselor. I still share the wise things he taught us to others. We spoke to each other a couple of years. I was just going through my contacts and felt the need to call him. I can hear him saying if you get the urge to make contact, damn it do it. I am sad at this moment but I know I will smile shortly as I recall his sense of humor and that sky look on his face.



Remembering Jeff...

Marilyn Franzini

Like most important relationships in life, Jeff and I had our ups and downs. We developed a relationship that we were able to affirm and support each other in becoming better versions of ourselves. This, in my opinion, is the essence of a meaningful relationship in life.

Jeff was one of my best friends. Jeff and I shared many interests including family, 12 Step AA/Alanon Program, and interest in mind, body (Eat More Plants:) and spiritual development.

We shared a deep pride and gratitude of Jim (my husband), Nic, Malena, Lilia, Joe and Miranda. Jeff loved to learn, making him an inspiring teacher. He was a "natural" teacher, like his sister, Mary Lou.

He thrived on studying different theories of health, weaving these ideas together, and creating a framework to share with family, friends, and students.

Jeff delighted in storytelling, with a witty, often mischievous twist and humor, just like his father, Bob, and his grandfather, Fred. He liked being "on stage", whether this was a pulpit, classroom or around a table with family and friends. This made Jeff fun and an interesting "character" to spend time with.

I trust that Jeff is "In God's Care*" *As we understand God (Jeff's favorite Hazelden Daily Reader).



Remembering Jeff...

Jim Brickl

Sent from Jim to Jeff on Father's day 2023.

Jeff, thank you for the blissful father's Day tribute! It was received with a dose of humbling pride filled tearful emotion! You touched and mined my personal inner soul and exposed my needs to do better! I did get you a Father's Day card, but I have decided that they can be just canned filled rhetoric! "So here goes" I believe we all have unique souls and needs that are required to be fulfilled. On the way home I was in a conversation with Marilyn, and I was grading my feelings about how I feel about her and my friends. I soon realized that a person being a father or mother elevated my perception of them above others! Being a parent softens one's soul and opens one's mind for other hearts. To explain what a Father's Day could be to me, I'm taking the long way around! Fathering, can be difficult, especially with a split family! I did have two other relationships with ladies who had children. In both situations, the father elements were combative, and at least one of the children was resentful. When I first met Nic and Joe, they were totally receptive, engaging and fun. At the farm when I first met you, you came through the back door, I expected another hate filled vengeful man! But that's not what happened, the first thing I heard from you was "I've heard alot of good things about you"). (Jim — continued on page 6)



Remembering Jeff...

(Jim — continued from page 5)

This has meant so much to me, and I visually, and mentally reflect that time often! Thank you for initiating an educational environment of mutual respect. I believe that you and Marilyn established the groundwork and climate, based on good genetics, reality, respect, and love that developed two outstanding young men. At this stage of life, it's fulfilling to see Nic and Joe respectfully, helping and caring for you their Father! It also brings joy and a smile to my face to watch your grandpappy-ish pride and having an intellectual conversation with Lilia!! Most of all, thanks for your heartfelt friendship and sharing your Sons, you truthfully have elevated fatherhood! Here's to improving health and years of joint fatherhood!!!!

Tony Anthonisen

Jeff was my BEST FRIEND for 60 years. It all started at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota in 1964. Two "sophisticated" freshman living a room apart. I don't even know why we became such good friends. We were so different in so many ways - in almost all ways for all these years. However, we did love discussing cars and trucks, watches, politics, dogs and cats, whatever currently interested us, and of course, members of the opposite sex. I loved listening to music as much as Jeff loved talk radio. Music wasn't high on his list of listening preferences, and I strongly dislike talk radio! (Tony — continued on page 7)



Remembering Jeff...

(Tony — continued from page 6)

I was decisive, while Jeff had to consider all the options MANY times ad nauseam. I was skeptical about people changing, and he had great faith in the human ability to do something new, different and more positive. I was a fast and early adopter of computers and technology who had to drag Jeff kicking and screaming into the next tech "thing." Fairly often after becoming a huge advocate of something I suggested that he initially fought, he would deny ever denying ANY interest in the "thing." His response, "I never felt that way." "I don't remember that." His reaction to his late in life favorite, the Apple Watch, was an initial and vehement lack of interest. He lived in Minnesota, and I lived all over the western U.S. Jeff was pretty sedentary, while I was constantly snow skiing, snowboarding, road and mountain bike riding. We once went mountain biking together in the Chequamegon National Forest in northern Wisconsin. I was ecstatic about the dips, bumps, and skinny log bridges over streams. Jeff was totally uncomfortable the whole time. He liked to be in control. We both came to accept and appreciate our differences and talked at length about them at our weekly lunch or dinner get togethers. Decades of meals and memories together. He even convinced me that plants are healthier than B-B-Q ribs or a rare filet mignon. How do you say goodbye to your best friend of 60 years? Right now, I am holding strongly to the wonderful memories. Jeff, thanks for the memories! RIP and save a celery stalk for me wherever you are...!



Remembering Jeff...

Chuck Jackson

I met Jeff in 2002. I took 4 classes in Human Services from Jeff at Minneapolis Community & Technical College (MCTC). It was so much fun to be in Jeff's class! He was my favorite instructor at MCTC.

Years later we became friends. We would do 2-3 hour "sessions" working together to organize and pack things for Jeff's move to La Crosse to be near his family.

I remember one Christmas day, I was driving around and went to visit Jeff at Aurora Nursing Home. We had a 2-3 hour visit, it was just wonderful!

Jeff was a loner and so am I. We found companionship with each other. We would do our working "sessions, go shopping at Trader Joe's, go out for lunch, maybe at Olive Garden, or just hang out.

Jeff was just a delight to be with! I miss Jeff everyday.

Susan Sobelson

I was just looking through my MCTC retirement folder and found this email communication between him and one of his very conscientious students, Lydia. (Susan — continued on page 9)



Remembering Jeff...

(Susan — continued from page 8)

From a November 9, 2008 email from Jeff's MCTC student Lydia:

This may be a goofy question, do you want the take home quizzes separate from one another or can I put them all in the same document?

Thanks!

Lydia

Jeff's October 10, 2008 reply to Lydia:

Hi Lydia...

I'll take them in orange crates, plastic boxes or bags, pasted onto Xmas or Thanksgiving cards, in various colors, printed on \$20 bills or toilet paper, sung on a DVD, painted on canvas or parchment, in tin cans or washed sardine cans, hidden in boxes of flowers, between stones, hanging from low tree limbs, in my faculty mail box, in my hand in class, delivered to me by Susan or UPS. There are many choices. Thanks for asking...there are no goofy questions!

Jeff

Tony Anthonisen

The response to Lydia truly shows the Jeff we know and love!