MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS SHELDON DAVID ROSE

Sheldon David Rose, professor emeritus of social work, died on November 3, 2010 in Madison, Wisconsin.

Born September 20, 1928 in St. Louis, Missouri, Sheldon received his undergraduate degree in sociology from the University of Missouri, his master’s in social work from Washington University in St. Louis, and his PhD in social psychology from the University of Amsterdam in 1960. He was a professor in social work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1969 to 1999 and chaired the PhD program from 1983 to 1988. Before joining the faculty at UW-Madison, he served on the faculties of the University of Amsterdam and the University of Michigan. He also served as the deputy director of the Peace Corps in Nepal.

Sheldon was internationally acclaimed for his research and scholarship in group work practice. He published 11 books in group work and over 75 peer-reviewed articles. Long before “evidenced-based” and “theory-driven” interventions drove high-quality practice research, Sheldon was developing theory-based group work interventions and evaluating them through rigorous means. His work integrating group treatment and cognitive-behavioral therapy helped to establish one of the most frequently used methods of group psychotherapy in current use. Sheldon was a model of how one bridges the academic and practice worlds. He presented workshops throughout the world, gave lectures and talks, and developed training manuals to teach social work and other human service professionals how to apply his innovative and ground-breaking research on group work treatment to a wide range of childhood, adolescent and adult problems.

A dedicated, generous, and supportive mentor among doctoral students, Sheldon maintained until his death close relationship with many of his former students. He was the major professor for over 25 social work PhD students, many of whom have gone on to illustrious careers at major research universities across the country.

A warm and humorous colleague, there are many memories that brought smiles to those who worked with Sheldon during his 30-year career at the School of Social Work. Sheldon could be quite absent-minded at times. He had an office on the second floor and each morning had a set routine. He would go to the third floor to make a cup of tea, journey around the third floor with his teacup greeting everyone with a morning “hello and how are you,” and then venture back to the second floor and make his daily stop in the library. He would then make his rounds to those of us who also had offices on the second floor and eventually find his way back to his office, at which time, he would discover that he had left his teacup in someone’s office. So almost on a daily basis, he would retrace his steps, knock on our office doors checking to see if he had left his teacup in our office, and he would eventually find his way back to the library, where he invariably found it sitting on a desk.

A loving husband and father, Sheldon is survived by his wife of 39 years, Cindy, three children, Leah Rose, Wendy Hovel and Alisa Rose, and three grandchildren. Sheldon’s family, friends and colleagues have established a memorial scholarship in his honor with the University of Wisconsin Foundation.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
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