

Michael L. Tracy

January 19, 1938 - July 10, 2020

Michael L. Tracy was born in Chicago, January 19, 1938 the son of Matthew Tracy and Claire (Bolton) Tracy. He served two years in the U.S. Coast Guard before graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Science from John Carroll University in 1962. Mike taught special education in the Chicago school system for six years. He went on to obtain, a Master of Science in Special Education from Northeastern Illinois University in 1966, and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Michigan in 1969.

He is survived by his wife, Suzanne Sturgeon and his children, William D. Tracy, Michael L. Tracy, Jr., Matthew B. Tracy (Jenny), and Patrick S. Tracy, as well as his grandson, Bolton W. Tracy, all of whom he loved dearly and who loved him.

Mike began his academic career at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1969-1970 working with the National Training Labs (NTL) to advocate for the integration of special education students into regular education classrooms. In 1970-1972, as an assistant professor at the University of Michigan, Mike co-directed, with William C. Rhodes, the Conceptual Project in Emotional Disturbance. That work resulted in co-editing with Rhodes two significant books one on theory and one on interventions--A Study of Child Variance, Vol. 1: Conceptual Models; Vol.2: Interventions.

He joined the faculty at Indiana University in 1972, where he taught for 44 years. In 1972 Mike was invited by then President Nixon's office to join in the planning of the 1973 White House Conference on the Status of Children. He

co-edited the final report with the Honorable James Delaney of Colorado. His initial appointment at Indiana was as an assistant professor in School Psychology and as a psychologist at the Developmental Training Center (DTC), a University Affiliated Facility (UAF) specializing in training and services for children and adults with developmental disabilities. In 1974 he accepted a joint appointment at Riley Children's Hospital to coordinate training between the two UAFs.

The passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 put responsibility on the states to move patients out of state hospitals. This policy led to the Deinstitutionalization Project in 1975. Mike directed a pilot project that brought clients from Indiana's state hospitals to the DTC as a half-way home while they were being integrated into their families and communities. This experience made possible the Consumer Grant, a national training project in the 50 states and territories. Mike was the Director and Principal Investigator of the project. He supervised the development of the training materials, identified national prominent training leaders, and supervised and conducted training for the members of each state Developmental Disabilities Council and the state employees who staffed the Councils.

During his 1981-82 sabbatical, he was appointed to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Evaluation within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Urban Institute. Assisted by the state governments of California, Georgia, and Massachusetts, a team composed of the Urban Institute, the Department of HEW, and the state employees of the divisions of developmental disabilities and mental health, Mike helped develop a model data structure to identify the prevalence and incidence of developmental disabilities and evaluated services for persons with developmental disabilities. During that year, Mike represented the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Evaluation.

Back in Indiana, he designed the Case Conference IEP Project to provide for accountability and advocacy for parents with children with special needs. The project developed training materials to assure the school districts in Indiana

were in compliance with the standards in 94-142, the 1975 Education for All Handicapped Children Act. That law required the states to provide a free, appropriate education for all students with disabilities in compliance with federal laws and regulations. In the following three years, the Case Conference Project trained each special education unit in Indiana to the standards. Later, Mike personally conducted over 60 mandated mediation sessions between school districts and parents to assure the implementation of these standards. He continued to work at the DTC until 1989.

In anticipation of his return to the education faculty, Mike used his 1989 sabbatical study to seek additional training in working with families of emotionally handicapped children. He identified a group of six intellectually gifted and emotionally handicapped adolescents (hospitalized in the prior 60 days). He worked with the adolescents during the day and with their families in the evenings under the supervision of the Adler Family Institute in Chicago. He then joined the counseling psychology faculty at Indiana University for the 1990-91 academic year. Mike directed the Center for Human Growth from 1993-2000. His special practice interest was in clinical hypnosis, and he was a member of the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis (ASCH) since 1972. Mike brought several credentials to his professional practice including licenses as a Health Service Provider in Psychology (HSPP), Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT), Registered Family Mediator, and Licensed School Psychologist. Additionally he was certified as a Master Neurolinguistic Programmer (NLP) and Training/Certification Consultant for ASCH. He was a part of the Civil Rights movement in the United States on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities. He was known for his cheerful personality and willingness to help others. He encouraged others to stretch beyond what they thought they could do. He was guided by his faith, family, education, and had a curiosity to learn which lasted his entire life. He will be missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and the students he loved to work with.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Paul's Catholic Church, 1413 East 17th Street, Bloomington, Indiana on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 10:00.

Burial will follow in the Fillmore Cemetery in Fillmore, Indiana.

Visitation will be held Monday July 13, 2020 at Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 from 4:00PM to 8:00PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the IU Foundation in support of the Center for Human Growth Fund.

Online condolences, photos, and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com

The Mass will be carried live on the St. Paul website at www.hoosiercatholic.org

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 13. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Catholic Center
1413 East 17th Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

Tribute Wall

SL

“ Dear Suzanne, I've have been trying to find your Spencer address with no success. I had hoped to write a personal note to you. I was very saddened to learn that Mike had died. He was a very important person in terms of my career. I suspect you may have been aware that working at the DTC had its many challenging moments. Mike was the one exception. He was always thoughtful and supportive of what I was trying to accomplish. I could count on him for a meaningful conversation and honest feedback. Mike and I crossed paths once or twice after we left the DTC. I was always delighted to see him in a different setting.

Reading his obit I was impressed with the many endeavors that he was involved in. He was truly a unique and very creative person. I was so pleased that the two of you got together. You both deserved a wonderful and kind relationship.

My very warmest wishes for you. And a sad good bye to Mike, whom I respected ever so much. Stine Levy

Stine Levy - July 23, 2020 at 03:43 PM

SJ

“ Dr. Tracy was an inspiring teacher. I am thankful I had the opportunity to learn from him when I completed my graduate degree at IU. He will be missed, Warm thoughts and sympathy to his family. Sally Jones

Sally Jones - July 17, 2020 at 01:08 PM

JR

“ *Dr. Tracy welcomed me at the very first counseling psychology picnic I attended as an incoming doctoral student and he remained a friendly face until this past year. He then became more, serving as a mentor and clinical supervisor. I don't have the adequate words to describe my gratitude for being able to be mentored and taught by Dr. Tracy. He was a master of his craft and more importantly a patient, kind, caring, and gracious role model. I admired the way that he maintained enthusiasm for the work he was doing with me and others, always!*

I will certainly miss seeing him in the Center for Human Growth and being able to stay in contact with him. Sending my thoughts and prayers to his many loved ones.

Jeff Ruser

Jeff Ruser - July 15, 2020 at 10:14 AM

MK

“ *Suze and family,
How sad to hear of Mike's death. What a wonderful caring man and advocate for many students and clients. His Mass was a beautiful testimony to him. Maureen Kipp*

Maureen Kipp - July 15, 2020 at 08:57 AM

JA

“Blessing to you all. I had been at IU a number of years when I first met Mike. I clearly remember the moment I realized he was the M. Tracy from “Rhodes, W. C., & Tracy, M. L. (1972).” I had studied with Dr Rhodes during some of my graduate program and learned a lot from research that began with the child variance studies. Initially, I was so pleased to be working at the same university as Mike Tracy. While I experienced a bit of hero worship at first, the thing that I will never forget was his humbleness about it all. It was nice to just have conversations with him as a peer and colleague; but it was also this real connection to the some of the important history of our shared field. -Jeff Anderson

Jeff Anderson - July 14, 2020 at 08:16 PM

DH

“*Condolences to Mike's family. First, I attest to everything said in his obituary, Mike was a prince of a fellow. We were close friends in graduate school at the University of Michigan. We shared many memories. I'll offer just one that demonstrates his joie de vivre.*

One morning while we were students in Ann Arbor, Mike says to me, "I need to visit my mother in Chicago. You want to go with me? I need to be there tonight so we'll leave later this afternoon. We'll be home by tomorrow early afternoon." I say, "That's a lot of driving to do in just a few hours. No problem, we'll be flying." I didn't know that Mike had a pilot's license, or so he claimed, and access to a two-seater plane.

Taxiing out from the local Ann Arbor airport, I relaxed. Mike seemed to know what he was doing. I was impressed.

The flight was smooth. Night had fallen as we approached Midway (not O'Hare, for the big commercial airlines). Skyline's spectacular. Mike's jawing with control tower.

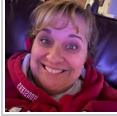
"Dan, reach down around your feet, there should be a flashlight." Not sure why he's asking, I fumble around in the dark and find a flashlight--bigger than most, but certainly not industry-grade. "Yes?" Calmly, Mike say's, "Open the window on you're right, turn on the flashlight, and stick it out the window and point it toward the control tower."

"Huh?"

"Some lights are out. I'll get fined if I don't have lights."

The adventure was worth it. Mike's mother was gracious. I witnessed their close bond. I now had a "story" I could tell at times like this.

Dan Hallahan - July 14, 2020 at 06:51 PM



This is such a touching story - and one that encompasses Mike! Thanks for making us smile! He is so missed! Jenny Tracy (Daughter-in-Law)

Jenny Tracy - July 23, 2020 at 07:16 PM

JL

“ I was so saddened to hear about Michael’s passing and I am so sorry for your loss. He was always so kind and such a pleasure to talk with him about the Bolton family. He always had a great family story to tell. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I wish you comfort and peace.

Jeri & Jack Laurie, (Bill Bolton’s daughter)

Jeri & Jack Laurie, - July 13, 2020 at 11:27 PM

CS

“ We offer condolences to the Tracy family on the death of their father Michael. Our children and the Tracy children attended school together at St. Charles. We send fond remembrances of our interactions. We also exchanged greetings with your father at daily Mass at St. Paul. Your Dad was often at the 5:30 p.m. Mass during the week. You are in our fond memories and in our prayers.

Carl, Virginia, Regina, and Marla Smith

Carl Smith - July 13, 2020 at 08:11 PM

CT

“ Prayers for God’s comfort for your family. I participated in a hypnosis study with Dr. Tracy a few years ago. He was an extraordinary person, I count myself fortunate to have known him, although only briefly.

Carolyn Turpin - July 13, 2020 at 05:24 PM

JD

“ I have done business with Mike for, I don't remember how many years now, but I consider him more than a customer. I think of him as a friend and neighbor ,I will sorely miss him and our discussions when he'd drop off or pick up a car. He was certainly one of the finest people I have ever known. Words are just not adequate to describe the loss and how much he will be missed. We can take solace in knowing we have the Hope of Glory and we will see him again.

Joe Daniel - July 13, 2020 at 03:42 PM



“ Fields of Europe for Spring was purchased for the family of Michael L. Tracy.



July 13, 2020 at 02:42 PM

BB

“ May I offer my sincere sympathy to Suzanne and my cousins Bill, Mike, Matt, Pat and Bolton. I wish I could have made the trip to say good bye in person. My thoughts and prayers are with you.
Bill Bolton

Bill Bolton - July 13, 2020 at 02:31 PM

MI

“ My thoughts are with Mike's family. He was a wonderful colleague at the Developmental Training Center. His joy for life will be missed.

Marilyn Irwin - July 13, 2020 at 12:33 PM

AW

“ I am sorry for your loss. I did not have Mike as a department colleague, but I knew him from the School of Ed. His kindness and good cheer were always evident—even during a short “hello” in the hallway or elevator. A. Walton

Andrea Walton - July 13, 2020 at 11:32 AM

TL

“ Dr. Tracy was one of the professors that made me through the doctoral program at IU. He provided what I exactly needed as an international student---encouragement, in my first and later years of the program. He could always see the best of everyone and bring everyone's best out of them, using his magical smile and kind words. You will be missed, Dr. Tracy!

Tao Liu - July 13, 2020 at 10:45 AM

LC

“ Love Kyle, Amy and Laila Cade purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Michael L. Tracy.



Love Kyle, Amy and Laila Cade - July 13, 2020 at 10:31 AM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Michael L. Tracy.



July 13, 2020 at 10:10 AM

SW

“ I feel like the entire world has lost someone who tried every day to make the world a better place. We have lost a warrior for good. Sometimes in faculty meetings he would ramble a little; however, there were also times when he would have extraordinary insights into an issue and propose the perfect solution. Mike also had extraordinary compassion and he was the type of man who you call at 3:00 am for bail money. He would come and then take you out for breakfast. He was a very sweet man and I feel very lucky to have worked with him.

Sue Whiston - July 13, 2020 at 09:31 AM

AO

“ Thoughts & prayers for Mike's family. He was such a genuinely kind & caring person always quick to smile & ask how things were going. He is a treasure that will truly be missed.

Amy O'Mullane - July 13, 2020 at 09:05 AM



“ Mike was my major professor at Indiana University. But he was so much more than that. He remained a friend, mentor, and supporter for my entire life after I graduated from IU. He was there when I made very difficult changes in my life and believed in me. He saw me through many happy and difficult times - always being a steady beacon when I was bobbing around in a storm. His calming effect was contagious. He continued to teach me grace, patience and shared his wisdom. He was a brilliant man academically and emotionally.

He called me about two months ago to tell me of his diagnosis and I told him then, "Mike, you made me the man I am today." His legacy of caring and compassion lives on in the many people he touched.

Thank you Mike. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Jim Luther

Jim Luther - July 13, 2020 at 09:02 AM

VP

“ Am grateful to have had Dr. Tracy as a professor and mentor during my time in the graduate counseling program at IU in the early 2000s. I very much appreciated his time, perspective and patience. Praying for your family!

Vicki Pierce - July 13, 2020 at 07:58 AM

Joel
Smith

“ Thank you Mike for your hospitality and friendship. It was always great to see you and Susan at an IU event or just around town. I regret not having the chance to spend more time with you and Susan but I will cherish the memories I have.



Joel Smith (spouse of Barry Chung)

Joel Smith - July 13, 2020 at 12:08 AM



“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Michael L. Tracy.



July 12, 2020 at 09:49 PM

EV

“ I am so saddened by Mike's passing. I am so thankful that I had the privilege of working with him on the counseling faculty for the past decade. He was always cheerful, thoughtful, and incredibly giving. He is already missed so much.

Ellen Vaughan

Ellen Vaughan - July 12, 2020 at 09:28 PM

BR

“ I am so sad and shocked right now. Mike was a fine man. Very kind! I will miss him. Prayers for the family! IU lost a great professor and friend!! -- Brenda Helms

Brenda - July 12, 2020 at 05:17 PM

JW

“ I am heartbroken. Mike was my colleague in the counseling psychology program at Indiana University.

In my view, Mike was the kindest and most compassionate colleague we had in the counseling psychology program. He truly embodied the virtue of unconditional positive regard (in counseling lingo, this refers to accepting people unconditionally despite their faults). When any of us was frustrated with others, Mike would often be the only person in the room to extend grace and empathy. Mike was also incredibly humble. It wasn't until he was about to retire that I came to know the full extent of his breathtaking national accomplishments, which includes significant contributions to national policies affecting children, especially children with disabilities. See <https://www.allencares.com/obituaries/Micahel-Tracy/#!/Obituary>. He was secure in his professional identity and simply saw no need to boast about his achievements. His focus was always about how he could serve others. Mike's life reminds me of this quote from C. S. Lewis: "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." At his retirement party a few years ago, I told Mike that I would consider myself successful in life if I could become half the person he was.

Joel Wong

Joel Wong - July 12, 2020 at 03:56 PM

DH

“ So sorry for your loss. I joined CEP in a different program in 2005 and Mike was friendly and helpful. His students adored him and we will miss him.

*Dan Hickey
Learning Sciences Program*

Daniel Hickey - July 12, 2020 at 03:49 PM



We lost a great man

maureen renk - July 14, 2020 at 11:02 AM