

Norton's Brief Comments at service:

Pete was one of three brothers and easily the most creative. With Jan, he made their home a museum, and became a first class artist with his photography and handmade books. Pete's humanity is deeper even than his artistic and academic success. He was a proud father and grandfather, a friend to many. And Irene and I very much enjoyed our occasional trips with Jan and Pete.

For me, he epitomizes the word "mensch". I recall our father praising Pete's character. He detected that quality long before Pete provided the wealth of evidence supporting that recognition. Today we mourn the person; for the future, we will remember the man and be reminded of his multifaceted creativity by his numerous visible accomplishments.

Robert H. Deluty, Ph.D., Associate Dean of the Graduate School, UMBC, forwarded these two messages:

Jim Lins, IT Support Assistant, lins@umbc.edu

This is to advise you that Dr. Hrabowski has ordered the Maryland State flag flown at half staff on Friday, June 19, 2009, from sunrise to sunset. This is in memory of Raymond "Pete" Starr, UMBC faculty member, who passed away on Monday.

June 18, 2009

To: The UMBC Community

Fr: Linda Baker, Professor and Chair, Psychology

Re: Tribute to Raymond H. "Pete" Starr, Jr.

The passing of Professor Emeritus Raymond H. "Pete" Starr brings great sadness to faculty, staff and students in the Department of Psychology and beyond. This "beyond" represents such a significant portion of Pete's life that I invited two of his close friends and colleagues to share in writing this tribute: Tom Beck, chief curator at the Albin O.Kuhn Library & Gallery, and Maureen Black, professor in the Department of Pediatrics at UMB.

Pete joined the UMBC community more than 30 years ago, in 1977, and he made vital contributions to its research, teaching and service missions even after his 2006 retirement. Pete received his Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of Cincinnati in 1968. He earned an A.B degree from Johns Hopkins University and an M.A. degree from Denver University. Pete began his career in Detroit, first working at the Merrill Palmer Institute as a research associate and faculty member in human development and then at Children's Hospital, where he served as associate director of the Family Center for the Prevention and Study of Child Abuse.

Pete's life's work epitomized applied developmental psychology, a specialty focused on the application of developmental science to the understanding and solution of real-world problems. He was internationally recognized as an expert on child abuse and neglect. His research addressed the causes and consequences of child maltreatment, as well as its identification and prevention. He published two edited volumes and more than 50 peer-reviewed articles and chapters. His work was funded by the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect and by the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health. He served on the editorial boards of highly respected journals such as /Mental Retardation, Journal of Family Violence /and /Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities. /Pete's expertise extended into the policy arena as well. The year he spent on Capitol Hill as a Congressional Science Fellow enriched his teaching and scholarship for years to come. He was the recipient of an award for Psychological Service in the Public Interest from the Maryland Psychological Association. Pete was an elected fellow of the American Psychological Association and five of its divisions.

Pete was passionate about his teaching and mentoring. Over the years, he introduced more than 6,000 UMBC students to the excitement of psychology through his Introductory Psychology classes. He was an avid collector of cartoons with psychological themes, and one of his favorite assignments was to have his students interpret and evaluate the cartoons. (He delighted in sharing his best finds with his colleagues also.) His Child Maltreatment course was among the most popular in the department. Pete's undergraduate teaching contributions extended beyond the department to the Honors College and the Interdisciplinary Studies

Program. Pete was a vital contributor to our Applied Developmental Psychology and Human Services Psychology graduate programs. Thirteen students received Ph.D.s under his nurturing mentorship.

Pete was always generous in giving his time and expertise to department, university, and community service. His talents and commitment to shared governance were well-known to many on the campus. Among his most notable contributions were his six years on the Undergraduate Council, including two years as chair. Pete also served on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, on the Nominating Committee, on the Honors College Advisory Committee, on the Friends of the A.O. Kuhn Library & Gallery Council and more than 10 other university committees.

Unbeknownst to many of his academic colleagues, Pete was also a talented artist. Tom Beck comments on this aspect of his life:

Pete had the heart of an artist. Over 30 years of serious art making, he evolved from a novice to an exhibiting professional artist. He studied with some of the most notable image makers of our time including photographers Jerry Uelsmann, Eikoe Hosoe and Christopher James, as well as book artists Susan Share, Hedi Kyle and Anne-Claude Cotty. He took classes at the Maryland Institute College of Art, and for years he made annual trips for summer workshops at the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle, Maine; Anderson Ranch in Snowmass Village, Colorado; and Pyramid Atlantic in Silver Spring, Maryland. He photographed in such far places as Twentynine Palms, California and Barcelona, Spain, as well as in Havana, Cuba and Prague, Czech Republic. He became a master of the panorama camera with which he not only photographed the UMBC campus but also Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família, the famous Catalonia church designed by Antonio Gaudí. One of his panoramas, a night view of the moon over the Library & Gallery, celebrated the opening of the Library Tower in 1995.

In recent years Pete devoted much of his time to making artist books on a variety of themes, including social satire and family subjects. At least two of his books were about his granddaughter, Emily, including *Ms. Manner's Guide to Watermelon* and *Emily and Spot*. Both of these books were highlighted in Kristina Feliciano's 1999 book *Making Memory Books By Hand*, and *Emily and Spot* was illustrated on the cover. At the time of his passing he was working on a portfolio of digital photographs with Visual Arts Associate Professor Emeritus Jaromir Stephany. The portfolio is titled "In Search Of...The Notorious Adventures of Barbie and Ken in the Toy Box." He was a member of the Friends of the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery and past chair of the Friends Council of that group. He was also a member of the Baltimore Museum Print, Drawing and Photograph Society.

Pete thrived on collaborative work. He loved being part of a productive research team based at UMB, where he held an adjunct appointment. Maureen Black offers these reflections:

Pete had a long standing interest in child maltreatment – from studies in the 1970's on prenatally drug exposed babies with Milt Strauss to current studies on failure to thrive and neglect with Howard Dubowitz and me. His books and publications appeared in the most prestigious journals in psychology and pediatrics, always with an emphasis on the science - policy link. Over 20 years ago, Pete, Howard and I formed a collaboration and friendship that bridged the two campuses (UMBC and UMB). In addition to securing several million dollars in grant funding, our collaboration paved the way for over 100 UMBC undergraduate and graduate students to participate in projects and receive training at UMB. We co-mentored many students through their dissertations, and in 2002 we were honored to receive an Inter-institutional Award from the Regents of the University System of Maryland for our collaborative work. No doubt that Pete's proudest moments were the successes of his students.

Pete was a brilliant man – his mind was always on "Go," as evidenced by his rapid fire puns – one after the other. He had a terrific sense of humor, together with an endearing sensitivity and empathy for others. We looked to him for creative solutions and he never let us down. From photography to papermaking and book binding, he was a talented and creative artist. He often talked of his family and was extremely proud of his sons, Matt and David; his grandchildren, Emily and Elliott; and of-course his wife, Janice. Pete's enthusiasm for life was infectious – we loved having him as a friend and colleague, and we will miss him deeply.
