

Dr. Philip R. Schmidt

July 9, 1941 - April 4, 2014



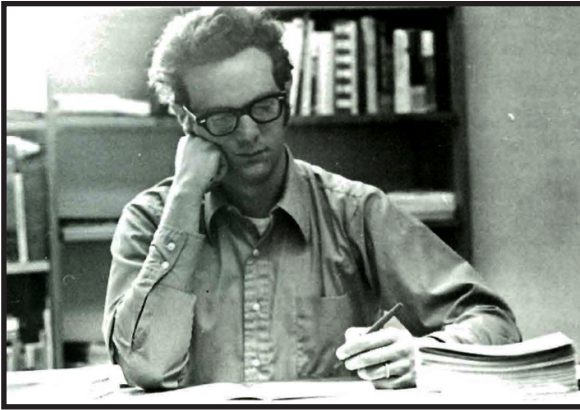
Memorial Service

Friday, April 11

4 p.m.

Richardson Performing Arts Center

Southwestern College



Dr. Phil Schmidt was barely older than his students when he joined the faculty at Southwestern College. When he taught his final class just a few weeks before he died on April 4, he was the institution's most senior faculty member. During the 47 years between those time points, Dr. Schmidt was a respected scholar, a revered teacher, and a beloved friend.

Phil was born July 9, 1941, in Detroit, Mich. He attended Ottawa University, graduating in 1963 at the top of his class. Eventually he earned his doctorate in history and anthropology from the University of Kansas, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

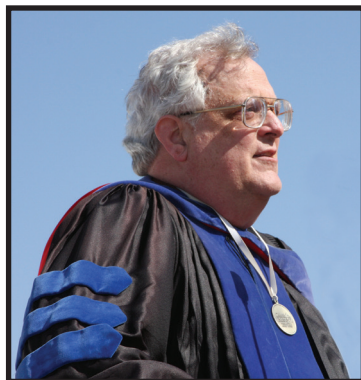
He became an SC faculty member in 1967 during the tumultuous Vietnam War era, and told his students they were learning history as it was being made. His pupils soon found that the young-looking professor had a razor-sharp mind and passion for teaching. This does not mean that Dr. Schmidt's classes were easy—three generations of students discovered this fact when their papers were returned covered with ink from his infamous green pens. He demanded college-level thinking and writing, and had a well-earned reputation as a grammar purist.

Wearing a year-round uniform of white Dockers, pastel shirt (long-sleeved in the winter, short-sleeved in the summer), and New Balance tennis shoes, Phil was not only present in the academic division; he participated in the full life of the

college. He was a regular at athletic events (and delighted at the success of the women's basketball team this year), ate hundreds of meals in the dining hall, and applauded his students' successes in music and theatre performances. He could be found on The Hill most evenings and throughout the summer.

Meticulous, conscientious, and caring, he often was the first face of Southwestern to new students, advising them as they mapped out their academic paths. "He always shared both knowledge and friendship in a delightful optimistic style," one former student recalled. He took pride in the achievements of those he taught, and delighted in their post-graduation friendships.

Well-respected by his peers, Phil was the Southwestern College liaison to the Chicago Center, past social sciences division chair, sponsor of Pi Gamma Mu, and a member of numerous committees and task forces. He received the Kopke Award for Excellence in Teaching from Southwestern College in 2008.



Phil will be deeply missed by his family—his wife of 51 years, Phyllis; his daughters, Amy Schmidt and Alleigh Allen; his son-in-law, Kelly Allen; and his four grandchildren.

But he also is mourned by his entire Southwestern College family, the students, faculty, staff, and colleagues by whom he was loved and admired. To quote one of his former students, "We all benefited from how he shared himself with us."

Prelude

Dr. James Leland, Organ
Fantasia in G major by J.S. Bach

Greeting

President Dick Merriman

Invocation

Rev. Ashlee Alley '98

Scripture

Trustee Scott Hecht '90
1 Corinthians 13:1-14:1a (CEB)

Solo

Martin Rude
Slide show designed by Terry Quiett '94

Memories of Phil

Friends

President Carl Martin
Dawn Pleas-Bailey, vice president for student life
Jennifer Nicholson '08
Scott Cheeseboro

Presentation by Social Services Division

Dr. Cheryl Rude

Closing Remarks

Rev. Ashlee Alley '98

Benediction

Alumni Ensemble