

## From the President

I am writing with great sadness to let you know that Jon Carlson passed away on Wednesday night, February 1. As many of you know, Jon was sick in recent months, diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome this summer associated with prior illness. Jon continued to write and work during rehab and treatment this fall. He spent the last week in hospice care in Madison, Wisconsin surrounded by his family.

Jon was among our most distinguished alumni and among our most accomplished faculty. He completed his Psy.D. with us in the inaugural class for that program in 1990. He received our first outstanding alumni award, given in 2006. In 2015, I was delighted and honored, as were so many of us, that Jon decided to return to Adler University in a faculty role, as Distinguished Professor of Adlerian Psychology within our Chicago Counseling Department and within our [Center for Adlerian Practice and Scholarship](#).

Jon was one of the most preeminent Adlerian thinkers, writers, and practitioners in the world. He earned doctorates in both counseling and clinical psychology and diplomates in both family psychology and Adlerian psychology. He authored over 60 books and over 175 articles and book chapters. Jon created about 300 professional training videos and DVDs with leading therapists and educators. For many years before returning to Adler, he was Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Counseling at Governors State University. He received lifetime achievement awards from several organizations. In 2004, the American Counseling Association named him a "Living Legend;" in 2009, the Division of Psychotherapy of the American Psychological Association (APA) named him "Distinguished Psychologist" for his life of contribution to psychotherapy; and in 2011, he received the APA Award for Distinguished Career Contribution to Education and Training. He was the only Adlerian repeatedly invited to present at the Evolution of Psychology conference. Jon's spirituality and his Adlerian values were very much intertwined, and he spoke with great fondness about his visits with the Dalai Lama. Several of his books are among the main texts in Adlerian psychology, and his videos demonstrating Adlerian psychotherapy with individuals, couples, parents, and teachers are iconic. He maintained a practice across all this work, counseling people, couples, and families – the last time he and his son Matt counted, they estimated that he delivered well over 80,000 direct client hours.

Since coming back to Adler in fall of 2015, Jon made substantial impact through revitalizing our Center for Adlerian Practice and Scholarship with Jay Colker. He helped to launch [AdlerPedia](#) and to solicit donations of Adlerian materials to archive. He mentored many students and faculty, helping them to understand more about Adlerian approaches and to publish. He co-led our popular Adlerian Consultation Hour. He trained faculty and supervisors in Vancouver and Chicago, and he also provided training for Don Bosco University in El Salvador.

Jon was tireless in his efforts to help us all be more [Adlerian](#), and he was a great champion of Adler University – both our legacy and contemporary work. I am grateful that he enriched our institution, across over 30 years of involvement, and enriched my life. I am thankful he helped me work to become more Adlerian, in particular by explaining to me how Adlerian is the Dalai Lama. I will miss him, and I know we all will.

Jon's family will be organizing a memorial celebration in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin in the coming weeks. For any who would like to join those of us who will be attending, we will share information about the memorial once we hear specifics.

### **Raymond E. Crossman, Ph.D.**

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