



teaching for several more years and easily had the distinction of being one of the most approachable and accessible professors.

When we read Jim's obituary a few days ago, we were struck by the breadth and length of his very impressive and varied career. As has been mentioned, Jim was a seminarian, an electrician, a researcher, a counselor, an educator and a scholar. He also found the time to be an avid gardener, raising amazing tomatoes. He was a multi-linguist, often reading religious texts and works in Latin, Greek and Hebrew. He wrote private poetry and was an early adopter of what is now considered the Mindfulness movement, incorporating prayer and meditation as part of his personal growth and reflection. As might be said, it is a very impressive CV.

And, as mentioned, Jim's life was highlighted and Kathleen and family, with brothers and sisters, children and grandchildren. You only had to speak with Jim for a few minutes before you realized that he experienced joy in his family, especially, JB, Annie and Michael. They all were different, pursued different walks of life and vocations, which is befitting as they all started in different places, but ended up in a loving, supportive and warm home. Jim frequently related his pride in how all of the children grew and have learned to thrive through life's inevitable challenges. He admired their perseverance and grit. And he had an abiding love and dedication to Kathleen, an intellectual powerhouse in her own right, who was a marvelous compliment to Jim in so many ways.

While the obituary highlighted Jim's family and accomplishments, it did not speak much about the man himself. Perhaps this is in keeping with both Jim and Kathleen's true humility. Still, there is much to be recounted in the life story of Jim Schuerger, which certainly won't be done here, except for a few thoughts and reflections, which we hope you will appreciate despite the personal nature of them.

If a person were allowed only one word to describe Jim, it would have to be, in our opinion, the word "humanity." More than any other person we have ever met, Jim displayed and lived a life marked by humanity. This humanity was the magnet that drew others to him. His transparency, gentleness, lack of guile, and true interest in the other person made him a most treasured and special character.

Without doubt, Jim was a smart, most likely brilliant person; he was funny and told funny stories; he understood the difference between hearing and listening; and had an uncanny understanding of nuance and subtlety. In short, he had an amazing ear for tone quality. Those characteristics made him a wonderful educator, a superb counselor, and a superior researcher. But those things do not define the really human soul he possessed.

One of us, as a struggling graduate student, who was confused about the future, once asked Jim a truly sincere, but vulnerable question—"Professor Schuerger, do you ever experience fear or anxiety?" Jim had a quick chuckle (which many of us can remember) and said, "Are you kidding.

provided the consensual validation that reduced the notions of aloneness that so many of us have experienced.

We do not believe that this ability to convey his humanity was necessarily instinctive, nor think it is a result of his academic training or practice. It had to