

In Memory of David Dilworth

Our colleague, David Dilworth, passed away in February at age 91. He was a founding member of the Philosophy Department, arriving in 1971, and taught as a full-time faculty member for nearly 55 years. He had an unparalleled grasp of the scope and systematicity of philosophy. Our department may never again see anyone with such a breadth of vision and such a record of service.

David's formation was frighteningly extensive. He had not one but two PhDs, one in philosophy (Fordham 1963) and one in East Asian Languages and Cultures (Columbia 1970). He was equally fluent in American, European, Asian philosophy and poetry, whether ancient or modern. Students in his classes read a mix of artistically and scientifically sensitive philosophers such as Friedrich Schiller, Arthur Schopenhauer, and Charles Peirce, as well as philosophically sensitive poets such as Emily Dickenson, Ralph Emerson, and Wallace Stevens. Charles Peirce was a particular favorite. When David was 81 he drove to the house Peirce built for himself at the Delaware Water Gap, in Milford, PA, which is now a "Historic Structure" belonging to the National Park Service. David took great pleasure in explaining puzzling features of the house to the Park Rangers, and spent an hour in the nearby cemetery looking, unsuccessfully, for Peirce's tombstone.

David was a sympathetic if often crusty teacher. You might go into his office and have him castigate you for lacking the background necessary to be a philosopher but, if you lasted all the way through, he would thenceforth always be on your side. He detested what he saw as tendency among contemporary philosophers to over-specialize. David's book, *Philosophy in World Perspective: A Comparative Hermeneutic of the Major Theories*, reveals what he thought philosophy was about: analyzing the all philosophical systems, East or West, ancient or modern, held by thinkers or poets. The point was to compare their structures and learn from all. His latest project, which he worked on literally to the day he died, was on describing a trans-Atlantic intellectual paradigm running from Kant and post-Kantians to American transcendentalists such as Emerson and then forward to pragmatists such as James and Peirce but with influences stemming from Goethe and looking to Freud. In this project, too, David exhibited the synoptic breadth for which he will be remembered.