

In Memoriam

Lyle Eugene Larson (1937 - 2011)

It is with deep regret that I write to inform you that Dr. Lyle Larson, Professor Emeritus, passed away on September 15, 2011 after a lengthy illness.

Dr. Larson, came to the Sociology Department in 1968 (and received his PhD in Sociology in 1969 from the University of Oregon). He was instrumental in developing the specialization area of the Family at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Dr. Larson's teaching and research interests included interpersonal perception, marital commitment, the religion-family connection, and marital and family interaction. Among his many career achievements, he was one of four founding editors of the Canadian Journal of Sociology in 1975. Dr. Larson retired in 1996 and moved to Oregon. I extend my deepest condolences to all his family, friends, and former colleagues.

Helen Boritch, PhD
Acting Chair

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University mourns loss of long-time sociology professor

Former University of Alberta sociology professor Lyle Eugene Larson died Sept. 15 after a long battle with Alzheimer's. He was 73.

Born in 1937, in Fairmont, Minn., Larson earned a bachelor of arts degree in theology from North Central University in Minnesota, a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Bethel College in St. Paul, and a doctorate in sociology from the University of Oregon.

He drove Greyhound for several years while being a student, pastored a church in Fairfax, Minn., for a short time, worked as department manager at Sears in Minot, N.D., and then became a professor at the U of A from 1968 until an early retirement in 1995.

During his tenure at the university, Larson enjoyed teaching extension classes in Whitehorse, Yukon, as well as in several Alberta outlying areas. He taught special classes on family and health at two of the Edmonton hospitals. He did extensive volunteer counseling for many years, taught many volunteer community and church classes, and wrote and co-wrote several textbooks and many articles.

A loving family man, Larson's great joy after retiring was driving, for seven years, the small school bus for EC CARES in Florence, Or.