



Dr. Paul J. Locher

August 20, 2024

Dr. Paul J. Locher, 83 of Moravian Village in Bethlehem, passed away peacefully August 20, 2024. Born in Allentown, he was the son of the late Paul and Teresa Locher.

Paul graduated from Central Catholic High School. In his early years he worked at his parents' store, Locher's Market, on Penn and Liberty St. in Allentown.

Paul holds Degrees from Kutztown University, University of Vienna and his Doctorate from Temple University. He was a Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Montclair University where he taught for 34 years. He has held positions as Visiting Scholar at Eindhoven University of Technology, Delft University of Technology, and the University of Leuven and as a consultant for many years at the French National Center for Scientific Research, Paris. His principal research interests focus on the sensory, perceptual, and cognitive processes that underlie one's aesthetic experience with the visual arts.

Paul published over 200 journal articles, book chapters, and conference proceedings. He is past President and was a Fellow of both the American Psychological Association Division 10 and the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics (IAEA). He received the 1999 Distinguished Research Award from the American and New Jersey Psychological Associations for

Outstanding Research in Psychology and the 2003 Gustav Theodor Fechner Award from IAEA for his life-time contribution to the field of empirical aesthetics. Paul was the Editor of the journal Empirical Studies of the Arts and was on the Editorial Boards of many journals.

Paul traveled extensively both professionally and personally throughout the world, however, his love for Paris kept him going back for over 55 years. He was an avid ice skater, loved the arts and theater, great food, champagne and spending time with his family and friends. Our 'Uncle Paul', as he was commonly known to many, will be greatly missed.

Survivors: Brother: John C. Locher and his wife Jeri of Macungie, Nieces: Vanessa Fry (Bill) of Macungie, Jill Nevenglosky (Pete) of Allentown, Great Nephew: Cole Nevenglosky of Allentown, and Cousin: Marie Sterlein of Bethlehem.

Services: Private.

Cemetery Details

Private

Tribute Wall

LJ

“ I had Dr. Locher for Experimental Psychology at Montclair State College in the 70s. He was, by far, the toughest, fairest and best professor of any class I ever took in any of my undergraduate or post graduate classes. But what he taught us and HOW he taught us made an indelible impact in my life. I'm now 77 and still think about him as an example of what teaching should be. I got a B in his class and nearly kissed the ground because it was as good or better than any A I ever got. He was in the Olympics for ice skater as well! I hope he had a good life and knew he changed lives by his teaching and by his example.

Louise Jones - February 07 at 02:30 PM

VT

“ Mr. Locher was my teacher at Lenape High School in the early 1960s. He was a good teacher. He was very young at the time. Looks like he had a good life and touched many people along the way.

Vinton Thompson - February 01, 2025 at 09:00 AM

TS

“ I taught chemistry with him in the 1960s at Lenape High School in Medford New Jersey. He was a likeable and stunningly talented unique person.

Ted Steinmetz - December 20, 2024 at 01:51 PM

SN

“ I just learned of Paul’s passing a few hours ago and I am heart broken. He was a friend for over 40 years.

I will miss you my friend and will think of the many happy times we had spent over the years. You touched many lives and made the world a better place.

Thank you.

*Steve Nahaczewski
Friend and student.*

Steve Nahaczewski - September 20, 2024 at 08:42 PM

MD

“ *Dr Locher changed my life.*

There were very few aesthetic researchers in country at the time I was an undergraduate and he just happened to be working at the school I just happened to be attending.

I went to my first conference in Hawaii because instead of allowing me to quit, he walked me through something that I found difficult and intimidating. We co-authored my first publication. He also introduced me to my graduate school mentor. Otherwise, I might not have found someone to work with who let me study an area only tangentially related to his, or anyone's for that matter. Even though I wrestle with my chosen path, he helped me be as successful as I am.

I will be forever grateful. Thank you 🙏



Melissa Dolese - August 30, 2024 at 10:36 AM

LC

“ Dr. Locher, as I knew him, was one of my first professors at Montclair State University in the graduate psychology program. His Theories of Learning class was definitely one of the most challenging classes I've ever had at any level (BA, MA & PsyD) but my classmates & I were all amazed at our growth afterwards. From his guidance, we learned how to understand empirical knowledge, and he showed us how to always seeking to use data to find the truth and support our perspectives. Sometimes I laugh because I think I still have a callus on my writing finger from filling out dozens of pages of those blue composition books on one of his exams. He provided some enlightening stories, sometimes from his research at a major museum and sometimes from his ice-skating career.

I think I think of him often as I teach my own graduate psychology class at Montclair State University and I am thankful for all that he did to help me develop into a school psychologist and hone my professional acumen. Thank you Dr. Locher!

Lee Cohen - August 29, 2024 at 04:42 PM

LJ

I had Dr. Locher for Experimental Psychology at Montclair State College in the 70s. He was, by far, the toughest, fairest and best professor of any class I ever took in any of my undergraduate or post graduate classes. But what he taught us and HOW he taught us made an indelible impact in my life. I'm now 77 and still think about him as an example of what teaching should be. I got a B in his class and nearly kissed the ground because it was as good or better than any A I ever got. He was in the Olympics for ice skating as well! I hope he had a good life and knew he changed lives by his teaching and by his example.

Louise Jones - February 07 at 02:27 PM

KS

“ Paul was a great colleague and mentor for many people in psychology at Montclair and inspired countless students to pursue careers in psychology. Paul's methods course was a real rite of passage for our students and I think he would be pleased to know how much the department grew and flourished over time. Paul studies aesthetics in perception and was a renowned researcher and scholar in the area. Besides the professional part of his life, Paul was an active traveler, chef, skater, and friend to many. He will be missed but his impact lives on. Ken Sumner, Ph.D. Montclair, NJ

Kenneth Sumner - August 29, 2024 at 04:14 PM

RL

“ My condolences to John and Jeri on the loss of brother Paul, he made the world a better place and he is in my prayers. Rest in peace. Randy Lentz

Randy Lentz - August 26, 2024 at 01:56 PM



“ We got to know Paul here at Moravian Village as he traveled his almost daily walks past our cottage. I would often go out to meet him and have a pleasant exchange of conversation ranging from art to weather, and of course his many activities and interests. We miss him!! Karen and Bill Berry

Karen Berry - August 25, 2024 at 02:24 PM

YP

“ Our condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Locher. Sincerely, Mick and the staff at Yeager's Pharmacy



Yeager's Pharmacy - August 23, 2024 at 12:44 PM