MEMORIAL TRIBUTES TO LEON POMEROY
Who died on November 24, 2015



Dr. Leon Ralph Pomeroy of Woodbridge, VA, died Tuesday, November 24, 2015, at INOVA Fairfax Trauma ICU, Fairfax Virginia following a tragic automobile accident. At his side was his beloved wife of 30 years, Dr. Wendy Pomeroy, and his nephew Bret LaFrance. Leon and Wendy were married October 17, 1985, in New York City. Leon was born December 6, 1933, in Westfield, MA, the son of L. Ralph Pomeroy and Rachel (Harlow) Pomeroy, of Westfield, MA. Besides his wife, Leon is survived by four siblings, Lewis Pomeroy, Seth Pomeroy, and Gaye Crowe of Westfield, MA, and Alma LaFrance of Huntington, MA; also, his sisters-in-law, Fonny Simandjuntak, Reny Anwar, and brother-in-law Sendy Anwar of Indonesia, and many nieces and nephews.

Leon Pomeroy, Ph.D., held advanced degrees in biology and psychology from the Universities of Massachusetts at Amherst and the University of Texas at Austin.

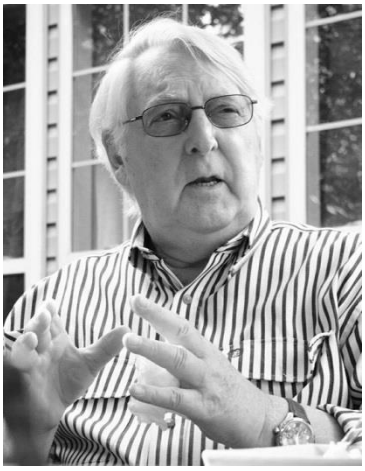
His doctoral dissertation involved work in the fields of psychology, computer science, computer-assisted data processing, biochemistry and nutrition, and biomedicine. Leon had worked on the original NASA space program to determine the effect of weightlessness on neurological functions of astronauts, and that led to early work measuring and correlating brain wave functions. His interdisciplinary research resulted in several publications that appeared in scientific journals, including the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA*, and the *Journal of Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology*.

Dr. Pomeroy also collaborated with psychoanalyst Professor Benjamin Wolman in editing the *Handbook of General Psychology* (Prentice-Hall, 1973), followed by a multi-volume encyclopedia covering the fields of psychology, psychoanalysis, and neurology.

He spent many years teaching, research, writing, and editing in the field of academic psychology. He held positions as an Adjunct Associate Professor on the faculties of New York University, the City University of New York, and Long Island University. He held positions as Senior Clinical Psychologist on the staff of the Outpatient Clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Brooklyn, and he established his own private practices in New York and New Jersey.



Among his many accomplishments, he formed the International Academy of Preventive Medicine and was elected the first Ph.D. President of IAPM. He served as Editor-In-Chief of IAPM Publications. These included a quarterly journal for physicians and the published proceedings of their annual conference (*Journal of the International Academy of Preventive Medicine (JIAPM*), and *New Dynamics of Preventive Medicine Series*.



Retiring from positions of Senior Staff Psychologist and Chief of Behavioral Medicine at the Brooklyn, VA, Medical Center, and private practice on Manhattan's Upper East, Dr. Pomeroy published *The New Science of Axiological Psychology* in 2005, followed by his relocation to Virginia, where he established a private practice and joined the faculty of George Mason University.

He spent a part of each week offering volunteer counseling to severely disabled veterans and trauma victims, right up to the day of his tragic accident.

As a member of the *International Leica Society*, Leon traveled the world "wearing" cameras. His professional, research, writing, editing, and photographic interests still left room for an in-depth study of fine art, antiques, flowers, birds, beekeeping, and music. Over the years, he assembled a library containing thousands of books.

He enjoyed international travel with his wife Wendy, and games, from competition level chess, to board games, with family and friends. He especially looked forward to Pomeroy family gatherings at Christmas and the 4th of July in Westfield and Huntington, MA.

A public memorial service was held at 2 pm on Sunday, the 6th of December, 2015, at the Wyben Chapel, Montgomery Road, Westfield, MA. His interment was in the Middle Farms Cemetery, Russellville Road, Westfield, MA.

Family Tributes

Wendy Pomeroy

Leon was so many things to me, not just a husband, but also a friend. Leon loved and lived life to the fullest. Living with Leon was full of surprises. I learned so much from him, from classical music to his favorite WW II films, to astronomy. Whenever we looked at the stars, Leon always explained the constellations, their history, and their significance to me.



We were married Oct 17, 1985, in New York City. We just celebrated our 30th Anniversary. Leon was a devoted husband, friend, and mentor to me. If someone ask me what would make a perfect life, I'd simply say, "I have that," for I have Leon in my life.

Leon's interests were not only in academics. He had so many hobbies. He loved photography. He had his camera with him whenever he went. He loved to travel. He ventured all over the world, where he captured thousands and thousands of pictures. Leon enjoyed beekeeping, which he cared for on his family farm in Massachusetts. Leon loved astronomy; he even built his own telescope when he was young. I tell his story largely in pictures because I think the pictures say it all about Leon.



Leon the Photographer



Traveling



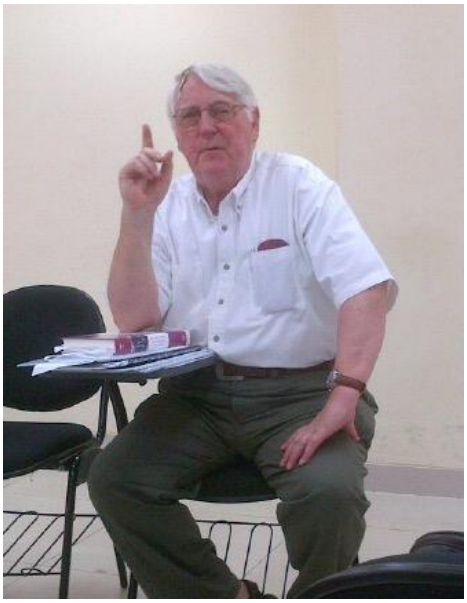
Leon in his beekeeper outfit.

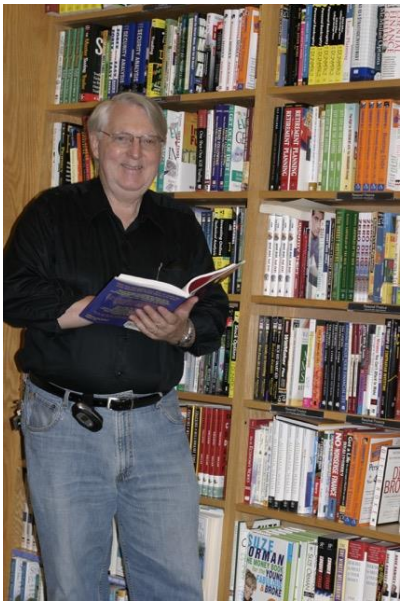


A young Leon with his telescope and dog Jessie.



One of Leon's dreams was to paint. I'm so happy that this dream came true in 2014 while we were travelling to Bali, Indonesia in November 2014.





Leon was an avid reader and writer, which was his passion. He was determined to record everything, even when he was traveling; he wrote travel diaries wherever he went. Leon was in the middle of writing his memoir, which he said "aimed at putting a human face and voice" to his book. I would like to make Leon's memoir into a book for family and friends.



Alma Pomeroy LaFrance, Leon's Sister

Leon was the oldest of five, our big brother. He had our backs, he paved the way, he led the charge, he set the bar.





Leon's Family: Lew and Shirley, Gaye and Alan, Alma and Al, Seth and Cookie, Leon and Wendy



In front of the Pomeroy Farm House, 12/25/2014

Gaye Pomeroy Crowe, Leon's Sister

Leon was the eldest of us five siblings. We lived on a dairy farm, and we all had our assigned chores. Leon worked hard, but as a youth, he also had fun. When we were old enough to join the 4-H Club, we all exhibited our dairy calves at the local fairs. 4-H offered us the opportunity to meet other young people our age with similar interests. Many of them became our lifelong friends. Leon excelled in most of his projects and won a trip to the 4-H National Congress in Chicago.

There wasn't a subject in High School that Leon did not do well in. He had one good friend who jokingly called him "The Professor," which he became years later. One of Leon's high school classmates and friends was the Valedictorian of their class. He attended Leon's Memorial Service, where he said, "Leon was an outstanding person to all who knew him, and he will never be forgotten."

Leon inspired all of us to do well, and never to give up. Because of him, I know that I worked hard in college to get my degree and R.N. Then I ended up as an instructor in High School Health Programs. We have shared many life-long friendships because of 4-H and our High School and early College Years! Leon will be greatly missed by us all.

Of all of Leon's choices in life, his marriage to Wendy has been the most special! They had a wonderful 30 years together! We are all blessed by Wendy's being part of our family. Leon will be greatly missed by us all.

Fonny Simandjuntak, Sendy Anwar, Reny Anwar, Leon's sister and brother in law from Indonesia
We lived on opposite side of the world, but the few times that we spent with Leon were very rewarding. We have such fond memories of Leon. He was much more to us than just a brother in law. We learned so much from Leon, loved him very much, and will miss him a lot. The absolute best thing about Leon was his everlasting love for our sister. He left a mark on every single family member and his friends here in Indonesia. Leon will forever remain in our hearts.



Tributes from others who Knew and Loved Leon

Steve Byrum
I kept my distance from Leon initially. I had too much of a capacity to "keep distance." My "rural," small-town self-assessment often pushed me back. He had a sophistication that I first read as presumptuousness, but it wasn't at all. It was, rather, an aliveness to and ease with a world much bigger than the one I had ever experienced. He seemed to understand, and let me stand in my place. Any time I did approach, he was always welcoming to respond with his quizzing smile: "I'll be glad to respond. What do you have to say?" His height, compared to mine, required a leaning in on his behalf, but he always did. He invited. Now, I appreciate that gesture as respect and acknowledgement.

He made me aware of "status" and "seniority" in our Hartman scheme of things. Now, I'm sure that these were not his created obstacles but my own. I robbed myself of years of conversation by trivializing, for no good reason, substance of insight that was aggressively available but underappreciated.

That all changed. We became—I want to say—friends. We exchanged emails for years, and we quickly sat with each other when odd Institute meetings were held. I read his writings, looked carefully at his photographs, and became intrigued to wonder where he was travelling now or next. His late writings in his *Psychology Today* blogs gained a triumphant clarity that I have quoted in my own writing and shared with many others. I give his book as a gift to those more technically

inclined who want to understand the Profile. The more I read it, the more I am claimed by its depth. Any "axiological psychology" should bear his name.

To use the word *unique* about Leon is certainly appropriate from a Hartman perspective, but it is also very true. His long life was still cut short, but he will continue to have much to say—much to say—and I will forever be glad for having known him. My greatest "tribute" to Leon is how I will miss him, but even the vacuum of his absence seems to draw me to his large stature—and he is leaning in to me as he leaned in life. It will be with a sincere sense of gratitude that I remember Leon Pomeroy.

Gilberto Carrasco Hernández

I recall with joy the memorable opening ceremony of the *First International Congress of Formal Axiology* held in the Auditorium of the La Salle University in Mexico City in October 1983. There I saw Dr. Leon Pomeroy, with a radiant smile, accompanied by David Mefford, John Davis, Frank Forrest, John Austin, Rita Hartman, Ricardo Ortiz, Alfonso Lozano, Leonardo Gomez Navas, Jose Elias Martinez, and Israel Stolar. At that congress, we were all very young, and we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the death of Dr. Robert S. Hartman with high quality papers on formal axiology and its application to various fields such as administration, education, and psychology. This conference was especially significant because the papers were presented in the Library of Hartman's House in Cuernavaca. On the last day of this Congress, Dr. Pomeroy presented a paper on his psychotherapy with US Army veterans. I was stunned by the impressive positive changes achieved in self-esteem by a veteran who suffered horrors and committed atrocities in jungle fights during the Vietnam War.

As a psychotherapist and axiology researcher, Pomeroy had a genuine interest in helping people and building a better world. He was convinced that Formal Axiology is a powerful tool for this. With deep commitment, he participated in many different activities in order to disseminate this science. I will mention only a few. In 2001, I was fortunate to work closely with Leon in organizing the *Second International Congress on Formal Axiology,* "Advances in the State of Knowledge in Human Values," held at the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico (UAEM) in Toluca. That event was also of very high quality, and this university published the conference proceedings.

Like a gentleman and great colleague, over the years, Pomeroy always had a respectful attitude toward me and genuinely encouraged my academic work on implementing formal axiology in the field of human development. For example, in 2000 he agreed to be a reader for my doctoral thesis entitled *"Axio-orientation, A Proposal to Facilitate the Enrichment of the System of Values of the Personality."* Every time I gave a presentation at RSHI conferences about the progress of my theoretical and practical research on the experiential teaching of formal axiology to young people, teachers, and school principals, Pomeroy encouraged me. At the last conference of RSHI attended by Pomeroy in October 2014, he gave me a warm positive feedback and a detailed description of the faces and smiles of approval of each of our colleagues who were listening my presentation on *"The Technology of Organizational-Human Development."* That day, after sharing a delicious dinner, Pomeroy said to me, "Axio-brother, because we are axiological brothers, ok, we will disseminate among youth the I, the E, and the S." Our last conversation was on that topic.

My friend, Leon Pomeroy, died at full maturity. He was at the best time of his married life with his beloved wife, Wendy. He was at the height of his career. Rest in peace!

K.T. Connor

Leon Pomeroy and I often had dinner together during conferences for we both stayed at the hotel off campus. Those dinners were fascinating times as we discussed board issues and research and his use of Hartman's work in his practice. It was never a dull dinner. In fact, Leon is actually responsible for me being on the Board. I had just finished giving a presentation on "Industrial Psychology and Axiology" at the annual RSHI Conference when Leon came right up to me and said, "It's so good to have another psychologist in the group. We should put you on our Board." His impact on me didn't end there. When I was in the DC area, I would arrange to meet him somewhere for lunch. And those delightful meals continued. My new husband attended the last Conference, and Leon and Wendy had breakfast with us that weekend. Leon was at his humorous best, both entertaining and impressing my husband with his stories and impish grin. We will all miss him!

Rem B. Edwards

From its inception, the Robert S. Hartman Institute was privileged to count a distinguished psychologist among its members and officers—Leon Pomeroy. At his own expense, Leon did all of his published and as yet unpublished research on the Hartman Value Profile and regularly traveled to and attended our Annual Conferences in Knoxville, Cuernavaca, and elsewhere. During his two terms as President of the Institute during the 1990s, I worked closely with him as the Institute's Secretary/Treasurer and Program Chair, so I know from much personal experience how hard and conscientiously he worked at his leadership job. He always responded to every issue and challenge in a timely, intelligent, and insightful manner.

Leon was dedicated to the task of insuring that Axiology as a formal science also became a natural empirical science of axiological behavioral psychology. His legacy from this is his book, *The New Science of Axiological Psychology*, which I edited and got published for him in 2005 in Rodopi's "Hartman Institute Axiology Studies." This book is the best and most success-ful thing available to establish the empirical validity of, and of standard interpretations of the HVP.

After the Institute began publishing our *Journal of Formal Psychology: Theory and Applications* in 2008 under my editorship, Leon published an insightful and challenging article in almost every issue. I could always count on him when I needed another good article! Over the years, he and I worked together meticulously and successfully on many important projects, and we became close and mutually respected friends, colleagues, and collaborators. All of us who knew him and worked with him have suffered a great personal and professional loss, from which we will not soon or easily recover. Leon was a very unique person!

Art Ellis

I met Leon Pomeroy at his first attendance at an RSHI annual conference more than 35 years ago. We had an immediate bond in that we were both in the field of psychology and both worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs in treatment settings. Leon had "rediscovered" Hartman at a seminar given by Dr. Salvador Roquet, after having run across his work earlier and dismissed Formal Axiology because he did not see any empirical evidence for it. During Roquet's seminar, Leon took the Hartman Value Profile and was amazed at the depth of information, convincing him to look into it further – and he found the RSHI. When Leon became a "convert," he dedicated himself to establishing that empirical base and left a legacy of 20 years of research in his book *The*

New Science of Axiological Psychology, as well as in many other writings. Leon's keen intellect as well as his skeptical and challenging approach always made for lively exchanges. The field of Formal Axiology has been fortunate to have had Leon as an advocate and a serious and devoted researcher. I have been fortunate over these many years to have spent numerous pleasant hours visiting with him about many topics. I was privileged to attend his memorial service in Massachusetts. He will be missed as a friend and colleague.

Anthony and Anne Marisco (friends)

What a great friendship ours was! 10 plus years of laughing, learning, and togetherness developed into a feeling of being more like "brothers". Leon's many interest served as a learning platform for us, as he was so well versed in so many subjects, past, present and future.

Our times together were very special to us, learning so much about so many things in our conversations. We will miss our "brother" very much but will forever hold all those memories close!

Vera Mefford

David and I first met Leon in the early 1980s through Dr. John Davis—then head of the Philosophy Department at UT. He and Leon were doing research together and published their empirical findings supporting Hartman's theory of value in *The Journal of the Cattell Institute for Personality Training* in 1982. Leon and David both gave presentations at the RSHI Conference in Mexico in 1983, and after that Leon made regular contributions at every Hartman Conference. He attended a seminar on the HVP at our Victorian home in Knoxville in 1984, and we became close personal friends, often visiting him at his apartment in Manhattan, which was close to Dr. Hartman's son, Jan and family. We frequently met Leon for happy hour at the famous Berkshire Hotel, where a harpist played his favorite classical music, and famous people like Omar Sharif would gather after work. We also discovered we shared several hobbies: traveling through Europe, photography, and beekeeping. My earliest memories of Leon include riding up and down the elevator at the Humanities Tower at UT during the Hartman conferences. He always had at least 3 or 4 bulky Nikon cameras, lenses, etc. hanging off his shoulders. An avid photographer, he tried to capture every moment. He would often ask me if I thought he would ever find the "right" woman, and I would assure him, "Don't push the river, Leon, it flows by itself—you have a soulmate somewhere in the world." We were overjoyed to receive a photo postcard from him toward the end of 1985, announcing that he had married the beautiful woman sitting next to him in the plane—Wendy!! They were just returning from Indonesia. Wendy and Leon were perfect for each other, and on our trips up north, we often spent the night at their home, visiting, eating, and engaging in lively discussions about axiology until the morning hours. Leon was incredibly proud of Wendy and her accomplishments, and she would often attend conferences with him. We met them in Asheville, NC for several days, where we shared good times and German cuisine.

My most vivid recent memories of Leon are at the conference of 2012, and the following days. Wendy could not attend that year due to her job, but Leon, Uli Vogel, and Malcolm North stayed in our guest cottage at the farm. Several of our colleagues and friends from Mexico, including Lino, Marcos, Gilberto, and Leonardo, were also staying with us. We had a grand time together, celebrating every evening. Leon discovered our huge flea market and drove there every day, stopping to take photos of unusual barns for his collection. On our last night as a group, we shared a big dinner and everyone told stories. We toasted and roasted each other, and named Leon the top

entertainer of the night. With the inspiration of 2 Heinekens, he was larger than life, and had us all laughing, weeping, and loving. Leon was a true Renaissance man: full of passion, dedication, and commitment, and always willing to learn, research, collaborate, and a mentor to many. Leon has been an inspiration to me for many decades, and I am certain the blog he recently wrote for *Psychology Today* will create new ripples of interest in axiology. I will not say good-bye, but rather "Auf Wiedersehen," my good friend…until we meet again.

Ulrich Vogel

After getting to know Leon during my first attendance at the Annual Conference of RSHI in October 2009, I offered him some German data regarding the Hartman Value Profile (HVP). Leon Pomeroy wrote the most significant book ever, giving the scientific evidence supporting Robert S. Hartman's formal axiology and the HVP (*The New Science of Axiological Psychology*, Rodopi: Amsterdam - New York. 2005). While reading his work with utmost interest, I realized that Leon had a lot of international data but no German samples. He told me about the arrogance of German professors he had approached, which made me ashamed of my compatriots.

On September 26, 2010, his email reached me out of the blue. He briefly mentioned the exact dates when he would be in Berlin and noted warmly, "I'm mostly a tourist who wants to explore Berlin and Dresden. I just thought if you're in the area it would be nice to see another Hartman enthusiast." Well, I wasn't really "in the area.' Nevertheless, I immediately booked a flight from Munich to Berlin. What a wonderful chance to spend a day with one of the best known axiologists in the world. Indeed, the day exceeded all my expectations.

On Tuesday, October 5, 2010, I picked him up at his hotel and we traveled the city. We took the tram and taxi to do some sight-seeing. I had both to concentrate fully on being his city guide, and to listen intently since he was intensely talking about Hartman and specific topics of value science simultaneously. He was one of the most intellectually challenging persons I have ever known. And he had a feeling for pictures at the right moment. With his video camera, we finally visited Bendler Block, the house where Robert S. Hartman was born, which is today a memorial for the German Resistance during Hitler's dictatorship. Leon presented our video at the Annual RSHI Conference the same year.

One of Leon's great capabilities was his talent to enthuse others by asking good questions, just brief words, in order to let the subject work in the other person's mind. It didn't take long before I offered my help to build up the RSHI in Europe. I strongly felt an inner ambition. While eating typical roast pork in the city center and talking about possible ways to distribute the knowledge of Hartman more effectively, he just put it this way, "Uli, we have the dynamite in our hands. Please, be the spark to literally set us on fire to let all people know about Hartman." I have been, I am, and I will forever be dedicated to this project. Leon set me on fire. Thank you, my friend, may your soul soar to infinite heights.

ULRICH VOGEL studied chemistry, political science, economics, and public law at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, Germany. He received his PhD at the Institute of International Relations at the University of the Federal Armed Forces Germany in 1999. Uli was a member of the board of the Robert S. Hartman Institute (RSHI) and the first president of the RSHI's European branch.