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Paul HERZBERG

Obituary

HERZBERG, Paul

Died in Toronto, Ontario on December 2, 2015, aged 79
 Survived by his sister, Agnes Herzberg and stepmother, Monika Herzberg. Predeceased by his wife, Louise; his mother, Luise Herzberg and his father, Gerhard Herzberg.

Paul's parents were refugees from Nazi Germany and were forever grateful to Canada and the University of Saskatchewan for welcoming them in 1935 Without the warm and generous efforts of Walter Murray, the president of the university, neither Paul's parents nor his mother's parents, just before the war, would have found a safe haven in Canada. Three months after Paul's parents arrival in Saskatoon, Walter Murray offered Gerhard a permanent professorship at the university Nine months later Paul was born.

Both his parents were superb scientists; naturally, Paul was groomed from conception to be a research scientist himself. After many years of trying, in various fields, to be a creative scientist, he gave up that goal, at age 40, and found his true calling as a teacher. For twenty-five years, he taught statistics to undergraduate psychology majors at York University and developed an intensive program of individualized instruction with the help each year of undergraduate teaching assistants. In all he taught some 3,000 students in this program and had almost 300 teaching



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assistants, many of whom remained in contact with him after their graduation and even during his retirement.

At age 44, Paul started swimming and became an avid swimmer. The highlight of the early swimming years was reaching a goal of swimming a kilometre in 20 minutes. In his later years, Paul's swimming speed decreased but he continued to record his times in his swim diary.

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