

FACULTY OBITUARIES

A Charismatic Teacher in the Classroom

Michael Z. Fleming remembered as a talented, dedicated educator

By John O'Rourke

Over the course of what colleagues describe as a legendary career, Michael Z. Fleming taught a wide range of courses—from personality theory, abnormal psychology, and counseling to forensic psychology and ethics in psychology. Fleming (CAS'66, GRS'71), whose career at Boston University spanned four decades, died on January 7, 2013, after a long illness.

During his tenure at BU, the College of Arts & Sciences lecturer coordinated Metropolitan College's evening school program in psychology for nearly three decades and was a School of Medicine adjunct associate professor of psychiatry.

"Michael Fleming was a talented and dedicated educator," says Michael Lyons, a CAS professor of psychology and department chair. "He was a very charismatic figure in the classroom. Many of my advisees had to wait years to get a seat in his legendary psychopathology class."

In addition to being a brilliant teacher, Fleming was also a clinical practitioner, working in many clinical areas over the years. Early on, he saw private patients who were seeking gender reassignment. This clinical experience led him to publish work on gender dysphoria, specifically female-to-male transsexuals. He had a long-term research interest in the use of feature films to teach psychology and later became interested in the use of film as a part of psychological assessments.

More recently he served as a forensic psychologist and an inpatient dual diagnosis (addiction and mental illness) coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health.

In his role as a forensic psychologist, Fleming conducted court-ordered evaluations, including competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, and aid-in-sentencing. He also provided court testi-



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mony regarding commitment of forensic patients, those found not guilty by reason of mental illness, found unfit for trial, or given a limiting term. He was a liaison with the court regarding such patients, conducting risk assessments and consulting with treatment teams on violence risk and sexual offending risk issues.

As an inpatient dual diagnosis coordinator, he evaluated and pro-

vided clinical services to patients with both substance abuse and major mental illness. He had extensive experience in crisis management and treatment interventions with patients experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder. He worked with both inpatients and outpatients with a variety of addictions, using group and individual treatment. He particularly loved working with his humor and film groups.



Colleagues recall Fleming's gift for developing meaningful interactions with nearly everyone he met. "If there was a way to get you to smile or to make a human connection, he was determined to find it—not in a superficial fashion, but rather by using his talents as a psychologist to understand your world," says Daryl Costos, a CAS lecturer in psychology.

"We have lost a beloved colleague and an extraordinary teacher," says Lyons.

KATHLEEN M. BENNETT (MED'84), 56, a School of Medicine assistant professor of medicine, on November 23, 2012.

Bennett had a reputation for providing exceptional clinical care and for being extremely dedicated to her patients. In the classroom she taught her students: "Quality care first and all else will follow."

She earned a bachelor's degree in biology from McGill University. After graduating from BU, she completed an internship in family medicine at Cook County Hospital in Chicago and went on to a residency in internal medicine at Boston City Hospital, now Boston Medical Center, where she served as chief medical resident. Bennett joined the BU faculty in 1989, when she was appointed a MED clinical assistant professor of medicine.

She served as assistant director of medicine, visiting physician, and program director for Boston City Hospital and was a staff physician at Uphams Corner Neigh-



borhood Health Center in Dorchester, Mass. She was a leader in health care administration at Neighborhood Health Plan and Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan and was chief medical officer at Senior Whole Health.

Bennett was known for her zest for life and her love of the ocean, and for driving her Volkswagen convertible, exploring new places and restaurants with her life partner, Sharon Hanson, traveling to the Caribbean, and enjoying the company of good friends and family. *Madeline Rosenberger (CAS'14, COM'14)*

KRZYSZTOF MICHALSKI, 64, a College of Arts & Sciences professor of philosophy, on February 11, 2013.

Michalski, a world-renowned Polish philosopher, was born in Warsaw in 1948. He received a master's degree in 1969 and a PhD in 1974, both at the University of Warsaw. He became a visiting professor of philosophy at Boston University in 1986 and a professor in 1990. His students remember him as a lively teacher with a dry sense of humor and a million stories to tell.

He was rector of the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen (the Institute for Human Sciences) in Vienna, an independent institute for advanced study in the humanities and social sciences that promotes, among other things, "intellectual exchange between East and West." BU graduate students can spend a semester or a year in Vienna working in the

