



IN MEMORIAM

Tom Schramski, PhD, TEP

Tom Schramski, Founder, President & Managing Partner of Vertress, a mergers and acquisitions advisory and consulting firm in health care and human services, passed away peacefully on December 30 at his home in Tucson, AZ, after a prolonged battle with cancer. Tom had just returned home a week prior from a family trip to Europe. Prior to his work with Vertress, Tom was a psychologist for many years in Tucson, and he worked tirelessly throughout his career on behalf of people with developmental disabilities.

Tom was born in Mankato, MN on December 18, 1951. He attended St. Peter-Paul Elementary School and Loyola High School, where he graduated as the salutatorian of his senior class in 1970. He also attended St. John's University and the University of Minnesota. He treasured all the friendships he made all of those years.

After leaving Minnesota in 1972, Tom lived most of his life in Arizona, primarily in Tucson. He received his BA from Prescott College and his PhD from the University of Arizona in Psychology. He practiced with a number of important figures in psychodrama and eventually focused his clinical work on those experiencing developmental disabilities.

Ever the entrepreneur, Tom chose to focus on establishing group homes and was an early leader in the sale of healthcare businesses to their own employees, including his own. He later expanded his repertoire into other aspects of the healthcare industry and even real estate. Tom was known to be an independent thinker: opposed to the Vietnam War in his younger years, an early supporter of disability and LGBT rights before it was mainstream, and, as he grew older, a proponent of immigrants' issues — a cause of particular importance to his wife, Christy.



Tom had sundry interests throughout his life, including cycling, blues music, travel, photography, meditation, literature and film, and of course the Vikings. He was an occasional fan of the Twins, though his California grandson, Hatch, tried to convince him otherwise. As he grew closer to leaving this Earth, Tom became especially close to his music and musician friends, with whom he also shared a passion for bacanora.

He was the consummate hard-driving professional, but his final moments with friends and family showed how loving and compassionate he was. He is survived by his mother, Jean; siblings, James (Mary) and Nancy; wife, Christy; sons, Paul (Katie) and Samuel (Ana Carolina); stepdaughters, Akilah and Daisia; and grandchildren, Hatch and Magnolia.

From Dena:

Tom Schramski studied psychodrama with Elaine Goldman and Leo Fine. He brought the Federation of Trainers conference to Tucson in the early eighties and wrote many articles for our journal on various populations — see articles at www.zotero.org/psychodrama/items/q/schramski. Tom was an advocate for individuals and families with developmental disabilities. He started CPES, an agency that dealt with that population, and then sold it to the employees. Tom started the Tucson Center for Psychodrama and did trainings and ran open sessions with me for the community for five years. Tom left psychodrama in the nineties but took his skills and his love of psychodrama and sociometry to many successful business ventures.

Tom was my friend of forty years, my colleague and the man who turned me on to Psychodrama. I will be missing him as I know those of you who knew and learned from him will as well.

Dena Baumgartner