

# **Mourning online faculty: Creating communities of bereavement through virtual memorial services**

Wednesday, November 18, 2020  
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

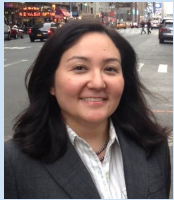
Carla Sofka, PhD, MSW, Siena College  
Matthea Marquart, MSSW, Columbia University School of Social Work

CSWE APM

# Your Presenters



**Carla Sofka, PhD**  
Professor of Social Work  
[csofka@siena.edu](mailto:csofka@siena.edu)



**Matthea Marquart, MSSW**; Twitter @MattheaMarquart  
Assistant Dean, Online Education; Lecturer  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/matthea-marquart/>



<https://www.siena.edu/>



<https://socialwork.columbia.edu/academics/online-msw/>

# Content warning / virtual moment of silence

We will be talking about topics of grief and loss throughout this session, and we recognize that this has been a tough year.

A reminder of strategies that may be helpful as you view this recording:

- Grounding, mindfulness, breathing techniques
- Using the pause button to take a break

# AGENDA

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Welcome, agenda, and introductions      |
| 2 | Background and context                  |
| 3 | Definitions, key concepts, and models   |
| 4 | Example of a faculty death and memorial |
| 5 | Implications and lessons learned        |
| 6 | Wrap up: References and thank you       |

# Overview & Learning Objectives

As online social work education expands, programs need ways to support geographically dispersed communities when faculty members pass. This workshop will describe the role of technology in creating digital legacies, identify ways to support online communal grieving, and share a virtual memorial service that provides an example for other programs.

At the completion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

- Describe the social media mourning model and how it can be modified to include communal grieving that occurs in an online learning community when a member of that communities dies;
- Define disenfranchised grief, the concept of a digital legacy, second loss, and provide examples of these concepts;
- Identify strategies that can be used to facilitate commemoration of a deceased faculty member and opportunities for communal grieving among colleagues and students in an online learning community.

# Interacting with the Presenters

- If you are watching this recording during APM, we will be available during the live Q&A time
- If you are watching this recording during the year after APM, please feel free to reach out to us:
  - Carla Sofka: [csofka@siena.edu](mailto:csofka@siena.edu)
  - Matthea Marquart: Twitter @MattheaMarquart, or [mms2002@columbia.edu](mailto:mms2002@columbia.edu)

# How often do programs experience the death of a faculty member?

In 2015, CSWE's annual survey of programs included questions on faculty employment.

- More than a third of the 529 programs reported losses of faculty members due to retirement, budget cuts, or other reasons, which presumably include death (CSWE, 2016).

# Trends Impacting the Relevance of this Topic

## 1) Growth of online course delivery in MSW programs

The 72 programs in which **more than 90% of coursework is online** deliver their online courses in synchronous and asynchronous models (respondents could select all that applied):

<b>F</b>	<b>90%+ OF PROGRAM OFFERED ONLINE FORMAT</b>	<b>Number indicating offered</b>	<b>% of institutions (N = 72)</b>
	Some <b>required</b> classes <b>synchronous</b>	36	50.0
	Some <b>required</b> classes <b>asynchronous</b>	50	69.4
	Some <b>elective</b> classes <b>synchronous</b>	34	47.2
	Some <b>elective</b> classes <b>asynchronous</b>	56	77.8

2019 CSWE Annual Statistics: 30.1% of MSW programs that responded offer 90%+ of their program in an online format (Total sample size = 239)



# Note: Online education has increased in Fall 2020, in response to the pandemic

“Among all program levels, 18.6% of respondents kept traditionally in-person programs in-person for fall 2020, whereas **45.2% moved traditionally in-person programs to a hybrid format (with at least 50% of course time administered remotely), and 37.8% moved traditionally in-person programs entirely online.**”

Some programs reported multiple changes, including some that kept programs in-person, moved them to hybrid, moved them entirely online, and allowed students to choose how they wanted to attend. More baccalaureate programs (25.2%) remained in-person than master’s (11.5%), practice doctorate (11.1%), or research doctorate (0.0%) programs.”

# Trends Impacting the Relevance of this Topic

2) Increased use of digital and social media to cope with loss

3) Death in the era of COVID-19: New urgency for considering how to commemorate a death when it is not possible to gather in person

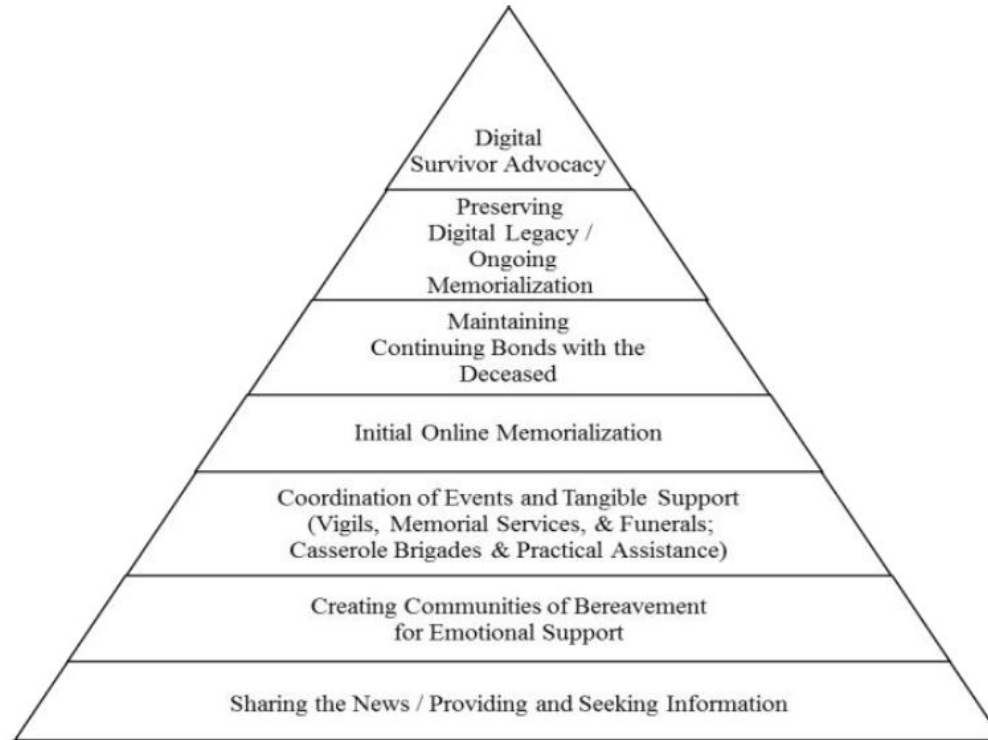
# “Communities of Bereavement”

In April of 1999, Edward Linenthal\* speculated that the creation of popular shrines at the sites of mass deaths (Columbine HS and in Oklahoma City in 1995) might come from people’s desire to overcome feelings of powerlessness and to experience a sense of unity following a common loss, resulting in the creation of a ‘community of bereavement’ that transcends race, ethnicity, and other distinctions”.

In the age of digital and social media, commemoration of individuals who have died is occurring online...

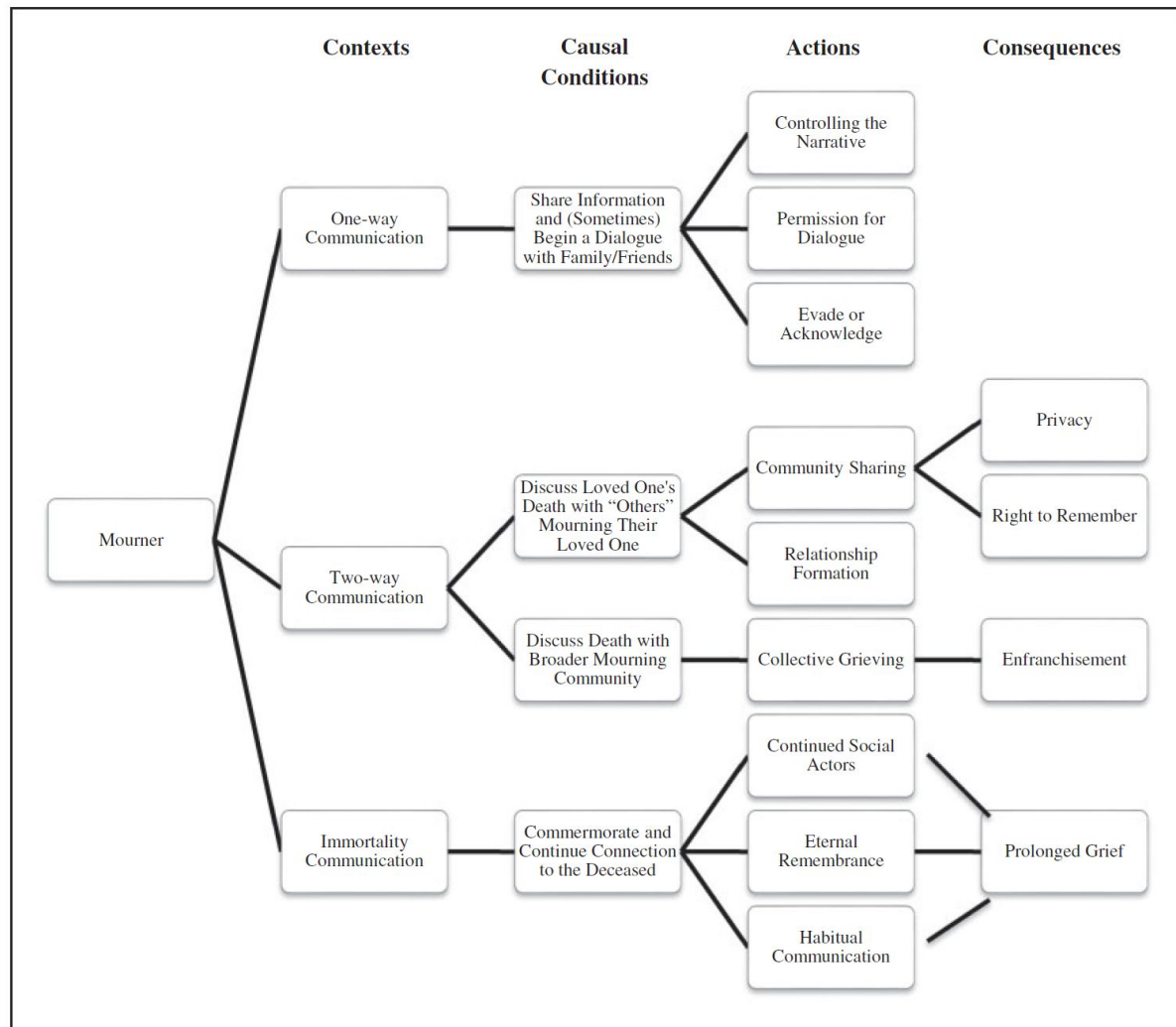
\*Cited in Neibuhr & Wilgoren (1999)

# Roles of Social Media in Coping with Loss



Sofka (2018)

Social Media Mourning Model  
 (Moore, Magee,  
 Gamreklidze, &  
 Kowalewski, 2019)



# Disenfranchised Grief

Doka (1989): Grief that is not publicly recognized or socially acknowledged

When a faculty member dies:


- Loss of a relationship with a colleague
- Mentoring relationship
- Teaching and/or research collaboration
- Loss of opportunity to learn from someone

# Example virtual memorial service

The screenshot shows a virtual memorial service interface for Professor Steven Schinke. At the top, a banner reads "Remembering STEVEN SCHINKE (1945-2019) D'Elbert and Selma Keenan Professor of Social Work" and includes the Columbia School of Social Work logo with the motto "Make waves. Move mountains. Change lives." A video window on the left shows a woman, Matthea Marquart. The central video player displays a slide with the text "Remembering Steven Schinke D'Elbert and Selma Keenan Professor of Social Work & Senior Director of CSSW's Online Campus". To the right is a framed portrait of Steven Schinke. A blue instruction box says "Please feel free to chat below throughout the event. To the right, please sign our virtual guest book." Below this are two chat windows: "This area is for informat chatting throughout the event (Everyone)" and "Please sign our virtual guest book here (Everyone)".

# This virtual memorial was in addition to asynchronous online tributes

**REMEMBERING STEVEN SCHINKE**

A portrait of Steven Schinke, a man with short grey hair, wearing a dark blue pinstriped suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a blue tie. He is smiling. In the background, a framed seal of the University of Wisconsin is visible.

January 11, 2019 @ 4:53 pm By Communications Office


**Professor Schinke's groundbreaking research significantly moved forward social work knowledge in many important domains including mental health, substance abuse, AIDS prevention, and children's well-being. He will be sorely missed by his friends, colleagues, and former students.**

Steven P. Schinke, the D'Elbert and Selma Keenan Professor of Social Work at the Columbia School of Social Work, died Tuesday, January 1, near his home in Roxbury, Connecticut, of pulmonary fibrosis. He was 73.

Steven was a globally recognized leader in the field of prevention science. In a career spanning four decades, he developed and tested programs aimed at helping children and adolescents, principally at-risk youth, to reduce risky behaviors that would compromise their health and life chances.

With funding from the National Institutes of Health and other federal agencies, Steven's research addressed such topics as sexual risk-taking and substance and alcohol use among adolescents. His studies contributed meaningful data on minority populations largely overlooked in the literature, including Native American youth, urban youth, Hispanic youth, mothers and daughters, and children with developmental disabilities.

**TRIBUTES TO PROFESSOR STEVEN SCHINKE**

A tribute image featuring a portrait of Steven Schinke in a library setting. The text "STEVEN SCHINKE (1945 - 2019) D'Elbert and Selma Keenan Professor of Social Work" is overlaid on the image.

January 17, 2019 @ 4:16 pm By Communications Office

Since we [announced the loss of Steven Schinke](#), the D'Elbert and Selma Keenan Professor of Social Work and senior advisor to our online campus, tributes have been pouring in. We offer a selection of them below. If you'd like to add your own tribute, please post it as a comment.

**From Faculty Colleagues**

*For more than a decade Steven has been my go-to person for anything I was pondering—research, teaching, political issues, whatever. he was always there, always open and welcoming: we shared a passion for the digital world; impossible to overestimate how much I will miss him.*

—Kathy Shear, Marion E. Kenworthy Professor of Psychiatry in Social Work

<https://socialwork.columbia.edu/news/remembering-steven-schinke/>  
<https://socialwork.columbia.edu/news/tributes-to-professor-steven-schinke/>



# Agenda for the service

- *Prior to beginning:* Slideshow of quotes
- *Throughout:* Virtual guest book for attendees to sign, and an informal chat area that was active throughout the memorial
- Welcome & brief introduction to Adobe Connect for newcomers (including accessibility notes on how to access live captioning and increase chat font size)
- Moment of silence
- Prepared remarks:
  - Video remarks from Interim Dean Irv Garfinkel
  - Recorded remarks from Professor & Dean Emeritus Jeanette Takamura
  - Live remarks from faculty colleague Craig Schwalbe, including a poem shared by faculty colleague Katherine Shear
  - Live remarks from research colleagues Lin Fang and Traci Schwinn
  - Live remarks from Online Campus colleague Matthea Marquart
- Video clip of Steven teaching a simulated online class (*no student privacy concerns*)
- Video with some fun clips of Steven
- Two polls
- Open mic for anyone to speak on webcam and/or microphone

# Layout for showing videos

The screenshot shows an Adobe Connect meeting window titled "Remembering Professor Steven Schinke: Virtual Memorial Service (Teaching clip) - Adobe Connect". The interface includes a top navigation bar with "Meeting", "Layouts", "Pods", and "Audio" options. A central banner features the text "Remembering STEVEN SCHINKE (1945-2019) D'Elbert and Selma Keenan Professor of Social Work" and the "COLUMBIA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK" logo with the motto "Make waves. Move mountains. Change lives.".

On the left, a video thumbnail shows "Matthea Marquart". The main content area displays a presentation slide titled "What Measurement Level?" with a list of units: "Your annual income", "Likert scale", "Standardized test score", "Hair color", "Fahrenheit scale temperatures", and "What level is hair, and why?". To the right of the slide is a portrait of Steven Schinke in a gold frame, labeled "Steven Schinke".

A video player at the bottom center shows a progress bar at "0:00:22 / 0:02:53". Below the player, a blue banner reads: "Please feel free to chat below throughout the event. To the right, please sign our virtual guest book.".

At the bottom, there are two chat areas. The left one is titled "This area is for informat chatting throughout the event (Everyone)". The right one is titled "Please sign our virtual guestbook here (Everyone)" and includes a text input field and a "Everyone" label.

# Layout for speakers

The screenshot displays an Adobe Connect virtual meeting window titled "Remembering Professor Steven Schinke: Virtual Memorial Service (Speakers) - Adobe Connect". The interface includes a top navigation bar with "Meeting", "Layouts", "Pods", and "Audio" options. A central banner features the text "Remembering STEVEN SCHINKE (1945-2019) D'Elbert and Selma Keenan Professor of Social Work" and the Columbia School of Social Work logo with the motto "Make waves. Move mountains. Change lives.".

On the left, an "Agenda for our Virtual Memorial for Professor Steven Schinke" lists the following items:

- Before we begin: slideshow of quotes
- Welcome & Introduction
- Moment of silence
- Prepared remarks, videos, and polls:
  - From CSSW leadership: Irv Garfinkel and Jeanette Takamura
  - From faculty colleague: Craig Schwalbe
  - From research colleagues: Lin Fang and Traci Schwinn
  - From CSSW Online Campus colleague: Matthea Marquart
- Open mic

The main area shows a video feed of Matthea Marquart and a framed portrait of Steven Schinke. A blue banner below the video reads: "Please feel free to chat below throughout the event. To the right, please sign our virtual guest book." Below this are two chat windows. The left window is titled "This area is for informat chatting throughout the event (Everyone)". The right window is titled "Please sign our virtual guest book here (Everyone)" and features a virtual guestbook interface with a text input field and a "Everyone" label at the bottom.

# Layout for polls

The screenshot shows an Adobe Connect meeting window titled "Remembering Professor Steven Schinke: Virtual Memorial Service (Polls) - Adobe Connect". The interface is divided into several sections:

- Header:** A blue banner with the text "Remembering STEVEN SCHINKE (1945-2019) D'Elbert and Selma Keenan Professor of Social Work" and the Columbia School of Social Work logo with the tagline "Make waves. Move mountains. Change lives."
- Video:** A small video window on the left shows a woman named "Matthea Marquart".
- Poll 1:** A poll window titled "Steven was extremely humble about his impressive accomplishments. Which of these" with the question "Steven was extremely humble about his impressive accomplishments. Which of these is new information for you? (select as many as you like)". It lists four options with progress bars and 0% completion: "Since 1985, Steven was the PI on grants from NIH totaling \$34,427,941", "Starting in 2013, Steven taught 27 online courses at CSSW and won an international Excellence in Online Teaching Award from the Online Learning Consortium", "Steven was the founding president of the Society for Prevention Research from 1993-95 and was made a SPR Fellow in 2016", and "In 2016, Steven was ranked #10 in lifetime scholarly impact among fellows of the American Academy of Social Work & Social Welfare and the Society for Social Work and Research, according to h-Index (his h-Index was 48 at that time)". A "Broadcast Results" checkbox is checked.
- Poll 2:** A poll window titled "Steven was wonderful at using vivid language. Which of these phrases is yo..." with the question "Steven was wonderful at using vivid language. Which of these phrases is your favorite?". It lists three radio button options: "I'm peachy-keen; how are you?", "Let's add a little razzle-dazzle to this lesson", and "Everything is tickety-boo; thank you for asking". A "No Vote" option is selected. A "Broadcast Results" checkbox is checked.
- Chat:** A large white chat area at the bottom left with the text "This area is for informat chatting throughout the event (Everyone)".
- Guest Book:** A virtual guest book at the bottom right with the text "Please sign our virtual guest book here (Everyone)". It includes a text input field and a "Everyone" label.

# Poll text

1. Steven was extremely humble about his impressive accomplishments. Which of these is new information for you? (select as many as you like)
  - Since 1985, Steven was the PI on grants from NIH totaling \$34,427,941
  - Starting in 2013, Steven taught 27 online courses at CSSW and won an international Excellence in Online Teaching Award from the Online Learning Consortium
  - Steven was the founding president of the Society for Prevention Research from 1993-95 and was made a SPR Fellow in 2016
  - In 2016, Steven was ranked #10 in lifetime scholarly impact among fellows of the American Academy of Social Work & Social Welfare and the Society for Social Work and Research, according to h-Index (his h-Index was 48 at that time)
2. Steven was wonderful at using vivid language. Which of these phrases is your favorite?
  - I'm peachy-keen; how are you?
  - Let's add a little razzle-dazzle to this lesson
  - Everything is tickety-boo; thank you for asking

# Logistics & considerations: planning and hosting the virtual memorial service

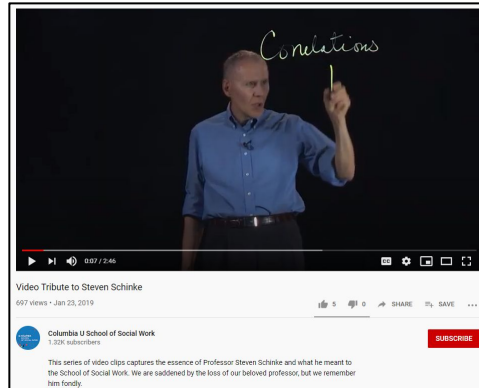
- Getting the word out
- Technical support
- Planning in case of bad actors
- Which stakeholders to include
- How to include the family
- Ways to include the current and former students and colleagues who had interacted with the professor both online and in person
- Whether to record
  - The event was recorded for Steven's widow; attendees were notified of this when they registered for the memorial and at the start of the session
  - To protect the privacy of the grieving speakers, the recording of the virtual memorial service was not shared publicly
  - The videos played during the memorial were made public on CSSW's YouTube channel

# The virtual memorial involved many people

- CSSW's Online Campus team: Planned and hosted the event, including setting an appropriate day/time, recruiting & prepping the speakers, inviting alumni of the Online Campus, designing and setting up the Adobe Connect room, managing the tech during the event, providing tech support, creating media, sharing the event via personal emails and personal social media: Matthea Marquart, Kristin Garay, Rebecca Chung, Johanna Creswell Baez, Josh Levine, Delia Ryan, Agata Dera, Elexia Lowe
- CSSW's Communications team: Managed the School's communications about the event, including managing the Eventbrite invitation, sharing the event on the School's website and social media, creating the banner for the room, creating a video with clips of Steven: Mary-Lea Cox Awanohara, David Licata, John Bohn, Dorothy Robinson, Katrin Kalketenidis, Janet Young, Joshua Cole
- Steven's wife Mary Schinke graciously looked over the event plans, to make sure they were OK with her
- Many colleagues helped spread the word about the memorial
- Speakers at the memorial (invited to share prepared remarks, recorded or live): Irv Garfinkel, Jeanette Takamura, Craig Schwalbe (included reading a poem shared by Katherine Shear), Lin Fang, Traci Schwinn, Matthea Marquart
- Attendees and spontaneous speakers during the open mic period

# Digital assets prepared for the memorial

- Recorded remarks
- Log-in guide
- Slides
- Banner
- Framed photo
- Top and bottom of a guest book, to frame a chat pod
- Video slideshow of quotes and photos (silent so that we could talk while showing it, formatted with dimensions that matched the layout and using a font selected to support accessibility):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmYEK9sLULO>
- Video with some fun clips of Steven:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XsQJ MzeGqR0>





# Getting the word out about the memorial: Email, social media, word of mouth

**Online Memorial for Steven Schinke**  
by Columbia University, School of Social Work

Free

**Description**  
This virtual memorial is an opportunity to come together to remember Steven and celebrate his life and impact. During the memorial we will have a few planned remarks, an open mic session for the audience to share stories and memories, a virtual guest book to sign and read, and the chance for attendees to engage with each other via typed chat. The memorial will be held online in Adobe Connect; for more details, please RSVP here. We hope this memorial will be a meaningful event for those who are grieving and want to celebrate Steven's life together.

**When can you log in?**  
The event will begin at 8:00pm EST, and you can log in anytime starting at 7:30pm EST to view a slideshow of quotes about Steven and begin to chat with others.

**How it works:**  
Access Adobe Connect by logging in [HERE](#) as a guest. A reminder will be sent out the day of the event.

Remembering Professor Steven Schinke

Columbia School of Social Work [@csswalum](#)@columbia.edu

Wed, Jan 23, 2019, 4:11 PM

**COLUMBIA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**  
Make waves. Move mountains. Change lives.

**STEVEN SCHINKE**  
(1945 - 2019)

Dear CSSW community,

Since the beginning of the year, the School has been mourning the loss of Professor Steven Schinke, who died on New Year's Day near his home in Robury, Connecticut, after a short illness. He was 73. You can read his obituary on our website.

An online memorial is scheduled for this Friday, January 25th from 8:00 to 10:00 PM EST, and registration is now open.

**OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES AND LEADERSHIP MANAGEMENT**  
Helping talented students and alumni lead impactful careers in the social sector

Home Resources Events Networking Enews Archive

**JANUARY 18, 2019 BY TOMOMI UETANI**  
Virtual Memorial Service for Steven Schinke | Friday, January 25th

There will be a virtual memorial service to remember Steven Schinke and celebrate his life and many impacts, and audience members will be invited to share stories and memories. See below for details:

**Date:** Friday, January 25th  
**Time:** 8:00 - 10:00 pm EST  
**Location:** via Adobe Connect: <https://columbia.socialwork.adobeconnect.com/rememberingsteveschinke>

**RECENT POSTS**  
Navigating the Job Search Times  
Making the Most of Info Career Advice from VNS Health Panelists  
NYC Civil Services Exam Application October 27

**AASWSW** @AASWSWorg

@ColumbiaSSW will pay tribute to @aaswsw Fellow Steven Schinke Fri., Jan. 25, 8:00-10:00 pm EST in a virtual memorial. For more details/to rsvp, [eventbrite.com/e/online-memor....](https://eventbrite.com/e/online-memor....) Colleagues interested in posting a tribute to Dr. Schinke should access [socialwork.columbia.edu/news/tributes-....](https://socialwork.columbia.edu/news/tributes-....)

Tributes to Professor Steven Schinke - The Columbia School of Social Work  
Since we announced the loss of Steven Schinke, the D'Elbert and Selma Keenan Professor of Social Work and senior advisor...

3:17 PM · Jan 24, 2019 · Twitter Web Client

**ColumbiaSocialWork** @ColumbiaSSW · Jan 10, 2019  
CSSW mourns the passing of Steven Schinke, the D'Elbert & Selma Keenan Prof of Social Work. He will be sorely missed by friends, colleagues & former students. You can read about Prof. Schinke's life & work as well as tributes from colleagues & peers here: [socialwork.columbia.edu/news/remember-...](https://socialwork.columbia.edu/news/remember-...)

**REMEMBERING STEVEN SCHINKE**

**Johanna Creswell Bae** @jrcreswellbae

Replying to @ColumbiaSSW

Please consider attending his virtual memorial Friday, Jan 25 @ 8:00-10:00pm EST. You can RSVP here: [eventbrite.com/e/online-memor....](https://eventbrite.com/e/online-memor....)

3:12 PM · Jan 17, 2019 · Twitter Web Client

**Matthea Marquart** - Please vote! @MattheaMarquart

We welcome @ColumbiaSSW students, alumni, and community members, as well as social work & research colleagues who would like to honor Professor Steven Schinke, to the virtual memorial we are holding on Friday, Jan 25 @ 8:00-10:00pm EST. Please RSVP here:

Online Memorial for Steven Schinke  
This virtual memorial is an opportunity to come together to remember Steven and celebrate his life and impact. During the memorial we will have a few planned ...

5:40 PM · Jan 15, 2019 · Twitter Web Client

**ColumbiaSocialWork** @ColumbiaSSW

RT @jrcreswellbae: Please consider attending the virtual memorial for Prof Steven Schinke Friday, Jan 25 @ 8:00-10:00pm EST. You can RSVP here:

Online Memorial for Steven Schinke  
This virtual memorial is an opportunity to come together to remember Steven and celebrate his life and impact. During the memorial we will have a few planned ...

8:45 AM · Jan 21, 2019 · Hootsuite Inc.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/online-memorial-for-steven-schinke-tickets-54610152436#>  
<https://twitter.com/AASWSWorg/status/1088531199017013248>, <https://twitter.com/MattheaMarquart/status/1085305664128409602>  
<https://twitter.com/jrcreswellbae/status/1085993274110869504>, <https://twitter.com/ColumbiaSSW/status/1087360476093317120>  
<https://blogs.cuit.columbia.edu/csswcareerservices/2019/01/18/virtual-memorial-service-for-steven-schinke-friday-january-25th/>

# Sharing lessons learned: *Inside Higher Ed*

## Article pitch: Share our experience to support others in the future

Dear Editors,

This month, one of our beloved faculty members, Steven Schinke, passed away after 30+ years at Columbia University's School of Social Work. He was the faculty director for our School's Online Campus and in recent years taught exclusively online; to memorialize him, in addition to posting an [announcement](#) and [tribute page](#) on the School's website, we hosted a live [online memorial event](#) last week for alumni, colleagues, and students across the country to come together to remember and celebrate Steven.

Our Online Campus is fairly new, having launched in 2015, and Steven was the only tenured faculty member to pass away while working that any of my colleagues could recall. Everyone who contributed to the online memorial event was grieving, and as this was an unprecedented situation and the School's first online memorial, we didn't have a playbook for how to plan the event. I tried an Internet search, but didn't find anything useful.

In the end, the event was beautiful, moving, and healing. We had almost 100 participants come together in Adobe Connect to share stories and memories. Still, I can't help but think that it would have been a less stressful event to plan had there been an article available online that I could have used as a playbook for planning.

Thus, I'm writing you to pitch such an article. I think it may be useful to share what went on behind the scenes to put on our live online memorial for Steven. For example, what elements did we put together for the program? What technical considerations did we need to plan for? What advice do we have for others who must plan something similar in the future?

I hope you'll agree that this would be an interesting article for your readers. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Matthea

## Unique Memorial for Beloved Online Professor

The death of a professor who was passionate about online learning prompted colleagues, students and friends to pay tribute to him through the medium he championed.

By [Lindsay McKenzie](#) // February 26, 2019



Steven Schinke was, by all accounts, a [wonderful teacher](#). When the endowed professor died from pulmonary fibrosis earlier this year at the age of 73, his colleagues at the School of Social Work at [Columbia University](#) wanted to find a way to pay tribute to him as an educator, academic and friend.

A memorial on campus would have been fitting. But Schinke taught exclusively online in recent years, and many of his students would have been unable to attend.

As the faculty director of the School of Social Work's online campus, Schinke was a vocal proponent of online learning. He told colleagues that his teaching had improved so much since he started doing online instruction in 2013 that he never wanted to go back to teaching in a physical classroom.

It seemed appropriate, therefore, to honor Schinke by organizing an online event, said Matthea Marquart, director of administration for the School of Social Work's online campus.

# Ongoing memorial: Steven P. Schinke Innovation Awards & Fellowships

## STEVEN P. SCHINKE INNOVATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



September 17, 2019 @ 7:54 pm

By Communications Office

The Office of the Associate Dean for Curriculum Innovation and Academic Affairs has announced a new opportunity for the School of Social Work's MSW and PhD students in honor of late faculty member D'Elbert and Selma Keenan Professor Steven Schinke.

Called the **Steven P. Schinke Innovation Fellowship Program**, it aims to support students with an interest in finding ways to use cutting-edge technology to improve teaching and learning experiences, in the tradition of Steven Schinke, who, in the final years of his career, oversaw the School's creation of the Online Campus, mastered the new technology, and shifted to teaching courses in statistics and research methods exclusively online.

Schinke embraced the challenges of online teaching with the same eagerness he had displayed in his career as a social worker and social science researcher. For his ground-breaking efforts in the online space, he was awarded the 2015 Excellence in Online Teaching Award from the Online Learning Consortium.

Within an academic year (October to April), Steven P. Schinke Innovation Fellows will

- ▶ Take at least two CTL workshops/courses/MOOCs related to teaching & learning (one per semester).
- ▶ Attend the monthly Fellows Hour, an in-person or virtual meeting to report back on progress and discuss ideas.
- ▶ Work with new convening groups such as the Office of Professional Excellence, the Office of Academic Affairs, and the Online Campus to support and/or develop projects related to academic innovation.

## ANNOUNCING THE STEVEN P. SCHINKE TEACHING INNOVATION AWARD



September 4, 2019 @ 11:01 pm

By Communications Office

The Office of the Associate Dean for Curriculum Innovation and Academic Affairs has announced a new opportunity for CSSW faculty in honor of their late colleague, D'Elbert and Selma Keenan Professor Steven Schinke.

Called the **Steven P. Schinke Teaching Innovation Award**, it recognizes faculty who propose innovations in teaching and learning in the tradition of Steven Schinke, who, in the final years of his career, oversaw the School's creation of the Online Campus, mastered the new technology, and shifted to teaching courses in statistics and research methods exclusively online.

Schinke embraced the challenges of online teaching with the same eagerness he had displayed in his career as a social worker and social science researcher. For his ground-breaking efforts in the online space, he was awarded the 2015 Excellence in Online Teaching Award from the Online Learning Consortium.

"As a professor who studies and uses technology, I was extremely impressed with the way Steven transformed himself into an award-winning maverick of online education," said Desmond Patton, Associate Dean for Curriculum Development and Academic Affairs. "I hope others will take advantage of this fund to do similarly transformative projects."

"Steven could make even students' most dreaded subjects approachable and enjoyable," said Matthea Marquart, director of operations for the Online Campus and a close associate of Schinke's for several years. "This new award is a fitting tribute to his enterprising and indomitable spirit. He was always trying something new in his courses in order to continuously improve and innovate."

## SCHOOL HONORS FIRST RECIPIENTS OF STEVEN SCHINKE NAMESAKE AWARDS



October 17, 2019 @ 10:51 pm

By Communications Office

**Two new awards ensure that the legacy of Professor Steven Schinke, known for his innovative approach to teaching and learning, will live on.**

On Monday, October 14, faculty and students of the School of Social Work assembled in person and through a video link in honor of the memory of D'Elbert and Selma Keenan Professor Steven Schinke, who died on January 1, 2019, after 32 years of service to the School. They had gathered to celebrate the inaugural recipients of two annual awards created in his name:

- ▶ **Steven P. Schinke Teaching Awards**, open to faculty members who propose to use innovative technology in improving teaching and learning experiences.
- ▶ **Steven P. Schinke Innovation Fellowships**, open to MSW and PhD students who wish to help the School with innovative special projects, many of them with a technology component.

The idea of memorializing Schinke through prizes acknowledging the creative use of technology seemed fitting to those who had taken classes or worked with this esteemed professor in the final years of his career. For most of his academic life, Schinke had been known for his dedication to the fields of mental health, substance abuse, AIDS prevention, and children's well-being, as well as for his scholarly productivity. He applied for and received grant after grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to a total of \$34 million, to support his research. But in his latter years, he branched out and became the driving force behind the School's creation of an online campus, which admitted its first students in 2015.

<https://socialwork.columbia.edu/news/steven-p-schinke-innovation-fellowship-program/>

<https://socialwork.columbia.edu/news/announcing-the-steven-p-schinke-teaching-innovation-award/>

<https://socialwork.columbia.edu/news/school-honors-first-recipients-of-steven-schinke-namesake-awards/>

# Lessons learned

- It's a challenge to organize an event when everyone involved is grieving -- consider finding someone who didn't know the deceased to help
- Consider scaling back all of the details involved
- It's worth the effort -- received a lot of positive feedback about how the memorial helped attendees with their grief

# Digital Legacy: Created before Death\*

- Digital assets and electronically-available information that is shaped by the roles and interactions the person had during life
  - E-mails / text messages
  - Course materials / Online courses
  - Electronic files
  - Webpage(s) / blog
  - Social media
  - Photos
- Content that is created or co-created by others
  - Interactions on someone else's social media wall or livestream

\*Definition from <https://digitallegacyassociation.org/about/what-is-a-digital-legacy/>  
adapted to describe the digital assets of an educator

# Digital Legacy: After Death

- Informed by what has been posted online about the person
  - Formal announcements by the person's college or university and program / department
  - Obituaries
  - Newspaper articles
  - Blog postings
  - External websites (not affiliated with the person's college or university)
  - Social media postings
  
- Memorial websites / tribute pages on
  - College or university website
  - Social media

# Concept of Second Loss: Components of faculty digital legacy to preserve

Bassett (2018): fear of losing the data created by or commemorating the deceased

- Example: Taking down Steven's faculty bio page

# Strategies for Commemoration

- Memorial service
- Naming of a space on campus
- Memorial events (series named in the person's honor)
- Memorial funds / scholarships / awards named in the person's honor

<http://dailyorange.com/2005/02/after-deaths-of-professors-students-and-faculty-look-for-ways-to-fill-in-the-gaps/>



# Implications

- Do protocols for death notification identify specific procedures for informing online students (including former students)?
- Have programs had conversations / developed policies regarding how to handle a faculty member's digital assets if someone dies while employed?

# How do institutions of higher education deal with faculty deaths?

Policies:

<https://compliance.berkeley.edu/responsibilities-guide/death>

- Death Notification

Commemoration:

- Annual Memorial Service for community members who have died during the previous year

Resources for emotional support are included

# Additional Examples: Deaths in the Era of COVID

## Death of Maurice Berger at UMBC (March 23, 2020)

April 2020: “For us and for our students, these tragedies represent a time to reflect on lessons learned,” said Freeman A. Hrabowski III, president of UMBC. “One of those lessons that Maurice truly believed is that we are all connected, that humankind is connected and that we need to talk about how we're connected.”

- Outpouring of tributes and condolences have been shared on Twitter and Facebook.
- “In Memorium” page was created: <https://cadvc.umbc.edu/in-memoriam-maurice-berger/>
- Publicly available Google drive was created to store tribute articles:
  - [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Q350eKX0M4INOV\\_6VTQI51RvrB8jtMz8](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Q350eKX0M4INOV_6VTQI51RvrB8jtMz8)

Source:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/04/02/scholars-remember-those-lost-covid-19>

# Commemorating the Death of an Educator in the Era of COVID

Schonfeld, the director for the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement and a leading national expert on school crisis management, said he is getting calls from school leaders across the country asking how they should plan to memorialize a deceased staff member.

“You don’t have to get together and hold up candles,” said Schonfeld. “You have to just figure out how to create community. You can do that remotely. More formal commemoration can wait. Those [ceremonies] are to make sure you aren’t forgetting about the person who dies—you won’t forget. So focus first on the acute grief.”

Source: <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/05/19/helping-students-grieve-from-a-distance.html>

# How do institutions of higher education deal with faculty deaths?

Unusual recent occurrence (death of professor during class online):

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/09/05/paola-desimone-college-professor-coronavirus/>

# Helpful resources

Death, Grief, and Funerals in the COVID age: <https://www.covidpaper.org/>

Funeral Guidance for Individuals and Families:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/funeral-guidance.html>

Virtual Funerals and Grieving During Coronavirus:

<https://www.lifeweb360.com/funerals-during-coronavirus>

# Thank you

Thank you for joining us

Thank you to everyone who contributed to memorializing Steven Schinke

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