

In Memoriam: Psychological Sciences Professor William Shadish

Professor Will Shadish, a founding faculty of Psychology at UC Merced who played a foundational role in the establishment of the tenth campus of the University of California, died on March 27 after over a decade battle with cancer.



Will was the kind of faculty colleague every colleague hopes for: thoughtful, courteous, inquisitive, and immensely dedicated to junior professors since he started working in our campus in 2003. UCM Senate faculty will miss him deeply. When SSHA assistant professors were experiencing particular

challenges in 2005, Will Shadish, together with History Professor Gregg Herken, stood by us, advising us, and holding regular meetings at our houses. That kind of support of assistant professors is extremely rare. Former assistant professors (now Associate and Full Professors) Sean Malloy, Jan Goggans, Ruth Mostern, Jeff Yoshimi, Teenie Matlock, Belinda Reyes (now at CSU San Francisco), and Cristián H. Ricci are indebted to Will for the rest of their careers. Professor Ruth Mostern comments, “[Will] was the most ethical, resolute and strategic member of the tenured faculty during the disenfranchisement crisis, and he stood up for us even though he was criticized by some of the other senior faculty. The fact that UC Merced continues to respect the leadership and contribution of its assistant professors is due in large part to Will's activities at a formative moment. He is one of my models for what it means to be a humane and engaged faculty member.” According to professor Teenie Matlock, “[Will] was very generous with his time. For instance, he would step in to take care of service matters so assistant professors could focus on research. We’ll miss Will. He was a passionate, dedicated scholar and scientist who gave a lot of himself to our campus.”

A tremendous scholar in his field, he left an indelible mark on his colleagues across campus. Immediately after he was hired he joined every major faculty committee school-wide, campus wide and university-wide. In recognition of his tireless work for our university, Dr. Shadish received the Dr. Fred Spiess Award for Distinguished Service from the Academic Senate in 2015.

Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts Jill Robbins asserts, “Dr. Shadish was also an extraordinary scientist. He became only the second Distinguished Professor at UC Merced and was recognized with the Academic Senate Distinguished Research Award in 2011. His main research contributions were to the *how of behavioral sciences*, including program evaluation, psychology of science, experimental design, and meta-analysis. He had a remarkably broad impact, not only in psychological sciences, but also in other behavioral and health sciences. His work has been cited over 22,500 times.”

According to his colleague Jack Vevea, Will helped build a new research campus, with high quality education and research programs in Psychological Sciences. Among his many contributions in this area, he designed the Psychology Major, which is the second largest on campus; and led the CCGA review resulting in the PhD program in Psychological Sciences, which is now the home to some 40 PhD students, becoming only the second approved program on campus.

Dr. Jan Wallander, Academic Personnel Chair of Psychological Sciences, concurs, "I first met Will in 1975 as an incoming PhD student in Clinical Psychology at Purdue University, where Will was two years ahead of me. We played on the softball team together and met at parties etc, but were in different labs. He impressed me immediately as a principled and caring person, with a thick reddish hair and beard. Subsequently, I noticed his incredible scientific contributions over the years, but only saw him in passing at a couple of conferences. When I saw that he chaired the search for the position I applied to at UC Merced in 2006, I thought, 'Well if he is there, this must be a really good place to work.' Indeed, the prospect of joining him to build programs in psychology and develop a university was the main reason I chose to come to UC Merced."

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. April 17 at the Mariposa Funeral Home, 4918 9th St., Mariposa. Flowers for the service may be ordered through Merced Floral, 209-722-7444.

Will is survived by his wife Cindy.

Cristián H. Ricci, Professor of Iberian and North African Studies, and Chair of the UC Merced Divisional Council

Jan Wallander, Professor of Psychological Sciences

Jack Vevea, Associate Professor of Psychological Sciences

Teenie Matlock, Professor of Cognitive Science

Jan Goggans, Associate Professor of English

Ruth Mostern, Associate Professor of History

Sean Malloy, Associate Professor of History

Belinda Reyes, Associate Professor of Latino Studies, San Francisco State University

Jeffrey Yoshimi, Associate Professor of Philosophy