

## **Russell J. Kormann**

Russ Kormann, passed away on November 24, 2014, much much too soon for someone who summarily served as the professional voice, advocate and champion for those who had none-individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. I have had the privilege of knowing Russ for almost 30 of his 53 years, first as an intern under my direction at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) and subsequently as a mentor, colleague, friend, and collaborator at GSAPP. Russ was born and raised in Baltimore. As such, he was early traumatized when his beloved Colts left his city for Indianapolis. Undaunted, he remained a staunch fan and passed this unbridled love of sports on to his son Alex, and daughter Maggi. Russ met his wife Nivine, while both worked in NSTM at FDU. Russ remained everything Baltimore from being insufferable regarding the quality of crab cakes prepared outside of its city limits, to the Baltimore Orioles who, during his last months of suffering with terminal cancer, provided him with brief moments of joy as they almost made it to the world series. I will particularly miss sharing Monday mornings with Russ as we and several likeminded students would discuss the vagaries of the previous weekend's sports.

Russ attended Franklin & Marshall College, graduating in 1983 and took his first job at Devereux working with individuals with developmental disabilities. This experience served as a springboard for his subsequent life's work. He went on to Hofstra for his Ph.D. graduating in 1989. He specifically chose the FDU internship because of its inclusion of a tract with developmental disabilities via NSTM. Russ quickly embraced the NSTM model and extended its reach into the schools. Here he became a sought after consultant. Russ' passion for championing equal access for evidence-based treatment for this underserved group is best reflected in the more than 50 conference presentations he and a gaggle of his graduate students conducted worldwide along with more than 20 chapters and journal articles. He was passionate about mentoring both clinical and school graduate students. During his tenure at GSAPP, he and NSTM provided practica for more than 120 graduate students and internships for School Psychology students. More than one million dollars of support has been provided for students. More importantly, many of his students remain dedicated to working with these individuals.

Speaking for all of us who Russ touched in his short life, I can say that a day doesn't go by without his absence being felt. His hearty laugh was contagious as was his loud voice incapable of being silenced by a closed door. It is now up to his students to carry his torch forward and serve as champions with compassion for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families forward.

Mike Petronko