

Cathy Tuttle's Speech at the STARTS Event

We all have lives that stretch far beyond the public face we show the world.

We all have interests, passions, loves that are unique and give us pleasure.

You, here tonight, know that David's passion was his students and his belief that education was the foundation of a better world.

What may not have been as visible was David's love of learning at every level. He teased all the little children he met with word puzzles and simple math problems. David looked at his own children, Emma and Akiva, as grand opportunities for constant games and pushing that plastic envelope of their minds.

David was delighted to see me learning – anything – watercolor, climate science, a PhD in urban planning at the UW. And getting a Master's degree in Anthropology along the way.

David could not have had a better job. Teaching, mentoring, and gently guiding his graduate students with jokes and questions designed to allow them to tap into their own creative worldview.

You may have noticed I said the word "world" several times. David's first trip abroad was late in his life. Other than a Caribbean cruise when he was a teenager, his first trip was to a conference in Mexico he took when he was in his late 20s. After that, David loved to travel for work. He made close friends all over the world. He deeply appreciated sabbaticals abroad (so did I) – to Japan, Israel, and Sweden. (We were hoping to spend 2014 in the Netherlands.)

When our family came back from Sweden, we looked, as we did every year, at where we would donate money. Naturally, we looked locally. UW Computer Science always got our support. And then we thought about how much we learned and how much we brought back when we traveled. We understood our own lives so much better by walking in someone else's shoes in another place.

I suggested that we give an equal amount of money to the departments of Computer Science and Anthropology; \$5,000 each.

Now, the Department of Anthropology doesn't get the big gifts that Ed Lazowska and Hank Levy pull in. Mimi Kahn, who was my Master's advisor and chair of Anthropology at the same time as David was chair of Computer Science, was quite frankly gobsmacked at our \$5,000 donation. Mimi set up an endowment. And she let us name the fund STARTS (like little green plant starts that grow into mighty plants). David and I thought up the acronym for **STARTS Student Training in Anthropological Research Tools and Skills**. This little fund grew with gifts from 30 faculty, staff, friends and students. Mimi realized that in the seven years since we started the fund, that 35 students had begun research and launched important careers using STARTS.

That is what I call an incredible return on investment.

Mimi and Janelle Taylor, who is now the chair of the Anthropology Department, came to me and said they would like to have this event honoring the students, and David, and the fund that he endowed and the power of that little bit of money to ripple out and effect an enormous change. I was inspired to give the UW Anthropology STARTS fund another sizable gift.

I said for this evening, I'd like to invite people David knew and loved, who would appreciate this little known fund that he had started. And in particular, I wanted to invite you. People in David's community who value education, who value what you bring back when you travel, who value the world of ideas that spring out from collaboration with other disciplines, who value rigorous science that shares new knowledge. With STARTS, David's passion for learning and travel lives on.

I said I would ask for donations to the STARTS fund, which I am doing now. And I hope you do consider a gift. But mostly, I want you to reflect on how much you have learned when you have had the blessing to travel. And how much you can share with the world on your journey of life. Thank you.

