

Stephanie Lewis Harter

1954 – 2013

Stephanie Lewis Harter, PhD, a longtime member of the faculty of Texas Tech University and a central contributor to the Constructivist Psychology Network (CPN) died following treatment for cancer on May 18, 2013. Stephanie was born in Abilene, Texas, on March 23, 1954, to LeMoine and Shirley Lewis. She married Gregory Harter in Abilene in 1972. Stephanie and Greg met at Abilene Christian University, where she completed a B.A. in History and an M.A. in Speech Pathology. Stephanie worked in Abilene as a Speech Pathologist before moving on to complete a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Memphis State University. Working with impressive independence and originality, she launched a significant program of research during her graduate years on a constructivist approach to trauma, and especially the complex trauma of sexual abuse, publishing some of the first controlled outcome research on the efficacy of psychotherapy for women who suffered such abuse in childhood. Her subsequent work on the faculty of Clinical Psychology at Texas Tech University in Lubbock followed this line, elucidating the impact of abuse and trauma on the meaning systems and sense of social identity of survivors. Stephanie was a beloved colleague, mentor, and teacher, as well as a stalwart contributor to CPN and to the constructivist community internationally. At various points, Stephanie served CPN as president, treasurer, steering committee member, and conference organizer—her warm and friendly presence always combining seamlessly with her quietly understated administrative effectiveness and earnest devotion to helping CPN's development. She was also creative, compassionate, and committed to her family and to her work as an artist and amateur photographer. She especially loved

to paint and to draw, and enjoyed teaching and exploring the psychology of art. Stephanie celebrated and shared her passion for life, learning, and creation with all she knew—her family, friends, colleagues, and students. As a community of fellow constructivists, we count ourselves fortunate to have enjoyed many years of collaboration and conviviality with her, and will miss her humor, her wisdom, her sensitivity and her dedication. Her spirit of warmth and generosity affected us in ways no words can express and no loss can erase. Just as we have been enriched by her friendship, we are poorer for her passing.

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REFERENCE

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Stephanie Harter - 1954-2013
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