
Robert Pinto

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In Memoriam

Robert Charles Pinto

1935–2019

With great sadness we announce the death on September 3rd, 2019, of our esteemed colleague and friend, Bob Pinto.

Bob was schooled in the history of philosophy at St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto and in contemporary analytic philosophy in the Ph.D. program at Toronto, where he wrote a dissertation in epistemology. He was also widely read in 20th century continental philosophy. He spent his career at the University of Windsor, starting in 1963 and ending in retirement in 1999, as a hugely popular teacher and an admired colleague with friends and acquaintances in virtually every faculty and school of the University, and from the University President to the clerks in the mail room. He served as president of the faculty association and as its chief negotiator for several contracts that saw increased benefits and avoided strikes. He created a computer program for the faculty to record and calculate students' grades, "Class Record", that was adopted by the University.

Bob became interested in informal logic in the 1980s at the urging of his colleagues, Ralph Johnson and Tony Blair, and published in the field for 20 years. A list of his publications may be found at the website of the Centre for Research in Reasoning, Argumentation and Rhetoric (www.uwindsor.ca/crrar) where he was a member until his death. His advice and guidance were sought by the editors of this journal well before his official association as Associate Editor, which ran from 1991 to 2001, and continued thereafter.

Bob had a prodigious acquaintance with and memory for the history of philosophy, and it is a sad irony that the neuro-degenerative ravages of Alzheimer's robbed him of this gift in his last years. He will be remembered for his genuine friendliness and kindness as well as for his significant contributions to informal logic. As a colleague expressed it, "He was a lovely man, and a very smart one." We mourn his passing.