

IN MEMORIAM

Stephen P. Norris (1949-2014)

Stephen Norris was a member of this journal's Editorial Board from 1989 to 2007. Professor and Canada Research Chair in the Department of Educational Policy Studies at the University of Alberta, he was an authority on critical thinking teaching and testing and on literacy, especially in and through science education. Norris completed his Ph.D. in philosophy of education in 1981, writing his dissertation, *A Pitfall in the Construct Validation of Ability Tests*, under the direction of Robert Ennis at the University of Illinois. His work with Ennis is still regarded as central in its field. The prolific work he did with his wife and long time collaborator, Linda Phillips, on literacy in reading texts on science, including popular science, is also highly regarded, as is his work overall in the field of science education. As Michael P. Matthews wrote in his memorial notice, Norris' work stressed "the value of philosophical training for science education research and discussion." Toward the end of his life, Norris and Phillips were joined by Yanat Arden in work on adapting primary literature to advance science education in secondary schools. His close friend and colleague, Jonathan Osborne, expressed the character of Norris' contribution this way:

At his heart, Steve Norris was what all communities need—a critical friend. Watching a presentation by him was to observe a model of clarity both in the deliberate thoughtful manner it was presented and in the depth of thought that had gone into his arguments and questions. He was somebody who recognized that the first duty of an intelligent man is to state the obvious and ask the hard questions that others had avoided. In doing so, he enriched our community and advanced our thinking.

Norris exhibited these traits in numerous incisive and demanding referee reports for *Informal Logic*. He also published here "Observation Ability: Determining and Extending its Presence" (with Ruth King) (6.3, 1984) and "Testing for the Disposition to Think Critically" (14. 2&3, 1992). His work is referred in numerous other articles published in *Informal Logic*. We are grateful for his contribution to fostering the goals of critical thinking.

– James B. Freeman and the Editors