

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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Friends remember educator at services held last Thurs.

By Catherine Thorpe

At a memorial service held last Thursday commemorating the July 23 death of David Charnow, a Columbia College and Teachers College graduate, friends and family spoke of the former educator with praise.

Charnow, CC '64, received his masters degree from Teachers College in 1968 and his doctorate degree in 1982, and specialized in working with autistic and dyslexic students, according to a letter distributed at the service from Associate Dean for Student Services William Baldwin.

At the service, attended by over 60 people, Special Education Professor Margaret Jo Shepard, who guided Charnow in his doctoral work, said Charnow dedicated his life to help-

ing others.

“David loved to give gifts,” Shepard said. “I saw David give . . . the gift of hope.”

“He remained an extremely high-minded idealist up to the very end,” said Mark Stevens, who had been friends with Charnow for four years.

Speakers also called Charnow an avid intellect.

“What I recall was his refusal to have his restlessness contained,” said Shira Kober, a friend who spoke at the service. “I can’t imagine wishing rest for David. What I hope for him now is a broader horizon for his uncompromising search.”

Henry Fernandez, who worked with Charnow on the national AIDS policy committee and who developed educational programs about AIDS, said Charnow interacted on a personal level with those around him.

Charnow, who died from an AIDS-related illness, established an electronic network by which AIDS patients could communicate with each other and exchange ideas and emotions, Baldwin’s letter said.

Fernandez related an incident in which Charnow flew to Washington, D.C. to support a dejected AIDS patient who had contacted Charnow through the network.

“There is more to David than just teaching and learning, than what you see in the statement,” Fernandez said. “He liked to share with everyone what he had learned from others.”



NO REST: Friends remembered David Charnow, CC '64 as a "high-minded idealist" at services last Thursday. Charnow, a teacher, died July 23 of complications due to AIDS.

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