

C. David Gruender (1928-2007)

David Gruender, a founding member of the IHPST Group, died March 25, 2007, aged 79 years. David was a driving force behind the First Conference of the International History, Philosophy and Science Teaching Group which was held at Florida State University in 1989. Apart from contributing to the scholarly programme, he successfully sought university support for the conference, and found local and national funds. He co-edited, with Kenneth Tobin, one of the journal special issues associated with the conference – *Science Education* **75**(1).

David was Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at Florida State University, where he taught from 1967 to 1999. He was a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He stood 6-foot-6; was musically accomplished on the piano and bass; and worked in a medical laboratory, in a children's home and as a police reporter for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* before moving into academia. He took his BA degree from Antioch College, his MA degree from the University of Chicago, and his PhD in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin. He taught philosophy at Kansas State and Case Western Reserve universities before moving to FSU.

His special interest was the history, philosophy, metaphysics and ethics of science. He explained in a 2006 interview that he was concerned with: "How we test things, how we develop theories and how we get to the bottom of the way the world works". Galilean topics were of particular interest to him. His recent papers have been on ethics in the philosophy of science, Hume on causation, constructivism and learning, and Aristotle and Hempel on explanation.

David was a long-time member of the Tallahassee Scientific Society, which promotes science education, and he spoke frequently at schools and seminars. In 1995, he was an instructor in a National Science Foundation-funded FSU program that helped middle-school teachers earn specialized degrees in science instruction. He often re-enacted scenes from the history of science to inspire his students.

Michael Ruse, professor of philosophy at FSU, and a participant in the first IHPST conference, said: "Of all the things I'll remember about David, it was his feeling that science education in America is in a poor state and those of us with an understanding had an obligation to contribute. ...David wasn't interested in his own career; he was much more interested in what he could do to help other human beings."

Two of his IHPST publications are:

Gruender, C.D.:1989, 'Some Philosophical Reflections on Constructivism'. In D.E. Herget (ed.) *The History and Philosophy of Science in Science Teaching*, Proceedings of the First IHPST Conference, Florida State University, pp.170-176.

Gruender, C.D.: 2001, 'A New Principle of Demarcation: A Modest Proposal for Science and Science Education', *Science & Education* **10**(1-2), 85-95.