

I first met Dr. Kreinin in September of 1964. I was a 23 year old graduate student in economics, and he was a 35 year old professor of International Trade and Finance. He was already recognized as a world authority on the subject and an icon in the department. To say that he was prolific would be a gross understatement. Over his illustrious career Max published more than 20 books and hundreds of papers in leading Journals. All of his myriad accomplishments have been duly noted in his biography.

What may not be so widely known, except by the students who were fortunate to sit in his classes, was that he was kind, compassionate, demanding and one heck of a paddle tennis player! On more than one occasion he showed a cocky 23 year-old how an 'old man' could own the court. I was privileged to work for him as a research assistant and ultimately earned a Ph.D by satisfying what I believed to be Max's unreasonable requirements. He forced his students to be better than they believed they could be. He was always available for consultation and had the knack of allowing you to feel that that 'brilliant' idea was really yours. In his later years Max always maintained his realistic approach to life and to economic problems. He was able to touch and influence literally thousands of lives. His kind smile and strong handshake was all he needed to let you know he liked you. He could make economics come alive and be relevant. He put the lie to the idea that economics was the dismal science. Max epitomized all that is great about Michigan State University.

It is one thing to earn the title of Distinguished Professor at MSU, but for a University of Michigan graduate to be declared an 'honorary alumnus' of MSU is quite another. That alone shows how treasured his contributions were over his 57 year teaching career.

To sum up, I will miss Max as will everyone who knew him as a colleague and mentor. He was my friend. Max was a mensch.

Bob Goodman, MSU PhD '70
February 12, 2018

Dr. Kreinin's obituary can be found here:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/lj/obituary.aspx?n=mordechai-eliah-kreinin-max-ph-d&pid=188131616>