

In Memoriam: Muska Mosston

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“He lived life to the fullest--with energy, humor, compassion.”

Muska Mosston, former professor of physical education at the Universities of East Stroudsburg (PA), Temple, and Rutgers, died July 21, 1994 at his home in Little Falls, New Jersey. He was 68.

Born in Israel, Mosston graduated from the Zinman College of Physical Education in the Wingate Institute and taught physical education in several locations in Israel. He was also a paratrooper instructor and served with distinction in the Israeli military.

In 1950, at the age of 25, Mosston came to the United States. By 1954, he had earned a B.S. and M.Ed. in physical education from the City College of New York and earned a D.Ed. from Temple University in 1972. He was the Department of Kinesiology chairperson at Rutgers University from 1963 to 1970; taught pedagogy courses at East Stroudsburg University from 1970 to 1972 and from 1992 to 1993; directed The Center on Teaching (Title IV-C federal grant) from 1972 to 1980; and was a visiting pedagogy professor at Temple University from 1975 to 1976. From 1980 to 1994, he traveled throughout the United States, Canada, and several countries in Europe and South America conducting hundreds of workshops, seminars, and university classes on teaching using his creation, the Spectrum of Teaching Styles.

While working at Rutgers University he conceived, developed, and published two major works. The first, *Developmental Movement* (1965), introduced the concept of inclusion. By manipulating degree of difficulty, teachers can provide opportunities for all youngsters to be included, challenged, and successful in physical activity rather than to be excluded and fail based on rigid, single-standard measures of success. He not only implemented this concept with undergraduate teacher preparation students at Rutgers but also through a weekly television series, "Shape Up," in a summer camp for youngsters with disabilities and in the 1990s, through Sportime, an equipment company dedicated to inclusion.

The second and most prominent major work, *The Spectrum of Teaching Styles*, has influenced the teaching of physical education for the past 28 years. *Spectrum's* silver anniversary was celebrated in the January 1992 issue of *JOPERD* and in a special presentation at the April 1992 annual AAHPERD convention.

Since the first publication of *The Spectrum of Teaching Styles* in 1966, Mosston spent more than half his life teaching others how to expand their teaching style repertoires to meet educational goals, subject matter concepts, and student needs. He worked on his own, with coauthor, Sara Ashworth, and with university colleagues and schoolteachers to refine, validate, and research the *Spectrum*.

Presently, *The Spectrum of Teaching Styles* is part of several university teacher education programs worldwide. *Teaching Physical Education*, the work in which the *Spectrum* first appeared, is in its fourth edition. In 1990, Mosston and Ashworth wrote *The Spectrum of Teaching Styles: From Command to Discovery*, to demonstrate how

teachers in all subjects could plan, teach, and evaluate more effectively. Internationally, his work has been printed in Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, and Japanese.

Mosston received several prestigious awards: an honorary doctorate and University Medal of Honor for contributions to pedagogy by the University Jyvaskyla in Finland; the National Validation Award and Author Award for outstanding contributions to education by the New Jersey State Department of Education; and the 1993 Phi Epsilon Kappa Outstanding Teacher Award from East Stroudsburg.

The death of Muska Mosston is an enormous loss for his friends, colleagues, and students. Mosston lived his life to the fullest--with energy, humor, compassion, creativity, brilliance, and the ability to truly love and care for others.

Authors' note: To celebrate and perpetuate his life, work, and spirit we are compiling a collection of anecdotes and a tribute to The Spectrum of Teaching Styles. Please send your remembrances of Muska and/or a description of how his work influenced your life to Dr. Rudy Mueller, East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301. If possible, include pictures, dates, names, and a return address so materials can be returned.

Suzanne Mueller and Rudy Mueller are professors in the Department of Movement Studies and Exercise Science at East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg, PA 18360.

Muska Mosston. (former physical education professor at the Universities of East Stroudsburg, Temple and Rutgers) (In Memoriam) (Obituary). Suzanne Mueller and Rudy Mueller. JOPERD--The Journal of Physical Education, Recreation & Dance v65.n8 (Oct 1994): pp13, (2).