

I'd like to think that maybe Ralph and I got along because we both had substantial experiences outside of academia. He had both suffered and seen the world for what it is--a place of joy and pain, wealth and suffering. His time in Southeast Asia is an experience few others have, his time in Zuni revealing of both the situation there and of him. Even his own physical suffering from the tire factory accident, perhaps gave him a perspective that said what matters is the person, not their credentials; the heart, not just the head.

Even though I knew Ralph for much less time than many here today, he had a significant impact on my time here in Gallup as a mentor, a colleague and a friend. There's a Sufi saying that

“When the heart weeps for what it has lost,
the soul laughs for what it has found.”

I would like to think that even though we are mourning his loss, Ralph has now found something new.

--Robert B. Galin, Associate Professor