

## **Dr. Richard B. Anderson**

1924 – 2014

Dick Anderson was one of the last of the Renaissance men - personally and professionally. I first knew of him from a headline when I was still in medical school announcing his leaving his pediatric practice. He then went to Harvard to study child and adolescent psychiatry. He was a member of the last seminar that Erik Erikson conducted. He was then slated for a fellowship with Piaget until someone thought to ask Dick if spoke French. He was very interested in the work of David W. Winnicott, a child psychoanalyst who has also been a pediatrician. Others in the field who interested him, many of whom he knew, include Margaret Mahler, James Masterson, Anna Freud, Peter Wolff, and Carl Whitaker.

Dick was a full-time member of the UW Child Psychiatry Division from 1973 until 1990. He was the 5<sup>th</sup> faculty member in the history of the division. In terms of clinical programs, he may have been the most prolific. He either established or played a key role in establishing the UW Eating Disorders Program, the Behavioral Pediatrics Fellowship, the Child Psychiatry Consultation Service, as well as leading seminars and providing clinical teaching for medical students, pediatric residents, psychiatry residents, and child psychiatry fellows.

From Carl Whitaker, Dick learned family therapy, a natural for him with his foundation of treating families as a pediatrician. To my knowledge, he is the only psychiatrist to have used the “one-way mirror technique,” normally a teaching technique, to help families understand the psychological difficulties their children were experiencing. He invited families to watch, from behind the one-way mirror, as a resident engaged in the technique of play therapy with their child on the other side of the mirror. He attended the 1<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Infant Psychiatry in Portugal in 1980 which is where the photos I posted were taken, one with Margaret Mahler and the other with Erik Erikson.

As most know, he had virtually a lifelong interest in the work of John James Audubon, but he was also deeply interested in Audubon’s biography, his early life, and his psychology. He gave many talks both within the University and in the community about the life and work of the artist. Dick was interested in many forms of art, especially the Impressionists, often traveling to exhibits and museums to experience the great art of the world. After retiring in 1990, he continued to interact with trainees in UW Psychiatry. He last visited my seminar as guest faculty on June 1, 2009 when we discussed his favorite author, DW Winnicott, and his favorite topic, “transitional objects and transitional phenomena.”

Dick also volunteered for or was appointed to serve on many committees for the University of Wisconsin, especially with respect to bettering student life. I recall his dedication to one assignment in particular, that being the issue of binge drinking. He served on the UW Medical School Admissions Committee. He donated original Audubon prints for display at a number of sites on campus, including the Department of Psychiatry where there is a “Bird Room.” He loved to visit Door County, the island of St. John in the Virgin Islands, his friends in Arizona (including Peter Eichman, former UW Medical School Dean; and Joe Green, former UW Child Psychiatry Director), and most of all he loved living in his cottage on Lake Mendota. Dick Anderson had a very full life, and added a little of that to everyone whom he touched.

Douglas A. Kramer