

**February 12, 2020**



It is with great sadness that ASCA announces the passing of its founder and lifelong advocate, Dr. Donald D. Gehring. On behalf of ASCA's Board of Directors, members, staff, and partners, we extend our deepest sympathies to Don's family, particularly his partner Rita.

Don was a transformative leader, educator, and scholar within the field of student conduct. Recognizing a need for further discussion among conduct personnel, in 1986 Gehring began discussing his idea to form a professional home to serve the needs of campus judicial officers. The following year, at the Stetson University Law and Higher Education Conference, Gehring met with others to begin the framework for what would become the Association for Student Judicial Affairs (ASJA).

In 1993, the new association hosted its first Campus Judicial Affairs Training Institute at Bowling Green State University, chaired by Don Gehring, with an attendance of 130 professionals. Thereafter, the annual event was renamed the Donald D. Gehring Academy in recognition of his service.

In 2008, Don became the first chairperson for the Raymond Goldstone ASCA Foundation, which was created for the sole purpose of fundraising to support ASCA.

Dr. Jennifer Waller, ASCA Executive Director, shared "Gehring was ASJA/ASCA's first rock star. When attending our events, he was much sought after for pictures and advice. Don continued to be connected to the association, giving generously with his time, energy, and expertise. Dr. Gehring will be sorely missed."

Gehring's other contributions within higher education included serving as the president of the Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA), induction into the Kentucky College Personnel Association's Hall of Fame, recognition as a NASPA "Pillar of the Profession," selection for the NASPA Outstanding Contribution to Literature and Research award and the Robert H. Shaffer Award for Excellence as a Graduate Faculty Member. Additionally, he was a recipient of SACSA's highest honor, the Melvane D. Hardee Award and named a Senior Scholar by NASPA and ACPA. He was particularly proud to have earned the University of Georgia's first higher education doctoral degree.

Fred Rhodes, a close friend and former colleague of Gehring's while at the University of Louisville, wrote "Don was the consummate professional and role model who diligently served our profession for over 50 years. ... Don will fondly be remembered for his exceptional leadership and dedication to hundreds of graduate students and colleagues across the country. Don was the epitome of a lifelong learner and teacher."

Gehring passed away at his beloved winter home in Saint Simons Island, GA on February 11, 2020 at the age of 82. There will be a memorial service to honor Dr. Gehring in his hometown in New Jersey at a later date.

Many of our members have asked what they can do to recognize Don Gehring. If you would like to contribute to the Raymond Goldstone ASCA Foundation in his memory, [click here for online donations](#). Donations can also be sent to: Raymond Goldstone ASCA Foundation, ATTN: Donald Gehring Memory, PO Box 2237, College Station, TX 77841.

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