

## **Groteluschen, Jon Kingdon (September 26, 1939—June 2, 2021)**



Jon Groteluschen, born and raised in Manning, Iowa, was a four-year member of our class with a B.A. in Physical Education in 1961. After his first year in South Younker Hall, he spent his other three years in Clark Hall. He was a gifted athlete in basketball and golf, lettering in both sports and serving as co-captain of the golf team and as a member of Honor G (the men's honorary athletic club). At the end of his senior year on the basketball team, Coach John Pfitsch said Jon "was the most improved player on the squad and played the most consistently good ball of any of the Pioneers."

Immediately after Grinnell he taught mathematics and coached basketball for two years in the junior high school of DeWitt, Iowa.

He then was recruited by his Grinnell classmate and friend, Jim Lowry, to replace him for the next two years as a Peace Corps Outward Bound Field Training Officer at Camp Radley in Puerto Rico.

Most importantly for Jon, at that camp he met and fell in love with Mary Ellen ("Marelle") Stoltzfus, a Peace Corps trainee headed for Turkey. Eight months later Jon followed her to that country to serve during the summer as the Corps' Assistant Project Director and to study history and humanities at Robert College in Istanbul. On September 4, 1964, Jon and Marelle were married in that famous city in its historic Dutch Chapel, which since 1857 has been used by the Union Church of Istanbul, an interdenominational, international, protestant, evangelical church.

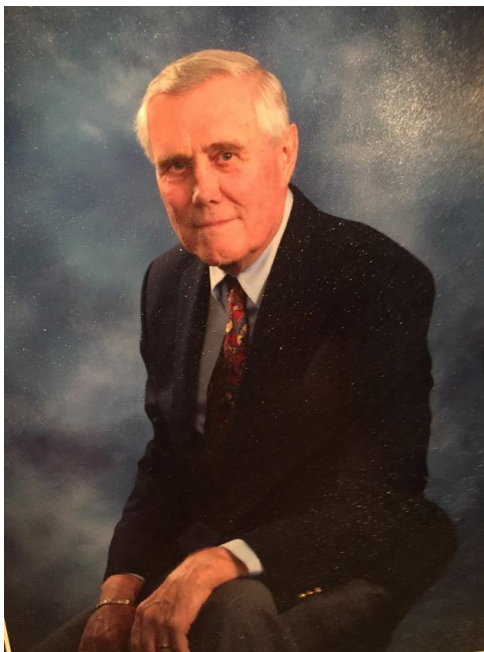
Jon then returned with Marelle to Grinnell to serve as a College Admissions Counselor, 1965-66, after which he attended the University of Kentucky to serve as a Projects Director for its Center for Developmental Change and as a Research Administrator while earning a M.A. in Psychology and Counseling in January 1970.

Next Jon embarked on a successful career in higher education administration as Director of Alumni Relations at University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, 1970-72, followed by serving as Director of Endowment Development for Carroll College (now Carroll University) (Waukesha, WI) and then its Vice President for Business & Finance and its Vice President for Administration, 1972-82.

Jon then went to Alma College in Alma, MI as its Vice President for Finance and Management Services, where he served until his retirement in 1997.

Four years later Jon and Marelle moved to Aiken, S.C. for its more hospitable weather and year-round golfing. Following his prior practice of service on community groups, Jon in Aiken was an active member of the South Aiken Presbyterian Church and the Houndslake Country Club, where he indulged his love for golf. He also enjoyed tennis, racquetball, downhill skiing and chess as well as being active in community theatre. In the summers he and Marelle and their two daughters loved to spend their time swimming, boating, water-skiing, fishing and hiking at their cabin on Lake Lauzon, Ontario, Canada.

Jon is survived by Marelle, their daughters Andrea Northwood (Rev. Dr. Paula Northwood, daughter-in-law) and Inga Schmitzer, sisters Janis Buckles and Pamela Bansbach (Louis Phillip III), grandchildren Greta, Ryan and Owen Schmitzer, step-grandchild (Kris Grant), step-great-grandchildren (Aurora and Azure Grant).



At Jon's memorial service at his family's church in Aiken, his daughter-in-law, Rev. Dr. Paula Northwood, delivered a moving homily based on these familiar words of Ecclesiastes: "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die . . . for God has made everything beautiful in its time...."

- Hence, "Today is the day to appreciate Jon's unique expression of beauty in God's time."
- "Jon was Marelle's soul mate and companion through the life they created together. And they were blessed with a beautiful and fruitful life.... Jon lived this sense of justice with its concern for others. Not a sense of fairness but of God's justice which is concerned with making things right. To love kindness. [Jon] exhibited this love and compassion."
- "The question now is 'Why did Jon live?' You carry the answer to that question within you – in your memories – in all you learned from knowing him and relating to him. Your challenge now, is to transform all that he has been to you into that living memorial – passing on the goodness and keeping the memories alive...."
- "We will continue to celebrate his life through our relationships, our acts of loving service, our memories, and our dreams."

We his Grinnell classmates pray that we too will celebrate Jon's life in the same manner.

*Duane W. Krohnke*