

In Loving Memory



Loren Ringer

These pages are dedicated to the memory of our colleague and friend Loren Ringer

Loren dedicated more than thirty years of his life to international education and study abroad. His impact on student mobility was substantial; through his position as cofounder of APUAF and EUASA, president of APUAF from 2015 to 2018, and work for CIEE, Skidmore College, Tufts University, and Parsons Paris, he championed the field of study abroad at every turn. Moreover, he held a Ph.D. in French Literature and a minor in Art History from the University of Wisconsin Madison, studies which influenced his lifelong love of literature, art, and travel.

As a colleague, Loren was warm-hearted and kind, a mentor to many of us. He was an advocate of students' intercultural and linguistic immersion, and his professional life was devoted to working for the benefit of all students. He fought tirelessly for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and actively drove E.U. recognition of American study abroad programs. His tenacity, faith and optimism were an inspiration to all of us. Many will treasure the memory of the good conversations shared with Loren during APUAF and EUASA events. He was a generous and empathetic listener.

Our hearts go out to his family and friends on the occasion of this great loss.

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I would like to share my sadness at the passing of Loren Ringer and express my admiration for a colleague who became a companion. Others will say better than I how much Loren, through the positions he held and his commitment to various organizations (first and foremost APUAF and EUASA), has been an essential professional in the American study abroad sector and in the dialogue between Europe and the United States over the last twenty years or so.

I'd like to focus here on his personality, discreet but present, sensitive but not without self-confidence, Francophile, Italophile, critical of his homeland but always with a nuanced and balanced way of thinking. I'd like to emphasize his charm, his colorful turtlenecks, his cheerful shirts, his sometimes colorful ties, his personal sense of style, his smile, his attentive looks. His vulnerability as a reflection of his deep humanism.

I'll cherish the memory of the moments we shared, the companionship of the years together in the APUAF Board of Directors, when we had to face the attacks of 2015, but also the joy of celebrating the organization's 10th anniversary, the coffees, lunches and drinks we took to discuss our profession. How to be better is something he always tried to cultivate, personally and for our field.

And I bitterly regret the coffees and drinks that should have followed, but never will.

Thomas Roman

Co-Director IFE Institute for Field Education

Loren worked for nearly 12 years in Rennes as director of CIEE-Rennes where he left a great legacy and the foundations of a rich and demanding academic program for students from American universities, integrated within local communities and intelligently articulated around the principle of linguistic immersion to which we continue to proudly adhere.

Passionate about literature and travel, an interculturalist at heart, he was an ardent defender of international education. During his long career in this field, and until the end, he never stopped putting himself at the service of the educational missions in which he believed. Very involved with numerous associations and institutions in Rennes, France, Europe, and the United States, he was a great educator and professional who knew how to share his commitment and his passion, with a view of international openness and with the objective not only to support students in their intercultural learning but also to advance mentalities and practices in terms of inclusion and diversity.

His life was a long struggle, fought with immense courage and dignity.

We will miss you.

Daniel Audaz, Directeur CIEE-Rennes

Speaking for myself and on behalf of European EUASA members, we are incredibly moved and saddened to lose our cherished colleague and delightful leader. We are better people to have known Loren and worked by his side.

Loren was an outstanding man; he shared with us his bold vision for inventive and inclusive international education. He was also deeply human, compassionate and wonderfully kind.

Merci Loren, for elevating us to your aspirational way through the world.

Julia Carnine, Directrice,
Dickinson in France - Toulouse