



Jacques Fomerand

November 4, 2024

Jacques was born on February 12, 1943 in Marseille, France to Gilbert and Josephine (Julio) Fomerand. He spent his childhood in (then) French Algeria (Algiers and Oran) where his father had been transferred to a branch of Barclays Bank. The family had to return to France in 1959 due to political conditions at the time and attended high school in Paris. Jacques developed tuberculosis and spent a year and a half at a sanatorium, where he first discovered his love for cinema and played drums for a jazz band.

Subsequently, he enrolled at the highly selective Sciences Po University in Paris to study political science. His love of cinema (he watched four films per day on a regular basis) left little time for studying. After one year he transferred to Aix en Provence, a city dear to his heart for his entire life, where he finished his studies.

Jacques moved to the United States in 1967, where he completed his PhD in Political Science at the City University of New York (CUNY) and began teaching at Queens College upon graduation.

Jacques launched his prestigious 25 year career at the United Nations in 1977, growing into positions of increasing seniority in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA),

achieving the title of Chief of Inter-organizational Cooperation of DESA.

Following reassignment to

the United Nations University in 1992, he held the distinguished position of Director of the United Nations University North York Office and led a think tank producing research on UN priority areas before his retirement in 2003.

Over the following years, Jacques continued teaching as adjunct faculty at institutions including Columbia University, NYU, CUNY, Adelphi University, and Seton Hall University, among others, maintaining close ties with the UN throughout. For over 20 years he served as faculty and as Assistant Director of Occidental College's elite Oxy at the UN Program. At CUNY's John Jay college, he served as the advisor to the National Model UN program and guided his teams to national championships several times.

Jacques loved teaching. He often said that it gave him energy and kept his brain sharp. Universally regarded as a brilliant and caring educator, Jacques was honored with various best teacher of the year awards from CCNY, NYU, and the entire CUNY system. Jacques' greatest joys came through his interactions with his students. As a nurturing mentor to generations of students, he maintained close bonds with many long after their graduation. He was particularly proud of his work with his immigrant students at CUNY, many of whom have since gained entrance to esteemed graduate programs and built successful careers of their own.

In addition to teaching, Jacques was a prolific writer. He wrote seminal annotated dictionaries on the United Nations and on Human Rights and contributed dozens of articles on international relations to academic publications.

Beyond his academic work, Jacques had several personal passions. Classical cinema continued to give him great joy as did listening to French baroque music. He was a long-term philatelist and built an extensive stamp collection. An avid photographer, he had a library of over 40,000 photos.

Jacques' deep academic intellect was more than matched by his deep humanistic values and unparalleled kindness. He married his first wife Raissa in 1967, with whom he raised sons Thierry and Ross in Larchmont, NY. Following his divorce, he met his partner Marianthi in 2004, sharing a deep love and commitment to each other, a passion for the sea - the Mediterranean in particular - and for exploring the world together.

He is survived by his partner Marianthi, sons Thierry and Ross, daughter-in-law Taryn, grandson Phoenix, Marianthi's sons Minos and Aris, and ex-wife Raissa. He is also survived by his brother Gerard Fomerand, and his children Veronique, Isabelle, and Guillaume.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

NOV 9. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home

148 Dean Dr

Tenafly, NJ 07670

(201) 568-8043

<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

SC

“ I recently learned of the passing of Professor Jacques Fomerand and immediately felt compelled to reach out to express my deep condolences . . . and my deep appreciation and admiration for your departed loved one.

I was a student of Professor Fomerand at Brooklyn College. The year was 1968, the Vietnam War was raging, and I, like many other students at the time, was solely interested in retaining my 2S military deferment. To state it mildly, I was a disaffected, wholly disinterested student, drifting my way lazily, aimlessly, and wastefully through what passed for an education at that moment. My grades were just barely passing, yet just enough to maintain my safe passage through adolescence without shipping out to a war zone. My commitment to my education was low — virtually non-existent — and my self-esteem, even lower. And then, by chance, I met Professor Fomerand in a course on “Comparative European Political Systems.”

For me, an immature, wholly vacuous student, this meeting was THE MOMENT . . . the watershed experience that amazingly shocked me right out of my intellectual lethargy. Professor Fomerand’s class was the very first that inspired me to take my education . . . and myself, seriously. I truly believe that my education started the day I inadvertently wandered into the Professor’s class in Whitehead Hall. And from there, from that day, my journey to my doctorate in Geoscience, a deeply rewarding career as a professor at the University of Washington in Seattle, and a life devoted to thousands of young minds took its first halting step.

Last evening, for some unbidden reason, Professor Fomerand’s name came to mind. A quick search revealed quite sadly that he had recently passed away. I wish I could be writing this note to him now — to thank him sincerely and to let him know his profound impact on my life, an impact I am certain is shared by the uncountable number of students that he inspired. I was perhaps the least likely student to respond to his magic in the classroom, and

thus perhaps, I remain one of the most appreciative. I just thought his family and loved ones should know how this beloved professor so profoundly changed the life of one of his legion of students, 58 long years.

With deep regard and admiration;

Dr Stanley Chernicoff, Professor Jacques Fomerand's indebted student.

stanley chernicoff - April 11, 2025 at 06:22 PM

“ To the family of Professor Jacques Fomerand:

I recently learned of the passing of Professor Jacques Fomerand and immediately felt compelled to reach out to express my deep condolences . . . and my deep appreciation and admiration for your departed loved one.

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Dr Stanley Chernicoff, Professor Jacques Fomerand's indebted student.

Stan Chernicoff - April 11, 2025 at 08:49 AM

ME

“*Professor!! What a wonderful person you were. I was shocked and disheartened to hear the news. I was looking forward to our winter check-in in the next few weeks....Thank you for shaping the person I am today with all your wise advice throughout my grad school career and for continuing to mentor me post graduation. You were always willing to help me no matter how busy you were with other things. Your passion for teaching was evident in every course you taught. I am going to miss our check ins at Pershing Square Diner, and our talks about vintage movies (and the fact that you greatly disliked Alan Delon, which I still don't agree with haha!) Thank you for being a great educator and an even more amazing friend. May you rest in peace.*



Melissa - November 11, 2024 at 07:49 PM

GB

“ We are shocked and very saddened at the news of the passing of my longtime friend and teacher Jacques Fomerand. Since we first met back in the early 1970's at Brooklyn College, he remained a dear pal loyal, gentle and understanding. Although we separated for work and education, we stayed in touch and our contact became easier and more frequent due to the computers revolution. Always helpful to his friends, Jacques volunteered to help us, my wife June and I, and together we drove the moving truck to Washington DC. As a student of political science, I remember Jacques encouraging and complementing me on a paper I wrote for him. After reading the paper, I still recall him telling me that the paper is good even for publishing. Jacques did not cut short the time he thought necessary to spend answering his students' questions and comments. About two weeks ago, Jacques and I once again exchanged views and agreed about the horrible ongoing wars on Gaza and Lebanon. Jacques' warmth and thoughtful personality is of the kind that is not easy to part from and the relationship with him immediately becomes friendly and family-like.

To the Fomerands here in the U.S and in France, and to Jacques' many friends, we send our deepest and most sincere condolences and sympathies. Jacques will be very much missed. May our friend, Jacques, Rest in peace.

Ghassan and June Bishara

Ghassan Bishara - November 08, 2024 at 08:58 PM

DC

“ I have very fond memories of Professor Fomerand during my time at Oxy's United Nations program. I was struggling with my mental health at the time and he was one of the "lights" in my every day experience. I am so thankful for that. My condolences to his family. I am happy to have known him and learned from him as well.

Sending my love.

Dakota Chisholm - November 08, 2024 at 04:12 PM

JR

“ I was very sad to learn of Jacques's passing and extend my sincere condolences to the family. Jacques was a wonderful friend for more than 40 years. We met as young officers trying to make our way in the confusing UN bureaucracy. Jacques's Gallic charm and disarming humor immediately appealed to me and many others. We shared many interests. We both had advanced degrees in political science and were drawn to the academic study of the UN. Jacques eventually became the Director of the UN University New York office. He began to regularly teach courses on the UN at various universities in the New York area and started to publish research on UN topics. These activities intensified after he retired. For several years we taught together in NYU's Geneva summer program. Jacques was a wonderful teacher and inspired many students to become interested in the United Nations. He had a very full and rewarding life and will be sorely missed.

John Renninger - November 08, 2024 at 10:39 AM

DS

“ 1 file added to the album John Jay College Model UN



David S - November 07, 2024 at 10:46 PM

BD

“ *Professor Fomerand,
Finding the right words feels impossible. Having you as a professor was truly an honor. Thank you for your encouraging words, thoughtful feedback, and unique sense of humor. The dedication and care you put into every class were evident; our conversations during those walks after class became moments I looked forward to. I am forever grateful for the wisdom you shared and the kindness you showed.*

Your unwavering support, openness to my ideas, and memorable messages will always stay with me. It isn't easy to comprehend, especially knowing we were in class last week. Your presence brought light and inspiration to your students; all felt the love you infused into your work.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your warmth and enthusiasm. Your absence will be deeply felt—my heartfelt condolences to your loved ones.

Binta D - November 07, 2024 at 10:43 PM

AA

“ Oh, my dear Professor, or should I say my mentor and great friend! I don't know where to start or what to say. What a loss of an amazing soul! I received the news of your unexpected departure this morning, and I couldn't believe it. I couldn't fathom how this happened. I was just planning to email you to arrange a lunch soon!

You've left us, but you left so light—just as you always were a beacon of light, a source of inspiration! Although you are no longer physically with us, I know your legacy and wisdom will remain with all your students and everyone you touched.

Today, we mourn your loss, but as the days go by, we will remember you—the joyful professor, the passionate person you were. We'll remember the ease and comfort you brought us, the way you helped us forget about grades and instead focus on enjoying the class, understanding how international relations work, how to write a literature review, and much more. No matter how difficult the courses were, you always made things easier and more lovable.

You would often greet us with “Hey, gentle people.” Often, we would forget that you were our professor. Each one of us felt like we were your best friend, and it was your humbleness that made us feel that way—humble yet with an unmatched sense of humor!

Among all, I feel privileged to have worked with you on my thesis. You made everything easier and brighter, and for that, I dedicated my thesis to you—for the inspiration and insight you provided. I wrote in it: “I am profoundly grateful to Professor Jacques Fomerand for his unwavering support, guidance, and encouragement throughout the course of this study. His insightful advice, patience, and dedication have been invaluable to me. I truly appreciate the time and effort he invested in helping me navigate this journey. It has been an honor to have him as my thesis advisor, and I will always be thankful for his mentorship and belief in my work”. And today, I'm grateful that my thesis will always remain a source of inspiration and a living memory of the work I did under your guidance.”

As we say goodbye today, I would like to keep this picture of you with us to honor your legacy and the joyful memories we shared. That red scarf around your neck will always be a symbol of the love we have for you.

Rest in power and love, my dear friend, my professor. ☐ Until we meet again in the other world, forever loved and remembered!

Love, Amina



Amina Abdallah - November 07, 2024 at 05:36 PM

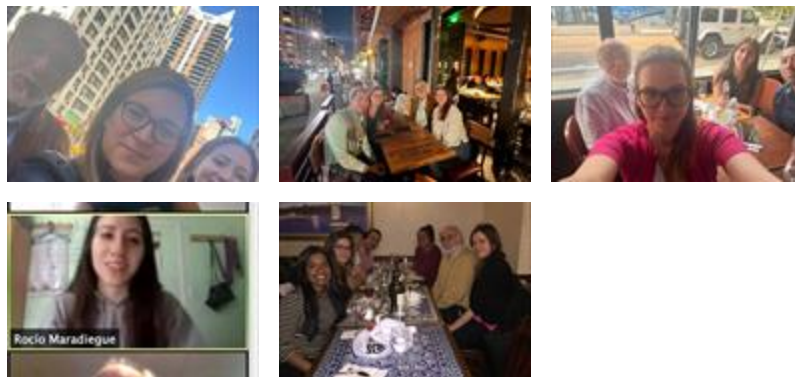
VP

“ *Professeur Fomerand, vous allez nous manquer. Merci pour votre soutien et votre disponibilité. You were truly one of a kind ! Pr Fomerand was always willing to help his students whenever we needed it. He will live on in our hearts. Sending love, thoughts, and prayers to his family during this tough time.*

Valerie P. - November 07, 2024 at 05:14 PM

MK

“ Jacques was an incredible mentor, extremely funny person, super flexible, and attentive. He was so attentive and saw people right through. There is no one specific memory that I could share as every time spent with him was a new learning into the depths of this man. I do remember though how we went for Russian vodka tasting in Marivana restaurant in the city, and he ended up on another part of town after:) I promised him to do another round, but did not deliver.... I owe a lot that I have to this man. He was part of my made-up immigrant family, and I will forever miss him.



Marina K - November 07, 2024 at 10:34 AM

AN

“ I have known Jacques for 20+ years. He was truly an extraordinary person and all my memories of him/with him are wonderful, fun, pleasant and enlightening.

Once he invited my Mom and I for an amazing lunch at the UN Staff Restaurant featuring the cuisines of many countries of the world. My Dad had recently passed away and my Mom who was visiting from France had wanted to go back to the UN Headquarters as they would do together every time they come visit me in NY. Thanks to Jacques's kindness, she had the most enjoyable time and this felt like Heaven to her. Long after and even despite her fading memory, she would remember Jacques and that Day!

Thank you Jacques for being our friend and for everything you gave us ❤️

Annick - November 07, 2024 at 08:10 AM