OBITUARY: PROF. F.H. (TERRY) TERBLANCHE (17 JUNE 1939 - 30 APRIL 2014)



Professor Terry Terblanche, a former President of the South African Communication Association (SACOMM), who passed in Bloemfontein on April 30 this year, was in academia first and foremost a rhetorician in the classical tradition.

Terry studied at the Heidelberg College of Education, the University of South Africa (Unisa), and the University of the Free State (UFS) in Bloemfontein where he obtained a doctorate in Communication Science under the promotership of Ben de Koker and Arrie de Beer in 1987.

Terry's professional career took him into teaching at school and college level, and a lengthy stint as lecturer in the Department of Drama and the Department of Communication Science at the UFS. He was appointed Head of the Department of Communication Science at the UFS in 1990 and continued in that position until his retirement in December 2003. Despite his ailing health, he remained a most valued research fellow of this Department and an Editorial Board member of *Communitas* until his death.

While Terry had a life-long interest in Greek and Roman rhetoric, he also excelled in the teaching of general communication theory and, in later years, nonverbal communication. With regard to communication theory, he often explicated an existential approach in a similar vein to Marthinus van Schoor and the late Nerina Jansen of Unisa, as well as the dramaturgical approach on which he was an expert. Given this background, it is no wonder that Terry was a formidable debater and a compassionate lecturer.

Tributes to Terry have been widespread from former students, colleagues and the SACOMM community. I was close to him for the past 25 years and can attest to his insatiable curiosity, dry sense of humour, sharp mind, humaneness and scholarly way of being in this world. We salute Professor Terry Terblanche for the outstanding contribution he made to the Communication Science discipline and for his overall scholarly legacy.

Professor Terblanche leaves behind his wife, Ansa, three children and a grandchild.

Johann C. de Wet