



## Dr. James D. Orcutt, PhD

December 15, 1943 - February 25, 2026

James (Jim) D. Orcutt, age 82, died peacefully at home in Tallahassee on February 25, 2026, after a long illness. His wife and devoted caregiver, Annette, was at his side, along with his brother-in-law, Ray, and sister-in-law, Pat. Jim was raised in Des Moines, Iowa, and was predeceased by his parents, Albert and Doris Orcutt, and siblings David Orcutt and Phyllis Bergeson. He is survived by his sister, Kate Capps; wife, Annette Schwabe; daughter, Michelle Orcutt; stepson, Derek Schwabe-Warf (Dori Ballai); sisters- and brothers-in-law; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. After completing his bachelor's and master's degrees in sociology from the University of Iowa Jim served as a psychiatric operations specialist in the army. He earned a PhD from the University of Minnesota and began his research and teaching career in the Sociology Department at Florida State University in 1972 and retired as Professor Emeritus in 2007.

Jim was an accomplished scholar, a devoted instructor, an effective administrator, and a generous colleague. He wrote two books and scores of journal articles in his specialty areas of deviance and drug and alcohol problems. He served as department chair, engaged in extensive university service, taught multiple undergraduate and graduate courses in his specialty areas and received departmental and university teaching awards. He also served as a grant reviewer for several organizations. Jim was a beautiful writer, and his willingness to pass on editing tips and intellectual critiques was

much appreciated by his colleagues. His election to the presidency of the Society for the Study of Social Problems and his appointment as editor of the journal *Social Problems* signify the high regard in which the profession held him and his dedication to advancing the field of sociology.

Jim was a loving and warm spouse, brother, father, and friend. He was an accomplished musician and had a wonderful sense of humor, a deep curiosity about the world and other people, and a strong sense of justice. He will be dearly missed by so many, but we are grateful for his beautiful presence in our lives.

Jim will continue to serve students through the Florida Anatomical Donation program, which supports medical training and research to facilitate advancements in health. Donations to honor Jim may be made to the FSU Department of Sociology, Big Bend Hospice, Epilepsy Agency of the Big Bend, RBG Fund, Refuge House, or <https://riseinternational.org>.

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

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“ I was sad to learn about Dr. Orcutt's passing in the recent FSU Sociology newsletter. His deviance class was one of my favorites during my time at FSU in the early 00's. He was of course a great writer but also a really engaging teacher. He was Department Chair at that time and helped me find a great research assistant opportunity that was very impactful in starting my career. He was funny, kind, and gave great advice about life! He made a big impact on his students. Condolences to his family. Rest easy Dr. Orcutt.

Nicole - May 12 at 11:58 AM

GI

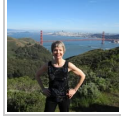
“ Rest in power and peace. He taught me in grad school back in the late 90s and also served on my 2009 dissertation committee at FSU. A truly beautiful and brilliant human being. I remember one time in a seminar he handed me a gavel in class for best editing! I laughed so hard (as we all did) but was also so proud that he thought I did a good job on that assignment. He truly was an inspiration. I am blessed to have known him.

Gina - May 12 at 10:49 AM



“ Dr. Orcutt was a fascinating speaker and educator. His Introduction to Sociology course was enlightening, insightful, and fascinating, with real life useful information about life and culture. I remember he explained how our choice of friends impacted our outlook and actions.

Vivian Miller - March 29 at 09:45 AM



*Thank you for that kind and apt memory of Jim, Vivian.*

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**Annette Schwabe** - May 03 at 01:57 PM