



In Loving Memory of



Jethro "Jeff" Toomer 1945 - 2025

Jeff began his career with FIU in 1973, as an adjunct professor for the Department of Psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences. He was then appointed in 1974 as an associate professor. Among the first faculty to work at FIU, he was instrumental in developing the Community Mental Health Counseling Program. Dr. Toomer retired as a Professor after 35 years with FIU in the spring of 2009.

Born in Anderson, South Carolina, Jeff spent most of his life in South Florida. He graduated from Dillard High School in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. and received his BA in Psychology from Morehouse College in 1966, his MA from Temple in 1968, and his Ph.D. in 1972.

As noted by his colleague, Maureen Kenny of 14 years, "Dr. Toomer was a brilliant psychologist, consummate professional and admired colleague. He trained hundreds of students at FIU in mental health counseling, and he has had a tremendous impact on the field. He hired me right out of graduate school and took a chance on me. I am forever grateful for his faith in me and mentorship".

In addition to his work at FIU, Dr. Toomer was a renowned forensic psychologist who worked tirelessly to help those on death row. Specializing in appellate and death row cases, he provided services for convicts and those who did not have the resources to acquire proper legal assistance. Dr. Toomer also served as a consultant psychologist for the NFL and NBA, where he applied his clinical training to assist professional athletes. He worked with players that had encountered legal or substance abuse issues and worked to improve their coping skills.

He is survived by his loving wife, Kathleen, his sons Sean of Ft. Myers, FL, and Kevin and daughter in law, Briana and grandson, Henry, of Baltimore, MD. A private family service will be held at a later date. Donations to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) would honor Jeff. He will be profoundly missed by family, friends, and a community of people who loved him.