John Vernon "Vern" Jensen

September 29, 1922 - January 6, 2025

Jensen, John Vernon "Vern" of Mpls, age 102, passed away January 6, 2025 peacefully at home surrounded by family. Born on Sept. 29, 1922 in Scandia, MN, he
grew up in Lindstrom, graduated from Lindstrom-Center City High School in 1940,
served in the CCC 1940-41 near Ely, MN, and attended Augsburg College 1941-43. He
served in the Army, 1943-46, being assigned to an engineer regiment in France. After
WWII he finished his B.A. at Augsburg in 1947, received his M.A. (1948) and his Ph.D.
(1959) from the Univ. of Minnesota. He taught at Augsburg 1948-51, and at the University of Minnesota from 1951 until his retirement in 1993.

He cherished his teaching, whether with Freshmen or Ph.D. students, and counted it a
privilege to follow their later careers. He specialized in the areas of critical thinking in
communication, communication ethics, British parliamentary speaking and Asian
rhetoric. He made frequent research trips to various libraries and archives in the U.S.

and abroad, mainly England, eventually publishing three textbooks, one biography, and
two books of reflective essays. He published numerous scholarly articles and book
reviews, and presented papers at a number of conferences in the U.S. and abroad. He
had a cosmopolitan appreciation for multiple cultures and races.

He was awarded a Danforth Foundation Teacher Study Grant (1958-59), a Fulbright
Lectureship in a Teacher Training College in Rangoon, Burma (Myanmar) (1961-62),
and a number of grants enabling research in this country and abroad.

In his retirement years, in addition to writing, lecturing, traveling, reading and volunteering, he remained active until in his nineties in tennis and swimming and played
golf until 101.

Vern was kind to everyone. He was deeply grateful for his loving family, who survive
him: his devoted wife of 70 years, Irene Khin Khin; son Donald Jensen (Tanya Hemphill); daughter Maythee Kantar (John); grandchildren and great grandchildren:
Daniel Kantar (wife Brittany and their children Ari James, Aiden Oliver, Avery Rose);
Michael Kantar; Elianna Kantar; Dillon Jensen (daughter Esme Morrow); and a large
extended family. Preceded in death by granddaughter Sally Kathleen Kantar.

His ashes will be buried at Lakewood Cemetery, Mpls. Funeral services will be

held at
Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland Ave., Mpls., February 16,
2025 at 2 pm. Memorials preferred to Scott, Jensen & Campbell Graduate Fellowship in
Rhetoric at Univ. of MN Foundation or Augsburg University Library Archives or donor's
choice.

Live stream of service available at http://haumc.org/live

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB **16**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
511 Groveland Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Tribute Wall

LS

Condolences to you on the death of a wise and wonderful soul! I am grateful to have known him and to have been the recipient of two volumes of his "Jottings and Quotes." I pulled them off the shelf when I learned of Vern's passing, and was impressed again with the ideas he valued and shared. I only wish I had known him better! All the best to Khin Khin and all those who mourn Vern.

Lori C Sturdevant - February 17, 2025 at 01:36 PM

BK

*Khin Khin and family of Vernon Jensen: Heartfelt condolences on the loss of
a brilliant and wonderful man. Vern was the essence of compassion and
gentility. My life was greatly enriched by knowing him and by being a
colleague of his wife Khin Khin at Augsburg for many decades. May God
give you strength now and in the future. Blessings, Boyd Koehler,
associate professor emeritus, Augsburg University, Minneapolis*

Boyd Koehler - January 26, 2025 at 01:09 PM

CO

Dr. Jensen was my first professor as an unofficial graduate student at the U of M. Having never met him, on the first day of class he told me about my scant research; I was impressed that he knew who I was. He welcomed me into the program then, and once I applied, shepherded me through the steps of the program with his wise and gentle counsel. After I completed my degree, he kept in touch with me throughout my career at ASU, cheering my victories, celebrating my publications and sharing with me his continued writings. As the last of his generation, he truly embodied the definition of "gentleman and a scholar." I am so grateful to have learned from him and extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

Clark Olson - January 21, 2025 at 05:13 PM

DB

Dear Khin Khin and family, One cannot think about or read tributes to Vern Jensen without using the terms "kindness" and "grateful" to describe him. Vern was one of a kind. As a student, and in later years a friend, I appreciated him greatly. He was one of the first people with whom I would share good news as I knew he would be pleased and encouraged. He paid careful attention to his students and rejoiced at our accomplishments (and he helped to make these accomplishments possible). He was a great listener and asked questions. I am so blessed to have Vern in my life for 43 years. He was the last of his generation of faculty from the department. I am grateful for this extraordinarily kind and generous man.

Dawn O. Braithwaite - January 21, 2025 at 05:01 PM

AG

Grateful for my opportunity to work for Dr. Jensen at the U of Minn. He was, indeed, kind to everyone. He chaired the Scholastic Misconduct Committee and my role was to convene it. He was a teacher at all times, using the incidents to instruct and not just punish. And kind when I would mess up, which I did occasionally! The world is a better place for individuals such as Vernon Jensen. Always grateful.

Ann Garvey - January 19, 2025 at 10:00 AM