

# CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

## Faculty Senate

Associate Professor Emeritus Michael R. Baumer, Philosophy

Professor Michael Baumer, who was born and raised in Chicago and raised in Indiana began his career at Cleveland State University in the fall of 1976. He was married to Lida Allen, whom he met at Cleveland State University. She retired in 2009 from the division of information technology. Michael retired in 2013 after 37 years of service. He continued to teach up until the spring of 2017 when he fell ill and was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. It was this disease that was responsible for his death on April 19, 2019.

For those of you who did not know Michael, he had the kind of appearance and temperament people frequently associate with being a philosopher. He was tall, on the slim side and had a long whitish-gray beard and equally long and graying hair, which was never fettered. He was rather soft spoken and seemed more at home in the land of abstract thought. I once encountered him in the Main Classroom around six in the evening, ambling down a long hallway deep in thought. I greeted him, and asked what he was doing in Main Classroom and he replied that he had class. I told him that it was after six, the time for an evening class to start and he responded, "Oh, I don't do time."

His dissertation, *A Possible-Worlds Reconstruction of Duns Scotus's Proof for the Existence of God*, completed at the University of Notre Dame, provides evidence of his passion for logic as much as in medieval philosophy. Professor Baumer had a keen interest and proficiency in logic, especially modal logic, which is the study of the deductive behavior of the expressions 'it is necessary that' and 'it is possible that.' Wanting to take a quick look at an article based on his dissertation, I blew the dust from the 1980 volume of the journal *New Scholasticism* in the Michael Schwartz Library. What I read was an elegant

essay. As his interest in logic waned, Michael turned to the history of philosophy. He was, however, reaching back, and he became a skilled teacher of Aristotle. He also taught ancient Greek, sometimes for no credit, and was very interested in offering those interested in learning the language the opportunity to do so. One of his journal articles, published in 1993, "On Aristotle's Grammar," indicates his continuing love affair with ancient philosophy. His passion for learning led him to study physics he