

Lynn Steen 1941-2015 RIP.

Obituary at [www.StatLit.org/pdf/2015-Lynn-Steen-Obit.pdf](http://www.StatLit.org/pdf/2015-Lynn-Steen-Obit.pdf)

Lynn Steen (1941-2015) established the foundations for quantitative literacy (numeracy). He saw numeracy as a social good: "Numeracy lies at the intersection of statistics, mathematics and democracy. Like statistics, numeracy is centered on interpretation of data; like mathematics, numeracy builds on arithmetic and logic. But the unique niche filled by numeracy is to support citizens in making decisions informed by evidence." (Steen, 2003). He saw context as essential to QL: "The essence of QL is to use mathematical and logical thinking in context." (Steen, 2004)

Lynn helped me get started in Quantitative Literacy. I first met him in 1999 at AMATYC. In 2000, he supported my Keck grant proposal. He invited me to present at three conferences: ICME-9 (2000), PKAL/Snowbird (2001), and Wingspread (2008). He invited me to write for two publications: Peer Review (2004) and Calculation vs. Context (2009).

After reading his obituary, I realized that Lynn and I shared something in common: we both studied physics and philosophy as undergraduates. In both disciplines, context is essential. This may have left us with a common desire to integrate the elements of our mathematical disciplines into the context of everyday life. Perhaps that is why Lynn asked me to participate in the founding of the quantitative literacy movement.

Thank you Lynn Steen. I miss you.



Milo Schield, Augsburg College  
US Representative for the International Statistical Literacy Project  
Elected member of the International Statistical Institute  
Past Vice-President of the National Numeracy Network  
Editor and webmaster of [www.StatLit.org](http://www.StatLit.org)

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