Joseph E. Seldin Travel Award

Joe Seldin was born and raised in New York City, where he graduated from Yeshiva High School. He received his B.A. degree from Hunter College in 1961, an M.A. from the University of Oregon in 1963, and a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1968, all in the field of Sociology.

After serving on the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh, he joined the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1971. He was known as an inspiring lecturer, teaching courses in sociological theory, society and drugs, criminology, and the sociology of religion. His interest in drug policy led him to consult with the Hawaii State Commission on Children and Youth and the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, as well as to participate as a speaker and panelist on various community forums.

Joe was with the Department of Sociology from 1971 to 1994 and in those short 23 years developed a following among students who described him as “an inspiring teacher, with a true warmth and enthusiasm for his students. Students were very grateful to him for his encouragement and concern over their academic pursuits.” In memory of Dr. Seldin and his work in the department a fund was established to support student travel for professional conferences. The award, the Joseph E. Seldin Memorial Travel Fund is held at the University of Hawaii Foundation.

In remembrance of Dr. Joseph Seldin, a Graduate Student Travel Fund been established with the University of Hawaii Foundation. Contributions to that travel fund can be made on the attached form as the Joseph Seldin Travel Fund.