

## Memorial for Samuel Devons

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San Paolo Professor Emeritus of International Journalism

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Family of Samuel Devons, Friends,

All of us have only a short span on this earth. But those who are deserving and fortunate are endowed with enduring blessed legacies. Sam Devons is so blessed. His legacy embraces his devoted family, his research in physics, his service to Columbia University and his many students. There is yet another legacy that is unique. As Professor Emeritus of Physics, Sam decided that professional academic life should not end with formal retirement from Columbia University. Too often, professors who have rendered a lifetime of service suddenly find themselves bereft of association with the University and their academic colleagues. It has been compared by retirees in terms of their morale to toppling off a cliff. So in 1999 Sam founded EPIC—Emeritus Professors in Columbia—an association of retirees devoted to continued service to the University and continued professional and collegial fellowship. Sam's legacy has endured, to that I can testify as successor to him as president. Today, his EPIC is very much alive. Reaching out to all retired tenured professors, it continues to grow in membership and now extends not only to the two Columbia University campuses but also to Barnard, Teachers College, and Union Theological Seminary. It was recently formally recognized as a department of the University.

Sam, on behalf of the membership of EPIC I salute you and honor you. We are one of your enduring legacies. You will not be forgotten.