

In Memoriam

Paul Campbell Dinsmore, PMI Fellow: 1941-2020

One of the world's leading lights in project management gone at 79

30 September 2020 – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – Well known and popular international project management author, expert and PMI Fellow **Paul Dinsmore** has passed away at his home in Brazil where he has lived for many years. Paul was also an honorary global advisor for this journal.

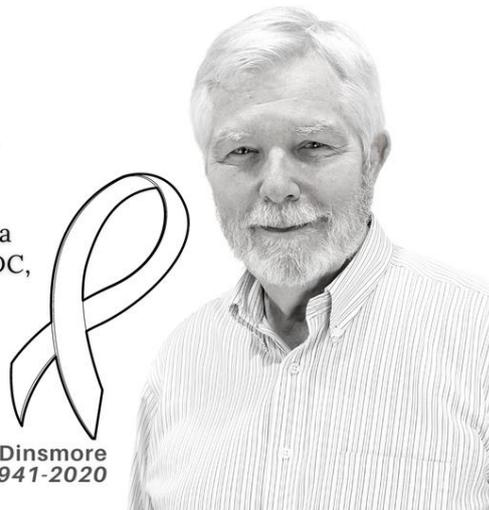
According to a notice posted on LinkedIn on 22 September: *“It is with the deepest regret and sadness that DC-DinsmoreCompass announces the passing of its Chairman, Paul Dinsmore, on the morning of September 21st, 2020. Paul Dinsmore has become a reference in Project Management in Brazil; he founded the PMI® Chapters both in Rio and São Paulo and created the “TEAL” (Outdoor Experiential Training), a project that he really appreciated. Paul is worldwide recognised and left us his mark of pioneering spirit, passion, excellence and inspiration. DC-DinsmoreCompass is truly sorry for the loss and would like to express to the family the deepest and most sincere condolences. DC members and employees feel privileged and honored to have Paul as founder, president and mentor. Here he left, for each of us, a legacy of kindness, inspiration and companionship.”*

Below is the notice posted at the top of company's website.

É com profundo pesar e tristeza que comunicamos o falecimento de nosso Presidente do Conselho, Paul Dinsmore.

A DC-DinsmoreCompass lamenta profundamente o ocorrido e se solidariza à família. Nós, sócios e funcionários da DC, nos sentimos privilegiados e honrados por ter tido Paul como fundador, presidente e mentor.

Paul Dinsmore
1941-2020



According to Sunil Prashara, President and CEO of the Project Management Institute (PMI), *“I am saddened to share the passing of Paul C. Dinsmore, PMI Fellow, mentor, volunteer and founder of two PMI chapters in Brazil. Paul was a member of PMI's community since 1977 and was a noted contributor to the advancement of project management theory and practice. He passed away on 21 September 2020. Paul spent much of his professional career giving back to the project management community by sharing knowledge through articles, books, presentations, and seminars. He saw*

parallels in life and project management and said, 'Life can be seen as a project, because it is finite, unique, and can be compounded by phases.' I have sent my condolences to his loved ones and know that his contributions to the profession and PMI will continue to impact project professionals for years to come. We will honor Paul on the In Memoriam webpage on PMI.org and will send flowers on behalf of PMI. Paul made a powerful impact on the project management profession and community, and he will surely be missed."

According to PMI's Fellow Award tribute page: Mr. Dinsmore joined PMI in 1977. A notable contributor to both project management theory and practice, his direct contributions to PMI include a variety of articles in PM Network® and in PMI Seminars & Symposia papers. He is author or co-author of 20 books, some of which have been published in Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese and Korean. In 2007 Mr. Dinsmore received PMI's David I. Cleland Project Management Literature Award as a co-editor of the AMA Handbook of Project Management. In 1986, he received the PMI Distinguished Contribution Award, and in 1994 he was named a PMI Fellow. Mr. Dinsmore was founder of two PMI Chapters in Brazil in the late 1990s (in São Paulo in 1998 and Rio de Janeiro in 1999). He also served on the board of the PMI Educational Foundation, as well as the Standards Committee. He acts as chairman of the board of DinsmoreCompass, a consulting and training company based in Rio de Janeiro Brazil.

According to Paul's profile as a PMWJ global advisor: Paul C. Dinsmore was an international speaker, executive coach and consultant on project management and organizational issues. He authored or co-authored 20 management books, and more than one hundred professional papers and articles. Mr. Dinsmore was Board President of DinsmoreCompass, a training and consulting group focused on consulting, outsourcing, training, coaching and IT support. Prior to establishing his consulting practice in 1985, he worked for twenty years as a project manager and executive in the construction and engineering industry.



Mr. Dinsmore performed consulting and training services for major companies including IBM, ENI-Italy, Petrobrás, General Electric, Mercedes Benz, Shell, Morrison Knudsen, the World Trade Institute, Westinghouse, Ford, Caterpillar, and Alcoa. His speaking and consulting practice took him to Europe, South America, South Africa, Japan, China, and Australia. The range of projects where Mr. Dinsmore provided consulting services included company reorganizations, project start-ups, and training programs, as well as advisory and coaching functions for presidents of major organizations. He participated actively in the Project Management Institute, which awarded him its Distinguished Contribution Award as well as the prestigious Fellow of the Institute. As Executive Coach, he extensively coached Company Owners and C-level executives in the fields of Oil & Gas, Construction, Engineering, Organizational Consulting as well as Health Care and Services. Mr. Dinsmore graduated from Texas

Tech University in the United States and completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School.

Personal Tributes

"I am sorry to inform you that Paul Dinsmore, one of the greatest PM pioneers in Brazil, passed away yesterday at age of 79. He was born in California, USA. He was also a good friend of mine and I met him at several PM events. Very cultured, intelligent and always in a very good mood. Author of dozens of books. It was a pleasure to be with him to hear his stories." Dr. Darci Prado, author, professor, PM maturity researcher, Minas Gerais, Brazil.
(photo at right taken in Rio de Janeiro in 2010, when PMI-Rio recognized the 5 most influential personalities in PM of the decade in Brazil. From left to right: Carlos Magno Xavier, Ricardo Vargas, Darci Prado, Américo Pinto and Paul Dinsmore).



"Paul Dinsmore was one of the titans of the profession and a great servant leader. In my early days he was one of my 'go to people' for advice and guidance. A great gentleman that also had a wicked sense of humour. Sad days indeed!" Iain Fraser, PMI Fellow and former PMI Chair, New Zealand.

"I first met Paul at a PMI event in the early 1990's and we stayed in touch over the years. In 2003 I had the opportunity to have dinner with Paul at his home in Rio de Janeiro. It was a lovely evening and we talked extensively about project management and leadership. Paul was a source of inspiration for me and I will always treasure the time I got to spend with him." Debbie O'Bray, PMI Fellow and Former PMI Chair, Winnipeg, Canada.

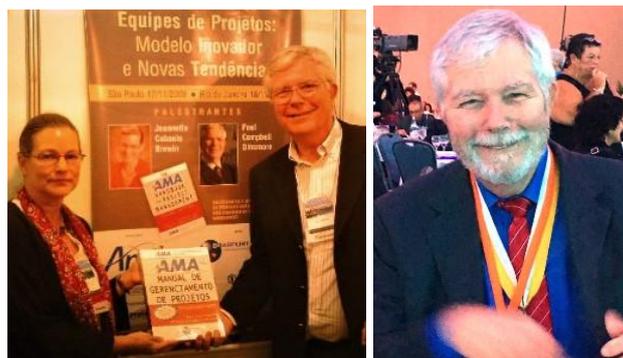
"Paul was one of the main sources of inspiration during my whole career. When I first met him in 1998, I was a young professional meeting the "legend of PM". We were at the PMI Symposium in Long Beach. He was one of the nicest people I've ever met. He was responsible for bringing PM to Brazil and is one of the people responsible for PMI's incredible growth in the country. The last time I met him, just a couple of days before his passing, he talked about his planned retirement. I told him that his day-to-day work could be coming to an end, but his legacy would stay. It is a part of the DNA of Project Management as it's known today and will be known in the future". Ricardo Vargas, Former PMI Chairman, Lisbon, Portugal (Belo Horizonte, Brazil)

"I have a signed copy of his book 'Winning In Business With Enterprise Project Management'. It was signed in July 2001. Thank you to Paul for his work and his support of PMI and for his mentorship and friendship. Sincerely and Respectfully", Frank P. Saladis, PMI Fellow, New York, NY, USA.

"I met Paul Dinsmore in 1995 at a PMI Global Congress in New Orleans. I attended a meeting called the Global PM Forum where he attended too, led by David Pells. I had the opportunity to talk to him and he encouraged me to be active in project management over the years. I met him many years at PMI Global Conferences worldwide. In the year 2002 I had the opportunity to contribute a chapter to the book 'Creating the Project Office' (co-authored by Dinsmore, Graham and Englund). He always was very supportive when I contacted him for professional advice along my career. I met him a couple of times in Rio de Janeiro at a local PMI Symposium and he was a good host. Last year I met him again at the PMI Global Congress (50th Anniversary) and we had the opportunity to talk and attend some sessions together. The project management profession has lost a great project management practitioner, consultant, author, speaker, mentor and visionary. Paul, now in your new life, you can feel so proud of your professional achievements and your great contribution to the profession. God bless you!" Alfonso Bucero, PMI Fellow, Madrid, Spain.

"When I was thinking to launch the magazine MundoPM in Brazil, 18 years ago, and talked with Paul about the challenge to be a publisher in the Project Management area and immediately he advised me to go forward and that he will give me all support and endorsed the initiative by accepting to be an editorial counsel member. After this moment I realized that I had a business to run and that is alive until today. Thanks, Paul and rest in peace !!!". Osmar Zózimo, Editor-in-Chief, MundoPM magazine, Curitiba, Brazil

"If I had to choose one word to describe Paul, it would be upbeat. Through any circumstance, no matter how rough, he always had a ready smile and a philosophical take on life. When he offered criticism, he couched it in terms that promoted growth and inspired gratitude. It was a privilege to work with him on five books and numerous articles as his editor and friend—but more than that, it was fun. Those who only knew him as a project management guru might be surprised to know he was a musician, songwriter, doting grandfather, and quite a spiritual guy. Our book tour in Brazil in 2009 when the AMA Handbook was translated to Portuguese is a highlight of my life. I can't express how much he will be missed." Jeannette Cabanis-Brewin, editor-in-chief, PM Solutions Research and co-editor of *The AMA Handbook of Project Management, Editions 2 through 5*, North Carolina, USA.



(Photos: Jeanette and Paul in Brazil in 2009; Paul at PMI Global Congress in Philadelphia, October 2019; courtesy of Jeanette Cabanis-Brewin)

“Paul will leave a lasting impact on all of us and on the profession we cherish. This leader's legacy will continue to inspire many generations to come via the folks he interacted with and the many others he shared his thought leadership with. A true difference maker. RIP!” Dr. Al Zeitoun, PMI Fellow, Washington, DC, USA.

“I count myself among literally hundreds of people who called Paul Dinsmore a mentor, an unselfish, caring, and generous person with a wry wit and a passion to serve. On top of that, he could dance a mean samba. What more is needed to recommend this fine man to the history of our illustrious profession?” Marge Combe, PMI Fellow (elect), Wisconsin, USA.

“The loss of our friend and mentor Paul Dinsmore will be felt by many all over the world. He was actively involved in the creation and shaping of many parts of our professional project management community, but seldom put himself up front when he did so. Those of us who were privileged enough to work alongside him---and I was---are deeply aware of his concern for the profession, the accuracy and poignancy of his contributions, and his support for others in their roles. He will be sorely missed.” Helen S. Cooke, PMI Fellow, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

“I heard the sad news about Paul Dinsmore on late Friday from a PMI Fellow Colleague. I feel fortunate to have met him many times and most recently in Philadelphia in Oct 2019 at PMI 50th anniversary and Global Congress. He was an internationally known author, speaker and a thought leader. I first met Paul in late 80's in one of PMI conferences (then called PMI Seminars and Symposium) and now Global Congresses. He was a great friend and made everyone feel important. He was my mentor especially when I was writing my three books on ‘The Human Aspects of Project Management’ published by PMI in 1995, 1996, 1997. I have attended many of his presentations and was always impressed by his style, depth of knowledge and vast experience. Please convey my heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. We will all miss him for his great contributions to Project Management literature.” Vijay Verma, PMI Fellow, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

“My first contact with Paul Dinsmore was in a movement in which several entities participated in the foundation of the PMI Brazil Chapter in 1996. From this movement, the PMI chapters Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro were founded. Two years later, I attended his talk at the PMI International seminar in Long Beach, California called, I believe, ‘Managing your life's project’. It was unforgettable. There I could understand that Paul was not just a project management expert, but managed to combine the concepts of project management with the feelings of our own lives. In the early years of PMI in Brazil, we had a closer contact, almost monthly. I was able to learn to admire the sweet person he was. If we can explain what the word legacy means, just look at what Paulo Dinsmore left for generations and generations to come. God bless his soul!!!” Mauricio Lopes, former PMI-São Paulo chapter leader and current PMWJ correspondent, São Paulo, Brazil.

“This is very sad news! Paul and I have been friends for many years. I first met him at the INTERNET'90 World Congress in Vienna in 1990. We then met many times

over the years, here in Texas when he came to visit his daughters or to attend PMI events and at annual PMI congresses. I spent time with him in South Africa in 1999 and both times I visited Brazil (Photo at right with Paul in Sao Paulo in 2006).



“Paul became a professional colleague, mentor and friend, serving as a global advisor for the PM World Journal since its inception in 2012, and before that to PM Forum and PM World Today. He authored many articles for us and we promoted his books. I was honored to contribute a chapter to his award-winning book, ‘The AMA Handbook of Project Management’, which he co-edited with Jeannette Cabanis-Brewin. We communicated many times over the years; he was like a member of our family. He knew as much about project management as anyone I’ve known and I was honored to be his friend. I have great memories of our times together and I will miss him very much.” David Pells, PMI Fellow, PMWJ managing editor, Texas, USA.

To see some of his books, visit [Paul Dinsmore on Amazon here](#) or [Good Reads here](#). To read some original articles by Paul Dinsmore, visit <https://peworldlibrary.net/authors/paul-dinsmore/>.

If you knew Paul and would like to add a tribute to this article, please contact editor@peworldjournal.com.