

PRIMECREST.

WHERE VISION MEETS VOICE

THE SEPTEMBER
ISSUE

VOL. II · NO. 02

2026

Adult Life,
1977

The first textbook in adult development, written for psychology students, not the corridor.

Unstoppable
LEADER
making a difference in
2026

Scholar &
Educator

**ADULT DEVELOPMENT
& WISDOM**

*A week in
Santa Fe*

Fudy
STEVENS

The scholar who wrote a young field its first book, and taught it on a screen before the rest of the corridor arrived.

Then the seminar moved onto the wire, early, when online still had to prove it could hold a room.

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SCAN TO READ



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Editorial

The book was *the easy part.*

Judy Stevens wrote a young field its first textbook, then taught it on a screen before the rest of the corridor arrived. This edition is about the gap she works in.

From the Editors

A Field That Outlasts the Syllabus

Most classrooms do not stall because nobody wrote a theory. They stall because the theory was the easy part. The syllabus gets approved, the week in Santa Fe is named, and then the room goes back to doing what it already knows how to do. That gap, between the book on the shelf and the thinking on the screen, is the subject of this edition.

We look for leaders who work inside that gap. Judy Stevens has spent a career there. She wrote *Adult Life* in 1977, the first textbook in adult development written for psychology students, when the corridor still treated adulthood as a plateau and then a decline. The students who found her were typically in their forties and fifties. They wanted the theory and the practice in the same hour.

With this September issue, PrimeCrest publishes leaders whose method is worth copying,

not only their results. Our cover subject makes an uncomfortable case: that compassion and empathy are the gold standard of adult emotional development; that a seminar can hold a room on a wire; and that a machine can retrieve, but it cannot sit for the thinking.

We printed her answers in the order she gave them. Where she named a year, we kept it. Where she declined to dress a career up as a legend, we kept that too. If your own seminar is short this term, the most useful page in this issue may be the one that tells you where to stop looking.

A note on method. The interview was conducted in writing, at her request, and the transcript went to press with its punctuation intact. What you are reading is the way she actually answers a question, which is to say slowly, and in full sentences.

The Editors

PRIMECREST EDITORIAL DESK

Read it slowly. Then go and look at the student.



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CREDITS

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Katherine A. Mercer

MANAGING EDITOR

Daniel Whitfield

FEATURE EDITOR

Rebecca Sloan

ART & DESIGN HEAD

Marcus Ellison

TYPE & COMPOSITION

Nathan Brooks

COVER DIRECTION

Claire Donovan

PHOTO EDITOR

Gregory Hale

INTERVIEW

Printed as answered

FACT DESK

Emily Carter

DIGITAL PRODUCTION

Aaron Pierce

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Jonathan Reyes

SUBSCRIPTIONS

theprimecrest.com



Judy *Stevens*

The scholar who wrote a young field its first book, and taught it on a screen before the rest of the corridor arrived.

The last number you see is not the field.

Judy Stevens on why a short seminar is almost never a syllabus problem, and what the student already knows.

A field is the most public idea a discipline owns and the least useful place to begin. Adult development arrived late, peeling away from gerontology. The older discipline measured decline. This one asked what still grows after forty. Judy Stevens was there at the start, and not as a spectator. She wrote *Adult Life* in 1977, the first textbook the field had, written for psychology students at a time when the professors were still drawing the coastline of the subject.

THE STANDARD THAT CAN BE MISSED

Ask her what the field settled on and the answer arrives without hedging. *"Compassion and empathy are the gold standard of adult emotional development."* That sentence reorganises a great deal of thinking. If the standard is a standard, it can be taught, measured and missed. Sentiment cannot. The students who sat with her were already in the middle of a life, organisational consulting, teaching, social work, and they could tell a framework from a slogan. They arrived in their forties and fifties with a long work history behind them, wanting theory and practice in the same hour, and she built the hour so both would fit.

1987, THE ROOM BECOMES TEXT

She took the room apart in 1987 and rebuilt it as text. Fielding. A week of orientation in Santa Fe, then the seminars existed on a wire, most likely among the first

graduate programs in the country delivered that way. Papers were posted where everyone could read them. Hiding, the oldest habit of the back row, became almost impossible. The method survived the move because the method was never the furniture. It was the visible thinking.

“

A machine can retrieve. It cannot sit for the assumption underneath a sentence.

AI now sits at the same desk, and she will not play the reactionary about it. Retrieval is real work and the machine does it well. What it cannot do is show the student's own reasoning, and the student's own reasoning is the whole assignment. We printed her answers in the order she gave them. No second career invented for the photograph.

A READING LIST, NOT A LEGACY

Ask her about legacy and the answer comes back at practitioner height: the book still assigned, the students still writing, the Oxford International Handbook of Adult Development and Wisdom holding the field's record straight. She does not call it a legacy. She calls it a reading list, and she keeps adding to it.

Compassion and empathy are the gold standard of adult emotional development.



Dates. Rooms. *Books.*

1977

Adult Life, first edition. The first textbook in adult development written for psychology students. A map when the professors were still drawing the coast.

40s–50s

The typical Fielding student arrives with a long work history, wanting theory and practice in the same room. Highly motivated. A working method, not a lecture.

1987

A graduate program delivered entirely online except a weeklong orientation, most likely among the first in the country. The work moves to the screen.

Santa Fe

Fielding opens with a week in the desert. Then the seminars exist as text, and later as video, without losing the method.

Oxford

Major contributor and editor of the Oxford International Handbook of Adult Development and Wisdom, as the field catches up to the teaching.

Now

AI sits at the desk. The student's own thinking and writing still has to be visible. That is the issue she keeps returning to.

The account, on one board.

An AI CRM that keeps the deal, the ticket and the last conversation in the same place. The next move is already drafted.

PIPELINE

Deals stay current from the call and the mail. No extra entry.

THE DESK

Docs, tasks and approvals, searchable in the language you already use.

AFTER THE SALE

Onboarding and follow-up as a workflow, with the trail still attached.

SIGNAL

Where a deal stalls, and where the week actually went.



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BUILT FOR THE PERSON WHO ALREADY HAS A STACK

Open the desk. The day is in order.

Not another login. Fortiora sits on the work you already do and makes it searchable, briefable, and hard to lose.

MORNING BRIEF

What moved overnight, who is waiting, which thread now needs a decision.

THE TRAIL

Six months later you can still find who said yes, and why.

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30 N Gould St Ste R, Sheridan, WY 82801, United States

hello@theprimecrest.com · theprimecrest.com

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