Irwin L. Goldstein—called Irv by everyone always—was born in New York City on October 4, 1937, the first child of Benjamin and Molly Goldstein. His father had emigrated from Russia in 1920 and his mother’s parents had done the same a generation earlier. His father ran a candy store, working very long hours serving as a life-long role model for Irv. Irv grew up surrounded by family brought to the U.S. by his father. Nearby also lived Arlene (Micki) Isaacson, whom he met when he was 15 and married later, and whom he always described as his best friend.

After graduating from the even-then well-known Stuyvesant High School, he enrolled at Queens College but transferred to Baruch College (downtown City College, now CUNY) after meeting Angelo Dispenzieri, a kind, tough, smart, man whose demeanor was always lively, smiling, energetic, and welcoming—all traits that characterized Irv as well. After City College he enrolled in Psychology at Maryland and in his second year there he married Micki.

C. J. (Jack) Bartlett arrived from Ohio State University (OSU) in Irv’s last year at Maryland to set up the Industrial Psychology program for which Irv originally thought he had come to Maryland; they became great buddies. Irv’s first job after the PhD was at OSU in their Industrial/Applied Experimental program, but he and Micki missed the East Coast and family, especially after their first child, Harold, was born. When Jack Bartlett asked him to return to Maryland the story goes that Micki told Irv: “I don’t know about you but I am going upstairs to pack.” And so began the wonderful legacy Irv left at the University of Maryland as an academic (eventually chair of Psychology), a professional (eventually president of SIOP), and an administrator (eventually dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and then vice chancellor for Academic Affairs for the entire University System of Maryland).
Irv loved ideas, especially good theoretical ideas that had practical applications. He was at various times associate editor of both the Journal of Applied Psychology and the Human Factor Journal, and his very influential book on Training in Organizations went through four editions. SIOP is what it is today because of his efforts on its behalf. He was president of SIOP (1985–1986), and he planned and managed the first SIOP conference held in Chicago in 1986 with 600 in attendance; this year in Houston there were 3,800. These statistics fail to capture his amazing influence on SIOP members, but space does not permit an elaboration of them except to say that Irv WAS the first SIOP conference, and Irv made it happen.

As a practitioner, Irv was a frequent expert witness and was so effective in this role that organizations being served with consent decrees sought him out to be their guide. He loved working with colleagues like Wayne Cascio and Jim Outtz and Shelly Zedeck in his role as an expert witness, and more recently, companies (such as Coca Cola, and Morgan Stanley Smith Barney) sought his help in their attempts to become more sensitive and supportive and inclusive of diversity.

In his many academic administrative roles Irv was a mentor to all: graduate students, faculty, department chairs, and deans and campus presidents as well. Irv had had excellent role models to work from and he cared for excellence and hard work always—always with a twinkle in his eyes.

Irwin L. Goldstein died on March 8, 2013 surrounded by his family and in communication with his friends. He is survived by his wife and best friend of 52 years, Micki, his son Harold (who now teaches at Baruch College), his daughter Beth, and his four loved grandchildren (Miriam and Benjamin Goldstein, and Zachary and Ethan Purcell).