



David Anderson

January 27, 1939 - May 19, 2013

Dr. David B. Anderson, 74, of Kearney died of aggressive cancer Sunday, May 19 at Good Samaritan Hospital. A celebratory wake will be held Friday, May 24 from 4:30 to 7:30pm at Kearney Community Theatre, with written or spoken remembrances being shared starting at 6pm. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Museum of Nebraska Art or Kearney Community Theatre. Condolences or personal reflections may be submitted at www.osrfh.com. O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home and Cremations is in charge of arrangements. David was born on January 27, 1939 in Marshalltown, Iowa to Iva Ayres Anderson and Lester Anderson. He grew up in Marshalltown, attended Marshalltown High School, and after graduating from University of Northern Colorado in 1960 returned to Iowa to teach public school until 1965. On July 13, 1962 he was united in marriage with his wife and partner of over 50 years: Marilyn Leigh Moffit. David revisited UNC for his MA and made acquaintance with fellow students from Kearney State College who would become his lifelong friends and coworkers. When he graduated in 1966 and took a position as an English Instructor at KSC, a career began with KSC/University of Nebraska at Kearney that spanned almost 40 years. David received his Ed.D in 1977 from UNC, and was promoted to full professorship in the English Department at UNK in 1979. While his titles over the years included Professor, Department Chair for the English Department, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, he maintained that his favorite aspect of KSC/UNK was the students. A constant leader, David authored

several significant grants for UNK, created and ran the computer writing lab, served as University Ombudsman, and was chief negotiator for the UNKEA. His varied work included things like maintaining the school's accreditation status, managing visas for visiting international faculty members, and teaching correct comma use. He served on numerous committees, and never missed an opportunity to gain knowledge or share it. In the community David was instrumental in starting and supporting Kearney Community Theatre from the late 60s, working behind the scenes on finance, facilities, sets, directing, and occasionally performing as well. He was part of a small team of volunteers who, in 1986, converted the former Post Office building into a home for the Nebraska Art Collection which is now Museum of Nebraska Art. He served as a MONA board member from 1999 ?" 2009 as Treasurer, Investment Committee Chair, and Facilities Chair. He was a volunteer political organizer for Bob Kerrey helping to establish his candidacy for the gubernatorial and senate races, served on the Nebraska Arts Council board, and was quite proud to have been a beer judge at the Nebraska State Fair. David enjoyed challenging projects, such as designing and building the family's home and a couple of boats, and raising two daughters. He enjoyed golf, the lake, jazz music, football, and never turned down the opportunity to have a beer with a friend-or have hundreds of friends over for a beer in support of a cause he championed. He was always quick-witted and creative, was generous with his resources, advice and mentorship, and was a good and loyal friend, husband and father. He will be sorely missed by his wife Merilyn, daughters Wendy and Amy, sons-in-law Marc and Marcus, and granddaughter Lucy.

Tribute Wall



“ *David Anderson*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *I have been wanting to send you a message since I heard about your loss. I am so sorry, Merilyn. I'm sure you had a wonderful life together and have many memories to enjoy. I see you are still in Kearney - I am still in my home of 47 years. I think many of us lowans grew up to stay put. I'm sure this will be a big adjustment for you. I am thinking of you.*

Lola Rasmussen Chalfant - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM



“ *I am so sorry to learn of Mr. Anderson's passing. He was my professor from 1973-1975, and he taught me to read Chaucer in Middle English, quite a feat to say the least. I remember him as one of my favorite professors at KSC. My condolences go out to his family.*

Diane Johnson - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM



“ *So saddened to learn of David's death. He made the opaque translucent, and inspired one to avoid contempt prior to investigation. He led us to epiphanies. He was our Beatrice through Dante's Inferno, and guided us to self-awareness through inspired writing assignments. How awesome to be a catalyst in transforming lives! Sandy Devine*

Sandra Peters Devine - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

BM

“ Merilyn, So sorry to just have learned about David's passing away. My prayers and sympathy go out to you and your daughters. r u

Brenda MCKimmey - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

DK

“ Only Dave will understand this.... Why I still, after over 58 years, cannot walk by the cottage cheese in the grocery store, without smiling or giving a little laugh. He was a friend, sa,, a great sense of humor and very bright. God Speed Dave..... krog

D D Kroger - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

JL

“ I am sending each of you my sincere sympathy of the loss of your husband, father and grandfather. I was blessed to have Mr. Anderson as my teacher for all 4 years of high school. He lit a fire within me to learn and love the written word. He was always my favorite teacher and well remembered over the past 52 years. The world is a better place because he shared his love and talents.

Janice Workman Lovig - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

LH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of David's family and friends. I was glad to hear his theatre involvement carried over from High School. He was a talented guy in so many areas. The lucky students whose lives he touched have indeed been blessed.

Lynda Scott Haupert - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

CG

“ David was a good friend to both my brother John and I . My maiden name was Bruce. I have so many memories of David throughout all of my school years. He had a good heart and was always there to talk if you were down. Bless his heart. Claudette

Claudette Gumbert - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

NS

“ Was sad when I heard the news you had lost David....we had many good times together when we were in high school and MJC. With my prayers for you and the girls. Nick

Nick Schrodt - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

FB

“ So sorry to hear of my friends passing, he was a good friend throughout high school and after. I will miss him.

Floyd Buffington - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

BN

“ These losses are tragic and so unfair, especially for Dave's beloved family. Know we grieve with you and remember his warmth and generously loving ways.

Bob Norris - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

BE

“ David will be missed by all his Marshalltown friends and class mates God Bless his Family.

Bob & Mary Ennis - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

MW

“ *My prayers and heart go out to you and the family for David's untimely passing. I am truly saddened by this news.*

Mac Warnell - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

PD

“ *So sorry you have lost your help-mate , dear friend and lover. Enjoy all the wonderful memories and treasure your times with your family every day. My very best to you all. 0*

Peggy Ware Draegert - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

BH

“ *However impersonal this might be, I was truly saddened to hear of David's death. Merilyn, please feel a warm and snug hug from me. And, I love the names, Amy & Wendy, so I'm sending them hugs, too.*

Bruce Hauptert - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

DM

“ *Merilyn and family,
I am sorry for your loss. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.
Dick McDonald, class of 57 MHS*

Dick McDonald - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

SD

“ I worked for Dr. Anderson in the Writing Center for my Freshman and Sophomore years in college. I will always be grateful for his taking a chance on me, a lowly Freshman with an attitude. I was a writing tutor all 4 years of college and I know I became a better writer because of it. He lent me his copy of Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance and told me that it was newts that formed in the old coffee that sat too long in the pot. God speed, sir.

Shelley Davis-Wise - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

DN

“ Please know that you are very much in my heart and prayers today. Love Wendy,Dave,Keisha Nickel.

DAVE WENDY NICKEL - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM