



Prof. Mark Edward Conroy

January 29, 1952 - October 4, 2018

Mark Edward Conroy, age 66, Emeritus Associate Professor of English at Ohio State University, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones on October 4th in Columbus.

Mark was born in Wichita, Kansas on January 29, 1952 to Julie and Bob Conroy. The family soon moved to Fond du Lac Wisconsin, where Mark enjoyed an idyllic childhood and went to St Mary Springs High School.

He received his BA from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and his doctorate in Comparative Literature from the State University of New York (SUNY) Buffalo. Mark taught at Louisiana State University - Baton Rouge and at Yale University before coming to Ohio State University where he taught in the English Department for 32 years, retiring in 2017. His specialties were Twentieth-Century British and American literature and criticism, Comparative Literature, and more recently, film, including a popular Hitchcock course. He authored numerous articles and two books: "Modernism and Authority: Strategies of Legitimation in Flaubert and Conrad" and "The Muse in the Machine". He was a trustee of the Joseph Conrad Society-USA.

Conversations with Mark were sought after and long remembered for their reflections of his quick sharp wit, intellect and breadth of knowledge. Those

who knew him better saw his deep compassion, integrity, playfulness, and kindness.

Mark was an active member of St. Gregory of Nyssa Orthodox Church, where he served on the parish student Scholarship committee. During a valiant long fight with cancer, Mark found inner strengths and insights from his renewed Christian faith, and he found comfort in the support of his church community.

Music brought Mark great joy. He was a talented pianist, and family and friends remember special occasions where he entertained us with improvised jazz and renditions of songs like "I'll be seeing you". Mark and his wife enjoyed traveling together and daily companionship. She'll be "seeing him in all the old familiar places" and remember their wonderful times together. Those who knew him were better people for having had the fortune of living, loving and laughing with Mark Conroy.

Mark was preceded in death by his mother Julie and by his father Robert Conroy. He is survived by his beloved wife of 30 years, Mary, dear step-mother Ann Conroy, step-sisters Susan Buche (John Koker), Martha Buche (Jim Pattison), Sarah Serdin (Mark), step-brothers Joseph Buche (CJ) and James Buche (Nadine), cousin Michael Ray (Candace), brother-in-law Lubomir Mlynar (Michele), his aunts and many dear nieces, nephews, cousins. Also grieving his loss are close friends David Riede, Natalie Tyler, Jim Battersby, Lisa Kiser, Paul and Marsha Mitchell, Debra Lipkowitz, John Finn, and colleagues, students and good friends new and old.

The family would like to express thanks to all those who supported us during our challenging times, and offer our gratitude to the Doctors and Nurses at the James Cancer Hospital, the Dr. Kendra Melanoma Team, as well as Heartland Hospice. Thanks also to our church family, clergy, the parish St Elizabeth's ministry, extended family and dear friends for their care and support.

In lieu of flowers, the Family asks you to consider donating to:

St Gregory of Nyssa Orthodox Church (academic) Scholarships <https://stgregs.info/parish-life/scholarships/>

The James Cancer Hospital programs <https://cancer.osu.edu/giving-back>

The IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) <https://www.iocc.org/ways-to-give>

Or your favorite library or charity

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

9571 North High Street
Lewis Center, OH 43035

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **10**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home
515 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085
(614) 885-4006
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Prayer Service

OCT **10**. 7:00 PM (ET)

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515 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085
(614) 885-4006
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Funeral Service

OCT **11**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Gregory of Nyssa Orthodox Christian Church
2219 Summit Street
Columbus, OH 43201

Tribute Wall



“ *Prof. Mark Edward Conroy*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Mark and Mary had met but hadn't realized they were going to date when I came to visit Mary in Madison, Wi. I knew Mary through her college friends back in NYC. Mary decided to have a party while I was visiting and invited Mark. The rest is history. To be there at the start and also to be a bridesmaid in their beautiful Orthodox wedding was dear. We were never able to spend much time together over the years, living in different cities, but Mary had found in Mark the best of the best. As we say in New York, Mary found a Mensch. Mark, you will be missed by many.*

Linda Royal - November 08, 2018 at 10:07 PM



“ *Mel and I were so fortunate to get to know Mark somewhat when you visited us. Mary, you and I have been great friends for so many years and I feel your loss sincerely. Mark was very smart and so much fun to hold a conversation with. Love to you both, we'll never forget him. Or you, Mary. Call on us anytime! Nancy and Mel Johnson, Madison, WI*

Nancy Johnson - October 14, 2018 at 06:18 PM

MW

“*Mark was incredibly funny and always pushed me intellectually. A conversation with him would move from acerbic wit to gentleness to deep knowledge and enthusiastic intellectual engagement.*

This news surprises me and saddens me. I last spoke with Mark at the viewing for our mutual friend, Rob, with whom I once shared academic trenches.

I always enjoyed talking with Mark, a professor who could challenge and tease and still make me feel like we're all on the same team. In a profession characterized by careerism, competition, and professional uncertainty, that feeling of having the smart funny one who can think and read and argue on one's team is a helpful antidote.

My condolences to Professor Conroy's family. I'm struck with a sudden desire to hear piano well played while reading Joseph Conrad, Ford Madox Ford, or Henry James.

Matt Wanat - October 10, 2018 at 07:38 PM

JM

I, too, was very saddened by this news. Matt Wanat and I were in one of Mark's graduate seminars at OSU, and I echo everything Matt says about Mark's wit and his deep knowledge. Mark was my academic advisor, a member of my PhD exam committee, and a true mentor.

Mary, the McCombe Family is so very sorry for your loss.

John McCombe

John McCombe - October 11, 2018 at 08:30 AM



“ *Love Everlasting Bouquet was purchased for the family of Prof. Mark Edward Conroy.*



October 10, 2018 at 11:29 AM



“ *Sweet Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Prof. Mark Edward Conroy.*



October 09, 2018 at 03:55 PM



“ *John, Alena, Jerry and Oksana Bubniak purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Prof. Mark Edward Conroy.*



John, Alena, Jerry and Oksana Bubniak - October 08, 2018 at 10:11 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Prof. Mark Edward Conroy.*



October 08, 2018 at 08:04 PM

MB

“ For Mary...our hearts were saddened to hear of the loss of our longtime friend Mark. We all felt like he was part of our "Morehouse Family", and were so blessed to get to know him over many years of helping with his care. He will be fondly remembered, and missed. Our prayers are with you. May you have many wonderful memories to comfort you at this time. Know that he was so very special to us!

*Debbie, Lyndi, Patty & Marla
Martha Morehouse Tower
1st Floor Lab Draw RNs*

Marla Bastian - October 08, 2018 at 12:02 PM

SS

“ My personal favorite memory (other than being called Say-roh for most of my life) came to me from our Mom, Ann.

Seems when Mark was a little fellow, he was really upset at his Mom, Julie, for some childish reason and determined to run away from home. He packed his SHEET MUSIC (totally LOVE that detail!!) in a little valise and ran off to make his way alone in the world. Well, since he was not allowed to cross the street (!! he circled the block until he came to a local business and asked them for a job. The rest is lost to history (and Mark denied it ever happened), but he got back home safe and sound and stayed the course to greatness - and way more siblings than he may have been prepared for as an only child.

Makes me cry to know he will never call me Say-roh again.

I always tell my husband, also a Mark, that I learned how to be a "Debate Trophy" Wife by practicing verbal badinage with Mark C.

Miss you, Mark. Rest in Peace.

*Much Love,
Sarah "Say-roh" Serdin
One of the Multitudinous Siblings*

Sarah Serdin - October 08, 2018 at 08:36 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Prof. Mark Edward Conroy.



October 07, 2018 at 11:27 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Prof. Mark Edward Conroy.



October 07, 2018 at 06:09 PM



“ *Mary A. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket* for the family of Prof. Mark Edward Conroy.



Mary A. - October 07, 2018 at 04:43 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of Prof. Mark Edward Conroy.



October 07, 2018 at 03:57 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray* was purchased for the family of Prof. Mark Edward Conroy.



October 07, 2018 at 03:38 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Prof. Mark Edward Conroy.* ”



October 06, 2018 at 05:03 PM