



Dr. John Shaughnessy

December 16, 1947 - December 16, 2015

Dr. John Shaughnessy, 68, of Holland, passed away on Wednesday, December 16, 2015, following a brief illness. John was born in Chicago May 13, 1947, to John and Helen (Jakubowski) Shaughnessy. John graduated from Loyola University in 1969 and finished his doctoral work in psychology at Northwestern University in 1972. John started his career as a researcher, author and instructor at Northwestern University and the University of California Berkeley. He came to teach at Hope College in 1975. In 1992 John was awarded the college's "Hope Outstanding Professor Educator" award and in 2008, the "Janet L. Andersen Excellence in Teaching Award". He served as the chair of the Psychology Department from 1997-2000. After 40 years as a psychology professor, colleague and friend to his students, John retired at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. John married Paula Nadeau on December 19, 1992, and they made their lives together in Holland. John and Paula are members of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Paula Shaughnessy; mother-in-law Carol Lahti and brothers-in-law Michael Nadeau and Thomas Nadeau; his good friends Tom Ludwig, Chris Barney and Leah Chase-Wallar; and his beloved four-legged friend Josie. A memorial mass will be held at 11:00 am, Monday, December 28, 2015, at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, 195 W. 13th Street, Holland 49423. A time to visit John's family and friends will be from 9:30-10:45 am prior to the memorial mass. Memorial contributions may be made to Hope College. The Shaughnessy's are being served by Langeland-Sterenber

Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. John Shaughnessy*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"John's legacy continues in the Psychology Department. Remembering John, we have named our department's advanced research instruction room "The John Shaughnessy Psychology Research Lab," and it continues to be an active place for learning research methods. In 2017, we plan to launch the endowed John Shaughnessy Psychology Lecture Series to recognize and celebrate alumni whose research formation continues to infuse their work. We miss John and continue to invest in Hope Psychology students every day, inspired by his energy and devotion to student learning."*

Charlotte Witvliet - December 15, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *"I had the good fortune to know John at Northwestern, to watch the first season of Monday Night Football with him and Art Patterson, and to play with John on our psychology department softball and football teams. He was an admirable man, someone gifted with humor, grace, and intelligence. My condolences to those who were closest to him."*

Gerry Stein - May 31, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RE

“Just now learning of John's death. I trust completely that if I saw him today, he would ask how I was doing while remembering where I was serving when we last spoke. His memory for important things was a reflection of his heart for many of us as students and friends. His impact on my life continues on. I am sad today but eternally grateful. Rest in peace, my teacher.”

Rev - May 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JH

“I was very sorry to hear about John's passing. He will be fondly remembered for lasting contributions to his discipline and students. With heartfelt sympathy and caring prayers for you and your family.
Jack Holmes”

Jack Holmes - December 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

FR

“I am deeply saddened by the loss of Dr. Shaughnessy, as he meant a great deal to the Hope community and each person that he encountered. I have many fond memories of him stopping in the lab to talk with me, sometimes referring to himself as a human email. He served as a wonderful mentor to me as well as an outstanding professor. I know many students who loved his Research Methods class, mostly because of his passion for teaching, which was beyond evident. Many of us also had the privilege of taking his final Senior Seminar class, What's Worth Remembering, this past semester. We enjoyed the learning environment he very intentionally crafted for us a place to critically examine our lives, to share and to learn about ourselves, and to learn from one another. His impact lives on. This past semester, Dr. Shaughnessy also played an integral role in my graduate school application process, both supporting me and challenging me along the way. I gained a great deal of confidence through our conversations and know that relationships like ours were meaningful for him as a professor. He was a truly excellent professor, mentor, and person. Despite so much sadness, I feel so thankful for having known Dr. Shaughnessy and for his impact on my life as well as the lives of many others.”

Fallon Richie - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HS

“Dear Paula, I am so deeply deeply sorry. My deepest condolences.”

Heather Sellers - December 26, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LK

“As student and as colleague, I respected John for his dedication, expertise, and excellence in teaching. I remember his explaining to me how he put tests together and then evaluated and improved them constantly. John's humor as well as his passion showed up often. Once he stepped out of his usual pacing path while lecturing and went over to the classroom door to say, "This is an aside." Then he said, "And this is an aside to the aside," and stepped OUT the door. Several years after I left the Hope staff and Holland, I heard that he and Paula Nadeau had married, and I was overjoyed for both of them, since I had been friends with Paula when we were students. Paula, please accept my deepest sympathy. John, you, and other family and friends will be in my prayers.”

Lynn Raffety Kennedy - December 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CW

“Augustine said that good teachers love their subject and love their students. John was a good teacher, indeed. Hope College was blessed to have him teach for over 40 years, teaching nearly 2,500 students in his 99 classes of PSY 200 Research Methods alone. Retiring from Hope in May 2015, John returned to the classroom this fall to teach his senior seminar entitled *What's Worth Remembering*. When he saw the department had need, John readily offered to teach one last Research Methods course. He gave his students and the Psychology Department his all. My heart is broken over the loss of our dear friend, beloved professor and colleague, John Shaughnessy. John was the chair who hired me in 1997, the one who walked with me through the valley of the shadow of death when my mom died during my first year as a professor. He was a compassionate friend, a consummate teacher, a remarkable scholar of memory and research methods, and an engaging conversation partner. When John gave a speech in April to our students, he closed with this line about what is worth remembering: "The most important lesson I have learned in the past 40 years is that God abides with us."”

Charlotte Witvliet - December 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KK

“We lost a gem. John's love of teaching inspired me to become a psychology professor myself, and more than 25 years later, I am still grateful for having known him. He was a caring mentor who held us to high standards, but guided with a gentle hand. Paula, may the love of God, friends, and family carry you through this most difficult time.”

Kristen Klaaren - December 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MG

“I pursued Psychology because of John. (He was lecturing on Latin Square design and I had a shazam epiphany of an empirically-informed worldview.) I persevered because of John. (I was going to quit school. He made me sit and stare at that blasted Peanuts poster hanging in his office that said There's no heavier burden than a great potential.) I try to pattern my teaching after John's teaching (organized, challenging enough to be engaging and did I mention organized?). John showed us what it looks like to realize great potential not for long enough, but way beyond good enough. He is greatly missed. Marjorie Gunnoe, Class of 1987 Dept. of Psychology, Calvin College”

Marjorie L Gunnoe - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DP

“Paula, I am so sorry for you loss!. Diane Williams Perry”

Diane Williams Perry - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CB

“*"The Hope community suffered a tremendous loss on Wednesday. John was a brilliant teacher, wonderful colleague, and an all-around incredible person. I learned so much from him about what it means to be an educator. The warmth, compassion, and dedication he showed provided a model that I aspired to emulate, all the time knowing that I'd never reach such lofty heights. His curiosity was boundless and his self-deprecating manner belied a keenly critical intellect. I remember telling him about some experiment I was planning, one that was decidedly flawed. He never came right out and pointed out the major flaw. He just had me explain it a few times, saying I feel like I should be able to follow this because it's pretty straightforward, but I think there's something I'm just not getting. The third time through, I finally caught the error. He simply said, Hmmm, you know, I wondered if that might be an issue. I will be eternally grateful for his friendship, but every now and then would think, Man, I wish could experience his class as a college student. It sounds a little weird to say that 68 is too young, but for John it really is true. I will miss you, my friend."*

Chuck Behensky - December 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM