



Lisa Ede

September 9, 1947 - September 29, 2021

September 29, 2021—20 days after her 74th birthday—marked the end of renowned teacher-scholar Lisa Ede’s life. In the days since her death, tributes and testimonies have flooded the internet, from friends and colleagues across the country (and beyond) who spoke of what Lisa and her work meant to them, of the many acts of kindness, of mentorship, of unflagging support she was so well known for.

Professor of English Emerita at Oregon State University, Lisa was an influential scholar whose research, recorded in scores of books and articles, was recognized with numerous awards from various writing and rhetoric, literature, and writing center professional associations. Upon her retirement, Oregon State held “Situating Composition: In Honor of Lisa Ede, a symposium devoted to her scholarly work.

A 1965 graduate of Findlay (Ohio) High School, Lisa took one year at Findlay College before transferring to Ohio State University for her B.S. in English Education. She earned her M.A. in English Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and returned to Ohio State to complete her PhD in English Studies in 1975. Her first academic position was at SUNY Brockport, where she taught and administered a writing program until her move to Oregon State in 1980, where she directed the Center for Writing and Learning and continued to flourish as a teacher, researcher, and mentor.

Those who knew Lisa well, knew her to be sincere, generous, and loving. Introduced to nature's wonders by artist Greg Pfarr, her loving husband of forty-seven years, Lisa was an avid outdoors woman with a keen appreciation of our natural world. She was a cookbook hound (later an avid watcher of the food network) and a fantastic, even daring, cook and host. She was also a strong supporter of the arts, of music, dance, and the visual arts. And she was an intensely loyal and always caring partner, in-law, sister, aunt, friend, and colleague.

Predeceased by her parents, Robert B. and Ann Ruffin Ede, and her brothers, Jeff and Brian, Lisa is survived by husband Greg; siblings Leni Ede Smith, Andy Ede, Sara Ede Rowekamp, Robin Ede Bravard, Michele Ede Smith, Lori Ede Harple, Julie Ede Campbell, Rob Ede; and many, many beloved nieces, nephews, and in-laws.

Gifts in memory of Lisa may be made to the Ede Writing Faculty Support Fund through the OSU Foundation, 4238 SW Research Way, Corvallis, OR 97333. Donations may also be made online at osufoundation.org. Please note "in memory of Lisa Ede" on the memo line or online form. A memorial service will be held in early summer.

Lisa loved her family and friends and colleagues, and she also loved Wendell Berry's poem, "The Peace of Wild Things."

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things

who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.
May Lisa rest in the grace of the world.

Arrangements by: DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home

Tribute Wall

JK

“ I was dear Lisa's dissertation director at Ohio State--and her friend and admirer ever since. She was as brilliant as she was kind. I Will miss her so much.

James r. Kincaid. November 8

James R. Kincaid - November 08, 2021 at 09:37 AM

NL

“ Nancy Lemman & family are sad to learn of Lisa's passing. We remember her fondly as a real spark plug who was always fun to see and talk to at Chamber Music Corvallis Concerts. We will miss her too....Nancy, Valerie, Hope, Chris, Richard and Dorothy

Nancy Lemman - October 21, 2021 at 08:10 PM

SM

“ So sorry to hear of Lisa's passing. We both arrived at OSU in 1980 as new faculty members and I always had a lot of respect for all the things she accomplished on campus and her devotion to her discipline. She will be missed.

Starr McMullen - October 19, 2021 at 11:36 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Lisa's Memories Album



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - October 12, 2021 at 07:36 PM

CT

Lisa was a kind, intelligent and sincere friend. She was a great listener and genuinely cared about others. I will miss visiting with her and the wonderful memories she shared. My deepest sympathies to Greg and the rest of her family.

Carmen Taylor

Carmen Taylor - October 17, 2021 at 09:16 AM

EG

“*Lisa was a superb colleague and an all-around wonderful person -- she always took a sincere interest in others and could always be counted on to provide inspiration and support at every turn. She will be missed terribly around Moreland Hall on the OSU campus, where she spent so many productive years teaching and mentoring. We remember on first arriving to Corvallis how Lisa invited us to dinner, made us feel welcome, and in later years always asked about our boys. She acquainted us with Chamber Music Corvallis and we enjoyed often seeing Lisa at those events, where we would discuss the program at intermission and wonder about how the 2nd half would go. We extend our deepest sympathies to Greg, the rest of Lisa's family, and all of the people whose lives she touched and bettered.*

Sincerely, Evan and Lynette Gottlieb

Evan Gottlieb - October 09, 2021 at 08:13 PM

MW

“ I just learned of Lisa's death and am in shock. It's odd to think of Lisa not being in the world. She was always so busy, even after she retired. (I had predicted she would not be able to stay retired, but she did.)

I was her student for numerous classes and for my thesis (about her baby, the Writing Center). She was interested in what we wrote and sometimes wanted to know more. Lisa also trusted me to assist her in helping one of her students reach a deadline, so the three of us worked together (and met the deadline).

We also shared a love of dogs (of at least Bachelor on her part), supporting each other when both of us lost a dog. That love extended to cats, too, of course! (Sweet Leo.)

Greg, I am so sorry and am sending you strength, the strength to grieve and go on. And to Lisa's many siblings, I am also sending that strength.

I am honored to have known and worked with her.

Melissa R. Weintraub - October 09, 2021 at 03:38 PM

BO

“ The first time I met Lisa was, in fact, absolutely terrifying. I was driving to my first MFA/MA mixer with OSU faculty. I was nervous about meeting everyone, and when parallel parking out in front of the party, I completely dinged up the car in front of me. Imagine the horror when I learned that it was Lisa Ede's car — the legendary professor I had heard so much about. I finally got up the courage to approach her at the party, confessed what I had done, and ... she was, of course, completely chill about it. It really set the tone for the next two years of my life, being supported and understood by my professors.

Later in my time at OSU, Lisa was my professor. I felt very overwhelmed, and I told Lisa I wasn't sure I could keep up. She encouraged me to stick with it, and I'm so glad I did. She was always a champion for her students, and helped so many of us (especially young women) overcome "imposter syndrome" in all of the ways.

I'll never forget the kindness, understanding and faith in my abilities that she showed me — and all of her students.

Becky Olson - October 07, 2021 at 12:27 PM

MA

“ Lisa inspired and supported her students. When I became ill winter term 1982, she flexed deadlines and found other ways to ensure I would still succeed in her class.

Martha (Stillwell) Anderson - October 06, 2021 at 11:42 PM

SJ

“ Such a blessing always. So lucky to have been her student, friend, and colleague. - Sara Jameson

Sara Jameson - October 06, 2021 at 05:09 PM

SK

“ *Lisa was wonderful to know as a colleague but even more wonderful to know as a person. I will always revere our chats about all kinds of things outside of work-related topics. My condolences and best wishes to her husband and others who loved her.*

Steve Kunert

Steven Kunert - October 06, 2021 at 04:54 PM



“ *She was an inspiration to all of her students, especially to me. I hope her family finds comfort in knowing she lives on in our work.*

Gail Oberst - October 06, 2021 at 01:56 PM

SJ

“ *Sincere condolences to all Lisa's family. —Simon and Deb*

Simon Johnson - October 02, 2021 at 10:13 AM