



Robert Stephen Iltis

October 16, 1955 - March 14, 2019

Robert S. Iltis, 63, passed away on March 14th, 2019 at his home outside of Philomath, Oregon after a two year battle with brain cancer. He was born in Denver, Colorado on October 16th, 1955 to Charles and Mary Iltis. He joined his two older brothers, Charlie and Michael, in a home filled with love, laughter and plenty of discussion.

Robert loved school and was always a voracious reader. He learned to excel in speech and debate and enjoyed acting in plays. He graduated from Central Catholic High School in Denver in 1974. His college years were spent in the Speech Communication and Theatre Department at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. While working as a student worker at the Physical Plant on campus, he met his future wife, fellow student worker, Snick (Sue) Lamkin. They were working together to clean up after a Bob Dylan Concert (Hard Rain) at the CSU Hughes Stadium in May 1976. After four years as friends, sparks flew. Robert and Snick were married in 1980. Within the next year, Robert finished up his Master's degree at CSU. They welcomed their first born, Gabriel, into the family and then decided to move to Madison, Wisconsin to earn his PhD at the University of Wisconsin. Within a few years their son, Jacob, and daughter, Claire joined the family. Many good friends were made in Graduate school. Robert took his first Assistant Professorship at Texas Tech University, in Lubbock, Texas, where sons Joseph and Santana were welcomed into the family. In 1991, Robert accepted a position at Oregon State University, where he taught for over 27 years. He was honored to serve as Department Chair in the Speech Communication Department, for part of his tenure.

Teaching and mentoring students was one of the great passions of Robert's life, as many of his colleagues and former students can attest. He always said that working with students was what he loved most about being a Professor and that his students and colleagues helped make every day at the office enjoyable. In his last days, he asked Snick to write a note letting his students and colleagues know how he felt about them, it said:

"I love you. I have had a good life. Thank you."

Robert's pastimes included coaching his children's soccer teams, spending quality time with his grandchildren, playing the mandolin, gardening, cooking, baking bread, and beer and wine making. On any given weekend, you could count on waking in the morning to the smell of his pancakes wafting from the kitchen and later be excited to find out what he had planned for Sunday dinner.

You could fill a book and still not encompass all of Robert's accomplishments, and the contributions and positive impact that he had on his family, friends, colleagues and students. Robert was a man of great faith, who chose to express that faith by showing love, kindness and compassion to all he encountered. He will be greatly missed.

Robert is survived by his wife of 39 years, Snick and his beloved children, Gabriel (Christina), Joseph (Amy J.), Jacob (Bethany), Santana (Amy), and Claire (John) Semadeni, 9 grandchildren, brothers Charlie (Lynne) and Mike (Maria), and many cousins, nieces and nephews. Robert was predeceased by his parents Charles and Mary Iltis.

There will be a Vigil and Rosary Service at 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 4th the DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home, 815 NW Buchanan Avenue, Corvallis. A Funeral will be held at the St. Mary's Catholic Church 501NW 25th Street, Corvallis, on Friday, April 5th at 11:00 am, with a luncheon to follow.

We would like to thank Samaritan Evergreen Hospice for their exceptional assistance during the last few weeks of Robert's life.

The family asks that donations in memory of Dr. Robert Iltis be made to the Speech Communication Scholarship Fund at the Oregon State University Foundation, 4238 SW Research Way, Corvallis, Oregon 97333. Donations can also be made online at osufoundation.org. Please note "In memory of Robert Iltis" on the memo line or online form.

Previous Events

Vigil

APR 4. 7:00 PM (PT)

DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory
815 NW Buchanan Avenue
Corvallis, OR 97330

Funeral Mass

APR 5. 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
501 NW 25th Street
Corvallis, OR 97330

Tribute Wall

AM

“ *It was a pleasure helping to take care of Dr Iltis over the last 2 years. He was very brave and tough and went through a very challenging and difficult time with grace and dignity. Please accept my heartfelt condolences.*

Ashok Modha

Ashok Modha - April 21, 2019 at 02:27 PM



Thank-you so much , Dr. Modha.

Sue Lamkin Iltis - July 15, 2020 at 08:25 PM

JN

“ *Memories of soccer. We are remembering th soccer games and the family and all the sideline conversations and the fun times we had with you. We are mourning your loss as well. Thinking of you all.*

Jeff and Karen Nelson. (Jason)

Jeff and Karen Nelson - April 04, 2019 at 02:12 PM



We did have such fun times!!! Thank-you

Sue Lamkin Iltis - July 15, 2020 at 08:25 PM

MF

“ *Our love, thoughts and hearts are with all of you during your loss. What a wonderful man!*

Love, Cindy, Cash and Jed Mitchell ❤️

Mitchell Family - March 24, 2019 at 05:02 PM



Thank-you, Cindy, Cash and Jed. I hope to see you all again.

Sue Lamkin Iltis - July 15, 2020 at 08:26 PM

BS

“ *My thoughts and Prayers go out to the entire Iltis Families. I grew up in Denver with Mike and had the privilege of spending time and dinners and a few choice parties with Charles, Mary, Chuck, Mike and last but never least Little Brother Robert...One of the Nicest and most loving and humorous Families I can remember...! God Bless you All!*

Bill Michel (and Wife for life, Karen)

Gunnison, CO

Bill Michel Sr. - March 23, 2019 at 09:33 AM

NP

“ *At Gabe and Christina's Wedding, I told Robert my recollection of when we first met. I'll share that here as well. However, this does need a touch of back story.*

When I was a child, the Parker family would pack belongings, a dog and 5 kids in our suburban and make the long drive from Denver to Petoskey, MI for our regular visits to see family. Part of that trip included a visit to Good Hart to see the Lamkins. Sue's mom and my mom were sisters. (note: Sue went by Snicket then, and that's how I will always remember her.)

I looked forward to visiting the Lamkins, but Snicket stood out for me. She was kind to this much younger little brat running around and I felt surprisingly close to her.

Years later, Robert and Sue swung through Denver on their way West with baby Gabe in their arms. This was my first time meeting Robert.

*Given the back story, you may not be surprised to learn that I felt very protective of my cousin and Robert had to meet a high standard in my mind to be worthy of her. From the distance of time, I can now laugh at the strength of my protectiveness for a cousin I only saw infrequently, but special is special. :-)
(Sherry is incredibly special too, but she lived with us for a while and I knew her better)*

So, Robert didn't know it, but he was scrutinized and evaluated. I grudgingly at first thought, "this guys is OK," but by the end of the short visit he had totally won me over! I distinctly remember coming to the conclusion that he was worthy of being married to my cousin.

It's been many years, but that memory is still quite strong and a favorite of mine. I had fun relating this to Robert so many years later.

Thank you for your kindness and love Robert, that is what won me over so many years ago. You will be missed.

Norm Parker - March 22, 2019 at 11:28 AM



You are way too funny!

Sue Lamkin Iltis - July 15, 2020 at 08:28 PM

CJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Christina Julia - March 20, 2019 at 10:51 PM

CJ

Sending Santana, Amy Iltis, Joe Iltis, Amy J, Claire Marie, Sue Snick Lamkin Iltis, Gabriel Iltis, Jacob and Bethany love and hugs. I am so thankful and honored to have become a part of this wonderful and loving family. Robert is such an amazingly loving and compassionate individual his warmth and light shines always. Truly a role model for many. I see so much of him in all of you, I know his light and love will shine on.

Christina Julia - March 20, 2019 at 10:53 PM

IF

I was honored to meet Robert on two occasions. They say first impressions are lasting impressions. My first impression of Robert was of a gentleman, who was intelligent, caring, and interested in everyone in the room! He even said he 'enjoyed' the 'spirited' discussion about Scottish independence between my sister and friend... even though the rest of us were cringing!! He has left a legacy of love and I'm sure everyone who knew him, loved him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this sad time. With much love, Ian and Linda Forsyth.

Ian & Linda Forsyth - March 20, 2019 at 11:07 PM

NP

Though family, I only had occasion to meet Robert in person a few times. In each case, he struck me as a kind and honorable man. His deep respect and care for others greeted you like a warm hug. He has definitely passed that capacity for warmth and quick affection to his children. He will live on in the hearts and memories of those he touched, however brief those moments may have been.

Norm Parker - March 21, 2019 at 10:32 AM

GF

Back in the early 60's and into the 70's The Foote's and The Iltis had Thanksgiving dinner together on Umatilla Way in Denver Colorado. Charlie, Isty, Chuck, Mike, and Robert as well as my 3 sisters, Steffi, Julie, and Mary Jean were always nice to this little 10 year old running around. while the rest of them were anywhere from 3 to 13 years older than me. Those memories will always be with me. We miss Robert & Julie.

George Foote - March 21, 2019 at 01:12 PM

RC

Robert was a colleague of mine in the College of Liberal Arts for many years although, being in different departments, we did not interact frequently. Nevertheless, I came to admire both his integrity and his sense of humor. I was stunned and deeply saddened to read of his death at such a relatively young age. I send my heartfelt condolences to all who loved him. Richard Clinton

Richard Clinton - March 22, 2019 at 02:37 PM

PS

Thinking of you in your time of loss.

Pam and Gerald Stauber - March 23, 2019 at 11:02 AM

KN

I am saddened by this news. When I first arrived at Oregon State University until I left (2011-2013), he was welcoming and genuinely interested in ensuring that I adjusted well and was supported in my new environment. Although it was part of his role as a senior faculty member to evaluate my teaching performance, his presence was far from intimidating, providing me with positive praise and gentle feedback. When I would see him in the halls, our conversations veered into new areas of research, and he was eager to offer his time and energy in reading drafts of an article I was working on. Robert's feedback as a reader was so sharp in writing matters, both large and small, astutely getting at the core of my struggle in writing that essay and at the same time, attending to small details in the footnotes.

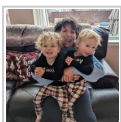
I remember Robert as a sweet and generous colleague who modelled a kind of collegiality that I hope to aspire to. Rest in peace, Robert. My condolences to you during this time of loss.

Kim Hong Nguyen - April 03, 2019 at 04:15 PM

PW

I am so sorry for your loss. I first met Bob as a parent - I believe Santana was in my 5th grade class (my memory is less than perfect) and distinctly remember the respectful way in which both he and Snick treated their child's teacher. A long time ago, we were in lector training at St. Mary's together. Why he needed such training is beyond me :) He told me my voice was soothing, like smoked honey and that people would hear me from the ambo. Nobody has ever or since told me that and it is one of my treasured memories of this man, who practiced being caring and gentle with every breathe

Pam Wilson - April 05, 2019 at 10:09 PM



Oh my, why didn't I see these lovely comments before!!! This is truly touching. And it's hard to type thru the tears. Thank-you, Christina, Ian and Linda, Norm, Kim Hong Nguyen, Pam Wilson and Pam and Gerald and Richard and George

Sue Lamkin Ittis - July 15, 2020 at 08:34 PM