



Dr. James "Jim" Wayne Lemke

December 21, 1946 - January 26, 2014

Memorial services for Dr. James "Jim" Wayne Lemke, 67, will be held at 2:00 pm Friday, January 31, 2014 in Davidson Hall on the campus of Coker College. The service will be simulcast to Watson Theater in the Elizabeth Boatwright Coker Performing Arts Center. The Rev. Dr. Dan Sansbury and Dr. Deane Shaffer will officiate. The family will receive friends from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm on Wednesday at their home, 411 Prestwood Dr.

Dr. Lemke died Sunday, January 26, 2014. Born in Chicago, IL, he was a son of Albert Wayne and Joan Hermes Lemke. The only full professor tenured in two disciplines at Coker College, Lemke was a scholar, sought-after political strategist, author, coach, mentor and community leader. A member of the Coker College faculty since 1973, Lemke's influence touched nearly every aspect of the institution, and the impact of his personal service to students, colleagues and the public extended throughout the community and the state. "The Lion of our Senate, Jim Lemke was a powerful man by every measure, yet students, faculty and colleagues trusted him as a dear friend and a kind mentor," said Coker College President Robert Wyatt. "Nancy, Lara and I extend our deepest sympathy to Harriett and their family, and to the hundreds in our community whose lives Jim has forever enriched. He will be deeply missed."

At the time of his passing, Lemke was director of the Coker College Center for Research, Leadership and Community Development, a role which, among other things, included guiding students from a wide variety of majors through

Coker's pre-law specialization. He also served as a member of the Budget Committee of the Coker College Faculty Senate and as an assistant coach to the men's and women's golf teams.

A 1969 graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University with a major in political science and a minor in history, Lemke went on to achieve a PhD in political science at Louisiana State University with a dissertation titled, "Political Theory and the Problem of Explanation."

"Jim was the intellectual heart of the college," said Coker College Provost Emeritus Patricia Lincoln. "This was not only because he was remarkably intelligent, but because of his fervent belief in the transformative effects of a liberal arts education. The compelling and profound way in which he practiced that belief enriched the lives of virtually every one of his students. Much to the enduring benefit of all, he was invariably generous with his wisdom.

"Because of his leadership and his commitment to Coker College, Jim's work is the center of the culture of Coker College just as much as Davidson Hall is the center of the College's physical being," Lincoln said.

Since 2010, Lemke had spearheaded the annual Celebration of Academics, a week-long campus-wide event that showcased faculty and faculty-mentored scholarship in the liberal arts and sciences that was developed initially to commemorate the inauguration of Coker College President Robert Wyatt. The event was designed to cultivate and demonstrate the signature characteristics of the Coker Experience, including, in particular, the special nature of Coker's Roundtable Learning, which employs peer-based Socratic dialogue as a means of exploring and testing academic concepts and theories.

In April 2013 Lemke was honored with the South Carolina Independent Colleges and University's Excellence in Teaching Award given in recognition of teaching that encourages students to strive for excellence in their studies and intellectual pursuits.

Other prestigious honors he has received include being named a Master Professor at Coker College, a Visiting Professor of the Preventive Diplomacy Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington

D.C., and a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Pi Sigma Alpha and Pi Gamma Mu. He also received a departmental assistantship and a National Defense Education Act Fellowship while he was at Louisiana State University.

Pursuing research interests that included contemporary political theory, history of political thought, political parties and international politics, Lemke served as an editor, associate editor or review board member of a number of scholarly journals including numerous issues of "Humanity and Society" and the "Louisiana State University Journal of Sociology."

In 2003, Lemke helped establish and was the first and only director of the Coker College Center for Research in Leadership and Community Development. A laboratory for a variety of community development and leadership programs, the Center creates, implements and evaluates models for partnerships between higher education, community organizations, local, state and national government and funding agencies. Working closely with Stedman Graham and the Leadership Institute of Chicago, and with a coalition of community-based organizations, area school districts, businesses, industry, and local government, Lemke had been a passionate champion for effective youth development initiatives in in Florence and Darlington Counties.

Over the course of his tenure at Coker College, Lemke served as chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences, faculty representative to the Coker College Board of Trustees, chair of the Coker College Faculty Senate and, in 2012, on the implementation committee for the College's first Honors Program.

Jim is survived by his wife of 30 years, Harriett Courtney Lemke, Coker College Class of 1972; mother and father of Baton Rouge, LA; sisters, Cindy (Brad) Black, Patty (Mike) O'Neal, and Suzy (Don) Nauck, all of Baton Rouge, LA; brother, Rick Lemke of Nashville, TN.

Memorials in Lemke's honor may be made to Coker College, 300 East College Ave., Hartsville, SC 29550, and will be used to support the Celebration of Academics program, which is being renamed in his honor.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **29**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

the residence
411 Prestwood Dr.
Hartsville, SC 29550

Service

JAN **31**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Coker College
300 E. College Ave.
Hartsville, SC 29550

Tribute Wall

JG

“ Dear Coker College Family, My aunt, uncle and mother are all three Coker graduates and thought very much of Dr. Lemke and On behalf of Embrace Hospice and the Howard Family, I would like to express a heartfelt sorrow for your loss. In the book of John chapter 14, verse 2 the scripture reminds us that in My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? Therefore, this earth is not our home as we are only passing through this land, so hold on to the promise. My prayer is that God will hold the college close as you press on.

*In His Grasp,
John Griggs*

John "Bootsie" Griggs - February 25, 2014 at 09:03 PM

KA

“ I am in shock over just learning today of Dr. Lemke's passing. He was indeed a Professor extraordinaire. I have many fond memories of being a student in his class. Yes, in 1979 and 1980, Dr. Lemke was my Political Science Professor. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to speak with him during my 2008 visit to Coker. Now that I am approaching the twenty year mark as a Professor in higher education, I can unequivocally say that Dr. Lemke was indeed a Professor's Professor. He established the gold standard for all to follow. His legacy will live on. We thank the Creator for sharing him with us for so many years.

Dr. Keith A. Alford, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York

Keith A. Alford - February 25, 2014 at 02:05 PM

TH

“ I just learned of Dr. Lemke's passing. Sincere condolences. He was one of the best professors I've ever had. I feel lucky to have seen him during a visit to Coker in 2013.
Professor Terrance Hayes, Coker Class of 1994

Terrance Hayes - February 08, 2014 at 09:22 PM

DA

“ Harriett, I am so sorry to hear about your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.
Daphne Areepanthu

Daphne Areepanthu - February 08, 2014 at 10:07 AM

SM

“ Harriett,
I am so sorry about Jim. I can understand the heartache that you are feeling and I will remember you in my prayers. I love you.
Shirley McCutchen

Shirley McCutchen - February 02, 2014 at 12:22 PM

EM

“ Elayne Mahn lit a candle in memory of Dr. James "Jim" Wayne Lemke



Elayne Mahn - February 01, 2014 at 11:44 AM

RC

“ Randy Hudson-Broadmoor High 1965 Class
lit a candle in memory of Dr. James "Jim"
Wayne Lemke



Randy Hudson-Broadmoor High 1965 Class - January 31, 2014 at 08:11 PM

RH

I remember Jim from Broadmoor High School but lost track of him after graduation. He was a friend and a good athlete who everyone knew would have a successful and rewarding life. My condolences to the family. Randy Hudson Broadmoor Class of 1965

Randy Hudson - January 31, 2014 at 08:23 PM

DB

“ We are sorry for your loss Harriett
David and Thurmond Burnett
Edgefield, S.C.
Edgefield Mercantile Funeral Home

David T Burnett - January 31, 2014 at 09:49 AM

JS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you Harriett



Jennie Sherrill - January 31, 2014 at 08:28 AM

DG

“ *Deborah Gandy lit a candle in memory of Dr. James "Jim" Wayne Lemke*



Deborah Gandy - January 30, 2014 at 09:35 PM

SO

“ *Harriett, you are in our thoughts and prayers. We are so sorry that we are unable to attend the service for Jim. He will be greatly missed at Coker and in our neighborhood. Fondly, Phil and Sara*

Sara Odom - January 30, 2014 at 08:09 PM

RC

“ *Jim Lemke was a “growing edge” thinker—a man inspired by great purpose and who, accordingly, resisted borders to his thinking. He constantly stirred up the gifts within his spirit so that he might realize things that at times his restless mind could only see. He was a visionary who knew how to pursue transformative projects. I will always appreciate Jim Lemke as a man who knew how to write the narratives of possibilities in persuasive terms. Ronald L. Carter, president of Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, NC.*

Ronald L. Carter - January 29, 2014 at 03:28 PM

KL

“Coker College has lost a great professor. Dr. Lemke was a dynamic professor who generally cared about his students and would do whatever it took to make sure that they succeeded. He will truly be missed by the Coker College family.
My thoughts and prayers are with his entire family.

Kenneth Lewis (Class of 2001)

Kenneth Lewis - January 29, 2014 at 11:49 AM

DB

“Courtney, my thoughts and prayers are with you.”

Darlene Baxley

darlene baxley - January 29, 2014 at 10:47 AM

RD

“Dr. James Lemke, you was a wonderful professor and extraordinary person. Thank you for teaching me many things about politics. You will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Renata Durant - January 29, 2014 at 10:37 AM

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Renata Durant - January 29, 2014 at 10:37 AM

MS

“ *Dr. Lemke always carried himself with authority and an air that demanded respect. He never spoke much but when he did, everyone listened as his words were always thought out and invaluable. Every time I say Dr. Lemke on the Coker campus, he made me think of my dad. He was a man I had the utmost respect for and will miss dearly.*

Michele South - January 29, 2014 at 09:39 AM

CE

“ *Jim received his doctoral degree under my tutelage at LSU. He was one of the finest students i have ever encountered. Indeed, he exhibited a passion for the life of the mind that was a motivation and inspiration to all around him, students and faculty alike. He took that passion with him to Coker College, a place he loved and nurtured. I observed him there, among his students and colleagues, and saw the admiration he inspired. I saw the warmth and sensitivity he exhibited to others; and i witnessed the intellectual challenges he put forth to everyone around him. He was the quintessential teacher and his legacy will be felt by those who have had the honor of being touched by his life.*

*Cecil L. Eubanks,
Alumni Professor
Louisiana State University*

Cecil L. Eubanks - January 29, 2014 at 08:38 AM

LM

“ *Harriett, we are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you and your family during this very sad time.*

Lesa and Brendan Mulligan - January 29, 2014 at 06:31 AM

CS

“ Christian Stryker lit a candle in memory of Dr. James "Jim" Wayne Lemke



Christian Stryker - January 28, 2014 at 07:32 PM

DD

“ Sometimes a person is put in your pathway for a reason that the Universe doesn't share with you immediately. So it was with Dr. Jim Lemke. Jim befriended me at my first job at Coker College in 1978. We played pickup basketball, we drank cheap beer, we discussed Hegel, Marx, and Kierkegaard. I took his philosophy classes during my lunch hours to address my low academic self-confidence and he made learning look cool. He casually challenged everything I thought I knew and taught me the value of critical thinking. I loved watching basketball games with "Uncle Jim" in his den and, on the court, he had the best passes to me in the post I've ever had in a basketball game. He turned me on to John Prine, Jerry Jeff Walker, and Tom Rush, as well as his keen insight on life. He was there in ICU immediately following my major surgery at age 27 when I'd just lost my Dad to the same disease I had. No one influenced me more academically, politically, and intellectually than Jim. I will carry part of him with me always throughout the rest of my life. Jim, thanks for being genuine, honest, and one of the best friends I have ever had. I will torch on for you. Love you eternally, buddy. X-Ray

Dr. Ray Davis - January 28, 2014 at 06:40 PM

ME

“ You walked out of Jim's classes a better student, a better citizen, a better person. Intellectually, he was undeniably in a class by himself. But it was his ability to communicate and share that wisdom and inspire those of us fortunate enough to study under him that is his tremendous and enduring legacy. A great man and a great loss.
Mike Eisenrauch, Class of '91.

Mike Eisenrauch - January 28, 2014 at 05:05 PM

DM

“ Dr. Lemke touched so many lives. It was my privilege to meet him when I was a Coker student. He was always around, getting to know us and caring about us whether we were in his classes or not. I looked forward to talking with him and treasure our last conversation at Homecoming this past year. It's so hard to realize that truly was our last chance to talk. Thank you, Dr. Lemke, for everything.

Donna Farrell Mosser - January 28, 2014 at 03:32 PM

DC

“ I WENT TO COKER & MET DR LEMKE. HE WAS A GREAT MAN & PROFESSOR. HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSES BY ALL. MY SINCERE SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY.
DARLEEN CRIBB.



DARLEEN CRIBB - January 28, 2014 at 03:08 PM

LI

“ Dr. Lemke was instrumental to my entry and 20+years in the legal profession. I am truly grateful for his guidance and encouragement. When I evaluate a case, the analytical reasoning skills he taught always play a part in developing a theory or strategy. He was both professional and personal and interested in the academic growth of his students at Coker and thereafter. I would like to send thoughts of strength and comfort to his family at this difficult time, and I will keep you in my prayers.

Lisa Snyder Freedman-Class of 1990

lisa - January 28, 2014 at 01:50 PM

DW

“ Debra Williams lit a candle in memory of Dr. James "Jim" Wayne Lemke



Debra Williams - January 28, 2014 at 11:54 AM

DW

Harriett, please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Debra Williams - January 28, 2014 at 11:55 AM

K9

“ What a profound loss this is to so many. Thank you, Dr. Lemke, for sharing without reserve your wisdom, intellect, heartfelt concern, and sharp wit. You will be dearly missed.

Karen (Lear) Edwards, EV 98 - January 28, 2014 at 10:58 AM

SP

“ Our long time friend and colleague since 1967 , Jim was an inspiration and source of support through Graduate School and throughout our careers. Our condolences to Harriet and Jim's family. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers. With heavy hearts , we send our love.



Steve and Pat Picou

Steve Picou - January 28, 2014 at 10:56 AM

GL

“ Jim was a leader among the Coker College faculty in the most complete way. Few people could analyze a problem or situation with his razor-sharp precision, yet he was always comfortable hearing other points of view. He could be frank, yet diplomatic. And he gave one of the best summaries ever of how to be a good teacher: "Know your material, and get a personality."

George Lellis - January 28, 2014 at 08:11 AM

DL

“ Donna Livingston lit a candle in memory of Dr. James "Jim" Wayne Lemke



Donna Livingston - January 28, 2014 at 07:59 AM

DL

Dr. Jim you were a wonderful family friend. Will miss you !!!! My love to Harriet and the rest of the family.

Donna Livingston - January 28, 2014 at 08:01 AM

CT

“ He was a very wise man who loved to share his knowledge. He will be greatly missed. Thank you for all you did.

Chris Taylor - January 27, 2014 at 09:14 PM

AG

“ Experience can teach us many things, but no amount of experience prepares you for a loss like this. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you.

Amy Gibson

Amy Gibson - January 27, 2014 at 08:59 PM

JP

“ I fondly remember Dr. Lemke as one of a dedicated group of professors from Coker who drove to Fort Jackson several times a week (at night) in the early '80s to allow soldiers to complete degree requirements while on active duty. I am grateful to him and his colleagues for my cherished Coker degree.

Jim Paul US Army, Retired

Jim Paul - January 27, 2014 at 08:55 PM

AK

“ Dr. Lemke was a formidable, yet inspiring teacher. He challenged you in class, but was always willing to sit and talk afterward. I learned so much from this man; his inspiration led me to become a Political Science professor. I hope that I can achieve a fraction of the success he has in touching the lives of students and being a source of inspiration.

We miss you, Dr. Lemke. I miss you, mentor and friend.

-Athena M. King, PhD, MPA

Athena King - January 27, 2014 at 05:58 PM

JS

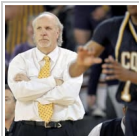
“ What does it take to light someone's inner fire and awaken their imagination and intellectual curiosity? Whatever it is, Jim had an unfair share of it and he used it mercilessly on his students, colleagues, and friends. There are a few people to whom I am very deeply in debt and you are nearly all of them. Farewell, and thank you.

Jon Shannon - January 27, 2014 at 05:44 PM

NP

“ One of the best mentors that I had a Coker. I will always remember our long conversations about golf, life, and being a better person. Miss you.

Nathan Peterson - January 27, 2014 at 01:21 PM



“ My best friend. He was special. He will be missed. Good night, Jim. I love you like a brother. Dan Schmotzer

Dan Schmotzer - January 27, 2014 at 12:16 PM

KJ

“ *Kathy Jackson lit a candle in memory of Dr. James "Jim" Wayne Lemke*



Kathy Jackson - January 27, 2014 at 12:06 PM

DC

“ *We are shocked and saddened by Doc's passing. Doc was a mentor, coach, and a loyal friend to our son. He spent countless hours with Josh, including during their breaks from school. We could never thank him enough for his selflessness, inspiration, compassion, and caring. Doc will be greatly missed but never forgotten by our family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends. Doc was a great man.*

The Clay Family

Dennis Clay - January 27, 2014 at 09:12 AM

PW

“ *Dr. Lemke was always an inspiration, and an amazing man. He taught me so many things, both in and out of the classroom - how to question and discern, how to view the world in an entirely different way. The world will not be the same without him, and neither will those who met him. My thoughts are with his family and his colleagues.*

Phinon Woodside - January 27, 2014 at 06:54 AM



“ Dr. Lemke your presence on Coker College will be missed. Although I am an alumni I will always remember you. I will always remember how well knowledgeable you were. There is no grief for your passing, as my faith has taught me you are in a better faith.

Eryka Sandridge - January 26, 2014 at 11:22 PM



“ Saw you just Friday can't believe that's the last I'll see you.

Jonathan Britt - January 26, 2014 at 11:15 PM



“ My condolences to the family. Dr. Lemke has been an extension of my family for years from the time I was a child walking to dad's office after school, to becoming a student at Coker and attending classes under Dr. Lemke, to now being an alum and seeing him in town.

Megan Patterson - January 26, 2014 at 06:46 PM



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Megan Patterson - January 26, 2014 at 06:46 PM



“ *Wanda Freeman lit a candle in memory of Dr. James "Jim" Wayne Lemke*



Wanda Freeman - January 26, 2014 at 06:07 PM



“ *Just heard the news about Jim. So sorry to hear of his passing. Kim and Bailey Dixon (Kingwood, TX).*



Kim Dixon - January 26, 2014 at 02:24 PM