

Dr. Robert M. Shannon

September 25, 1950 - May 27, 2018

Robert Myrth Shannon was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on September 25, 1950 to Stephen and Jessie Shannon. He was the second of four children. He attended Olney High School in the School District of Philadelphia, where he graduated with honors. He was a member of the Olney High School Concert Choir, Theater Club, All City Boys Choir and Spanish Club. He received a varsity letter in Cross-Country Track and was initiated into La Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica (The Honorary Hispanic Society) for excellence in Spanish language during his senior year.

Bob attended La Salle College on a School District of Philadelphia scholarship, receiving a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Spanish Education. At La Salle College, he was inducted into La Sociedad Nacional Hispanica, Sigma Delta Pi Chapter. During his sophomore year, Bob attended The New York University Study Abroad Program at The University of Madrid in Spain. At graduation from La Salle College, he received the Spanish Award for Excellence.

As a Ford Foundation Fellow, he attended Bryn Mawr College on full scholarship. Here he earned a Master of Arts Degree and a Doctorate in Philosophy in Spanish. His published dissertation, Lope de Vega: Visions of the New World, established Bob as a leading scholar in Peninsular Spanish Drama of the 16th and 17th Centuries. He was the author of numerous

articles and books on the subject.

In the early 1970's Bob was employed by the School District of Philadelphia. At Birney Elementary School in the Olney Section, he taught English as a Second Language to Southeast Asian students for nine years.

After completing his doctoral studies, he taught at St. Joseph's University for 28 years as an Associate Professor of Spanish Language and Literature. He served as Department Chair for six years. He was enrolled into the Jesuit Honor Society in recognition of his work in social justice. His service learning students participated in assisting the Spanish-speaking population in Camden, New Jersey.

Bob was a member of the following professional organizations: Modern Language Association (MLA), American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP), Modern Language Association of Philadelphia and Vicinity (MLAPV), and the Philadelphia Area Spanish Educators (PASE). The PASE organization recognized his distinguished teaching career and honored him as its Teacher of the Year.

Bob's community service included: meal delivery for Manna; Big Brothers of America; voter registration campaigns; a friend and counselor to numerous individuals in recovering from addiction.

In Bob's leisure time, he enjoyed playing the flute, writing poetry, composing music, reading, gardening and traveling. He loved the performing arts, especially orchestral music and local theater.

Bob's family members are: Daniel Lavner, husband; Michael and Carrol Shannon, brother and sister-in-law; Sandra Shannon, sister; Gregory and Leslie, brother and sister-in-law; nieces: Courtney Billinsley and husband,

Dante, Stephanie Shannon, Dominique Shannon; nephew: Gregory Shannon, Jr.; cousins: Carol Shannon, Stanley Shannon, Michelle Shannon-Metellius and husband, John, Rita Shannon, aunt; Lucille Lavner, mother-in-law; Samuel and Maryanne Lavner, brother-in-law and sister-in-law; Joanne Lavner, sister-in-law.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Bob's memorial service on Saturday, June 23, 2018, at 11:00 am at the Washington Memorial Chapel, Rt. 23, Valley Forge Park, with the Rev. Dr. Karl Krueger. Inurnment will follow in the Washington Memorial Chapel Churchyard. Friends will be received from 10:00 am - 11:00 am in the Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made in Bob's name to Saint Joseph's University, Service Learning Program, 5600 City Ave., Phila., PA 19131. Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell - Ennis - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc., Phoenixville. Condolences may be offered online at www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Washington Memorial Chapel Churchyard

2000 Valley Forge Park Road
King Of Prussia, PA 19406

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **23**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Washington Memorial Chapel
Rt. 23
Valley Forge, PA 19481

Memorial Service

JUN **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

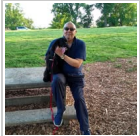
Washington Memorial Chapel
Rt. 23
Valley Forge, PA 19481

Tribute Wall

BS

“ I spoke to Dan last evening. Bob and Dan and I had not been in touch since 2010. I am shocked to learn of Bob's passing. During the 1970s and 1980s, the three of us were the best of friends. I met Bob in 1970 when I began as a Spanish Education major at LaSalle University. I met Dan through Bob. I left LaSalle in 1972, but my friendship with Bob and Dan continued to thrive. Bob was extraordinarily intelligent. He was a scholar in the truest sense of the word. He had a stellar career in education. As a friend, he was the best. He was loyal, caring, and funny. I regarded Bob and Dan as the brothers I wish I had had. I learned from Dan that Bob had suffered terribly during the last year of his life. I am comforted to know he is at peace. I will always cherish my friendship with him. I am a better man because he had been in my life. Bob celebrated my love of Diana Ross and The Supremes and so I will close this tribute by writing: Someday, we'll be together. RIP, dear friend.

Bill Strippoli - November 17, 2021 at 04:20 AM



“ Just learned of Bob's passing. Bob and I became best friends when we were fifteen years old in Ms. Minnie Ruggs English class at Olney High School. We remained friends through our college years and thereafter. We both loved literature, opera and classical music about which we could talk for hours on end. Frankly, I am devastated by his loss and can say no more.

David Mainor - January 03, 2020 at 04:58 PM

SS

Hi David, it is Sandie, Bob's sister. I fondly recall the special times and memories that you had had. I too miss him dearly.

My best to you and your sister.

Call or email me 215-5278776;sandrashannon@verizon.net.

sandra shannon - January 03, 2020 at 10:16 PM

SS

“ *My big brother in heaven ...I will never forget your undying love, support and wisdom!*



sandra shannon - May 26, 2019 at 12:14 PM

SQ

“ *I am very sorry for your loss Bob Shannon was 1 of the greatest men I have had the pleasure to meet.He was always very kind and will be missed.Rest in peace sir.Heaven has received a true gentleman.*

Sallie Potts Quaintance - March 07, 2019 at 11:30 AM

AL

“ *I am very sorry to hear about the passing of Dr. Robert M. Shannon. I met him in Madison, Wisconsin, one summer. I remember him fondly: his wit, his benevolence, his kindness. He later published an edition and English translation of Lope de Vega's play The New World Discovered by Christopher Columbus, for the series Ibérica (Peter Lang, New York), which I direct. May he rest in peace. Fondly, A. Robert Lauer.*

A. Robert Lauer - July 19, 2018 at 12:30 AM

BC

“*Dr Shannon was by far my favorite professor at St Joe’s because he brought to life Spanish classic literature. One day in Spanish Golden Age of Baroque Literature class he played the part of Lope de Vega, the immeasurable playwright who wrote in verse. I learned to love Don Quixote from Dr Shannon. I’ll never forget a question that another Romance Language professor posed about why Spanish has the verb ‘comer’ for ‘to eat’, yet Italian has ‘mangiare’ and French has ‘manger’. Dr Shannon cited Cervantes’ Don Quixote to the archaic word ‘manjar’ as bites to eat. Dr Shannon made learning fun. His energy was always upbeat and positive and he was always available to and supportive of his students. I’ve missed Dr Shannon ever since I graduated.*

Brian Carroll - July 18, 2018 at 10:55 PM



I still tell people about his Lope de Vega impersonation! That's when I knew I wanted to be Spanish professor!

Bonnie Gasior - July 18, 2018 at 11:09 PM



“ I just learned of Bob's passing and am devastated. As a first-generation college student at SJU, I'm not sure I'd have graduated without his guidance. He ended up being the one professor with whom I had a lasting connection. We stayed in touch until the last few years via Facebook. About seven years ago, we met for dinner in Center City when I was conferencing in Philadelphia, and I'm so glad we were able to see each other that one last time. Today, I'm a tenured professor of Spanish in California and owe much of what I've become to him. Not a day goes by that I don't remember him fondly, as he was my very first mentor. He was an amazing educator and a remarkably generous, funny and kind human being. My thoughts go out to his partner, his family and everyone whose life he touched.

Bonnie Gasior - July 18, 2018 at 10:52 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Robert M. Shannon.



June 19, 2018 at 11:13 PM



“ Sandra Shannon lit a candle in memory of Dr. Robert M. Shannon



Sandra Shannon - June 11, 2018 at 03:19 PM

MS

“ I am Michael Shannon Roberts order brother my heart is broken for the loss of my brother. I am comforted knowing that he is now with our Lord. I am proud of Bob and the accomplishments he made in his life, and he will always be my hero. He would introduce himself when he was young saying my name is Robert Myrth Shannon but they call me Bobby. So rest well Bobby all my love, your big brother Mike.

Michael Shannon - June 09, 2018 at 02:29 PM

CJ

“ Bobby was a wonderful friend to Booker and me. We will always remember his laughter, his love of people, and his wonderful gift of lighting up a room with his warmth and kind words. I have known Bobby for many years, but have never known him to be anything other than fun-loving and gregarious! He will be missed so very much, and our family gatherings will never be the same without him. Bobby, we love you, but we know that you are with our Lord and for that we give thanks and praise to our God!

Booker and Cheryl Herring

Cheryl Johnson-Herring - June 08, 2018 at 11:30 AM

 Mary
Lynch
Wendling

“ We were very sorry to hear of Bob's death. Both of us have fond memories of him.
Ron Wendling prof. emeritus , English Dept. Mary Wendling adjunct prof. Dept. of Classical and Modern Languages, ESL (retired).

Mary Lynch Wendling - June 05, 2018 at 04:13 PM

MC

“ I’m deeply saddened to hear this news. Bob was one of my favorite and most influential professors at SJU. As an undecided freshman, I took my first Spanish class with him- a Faith justice/Service Learning course, in which we discussed social justice issues in Spanish and served communities in the city of Philadelphia. I decided to major in Spanish, study abroad in a Spanish speaking country, and seek a fellowship position in Mexico after graduation, all with the guidance and ongoing mentorship with Bob. I now live in Mexico. I attribute many of my formative experiences in college (that ultimately shaped my life) to my classes with Bob and my intimate connections with fellow classmates in his classrooms, inspired by his intimacy and warmth. He was smart, dedicated to his students and the world, inspiring, sincere, and funny. I will always remember my freshman class of 10 students teaching him the slang phrase “ballin” along with the motion of shooting a basketball. He will be missed greatly. I thank him for all he did to impact my life, and hope I can leave the same impact on other people in my life.

Molly Porth Cabrera - June 05, 2018 at 02:11 PM

MC

-Molly Porth '10

Molly Porth Cabrera - June 05, 2018 at 02:26 PM

GS

“ Daniel and Family, My condolences about the loss of friend and mentor for me at Saint Joseph's University. I will keep bob and you in my prayers. Best, George Sillup

George P. Sillup - June 04, 2018 at 11:10 AM

SS

“ *Early morning reflection of Bob... I have several pictures of Bobby holding my hand . You see Bob and I are just three years apart in age and he was always very protective of me. He often laughed about this protectiveness as children and how he ran boyfriend Nelson away.*

This morning I feel so very blessed to have in there 2 hold his hand last Sunday, during church service in the chapel. I could tell Bob struggling as he tried to participate but he tried singing the hymns. As I reached to grab his hand to support him, he put his hand on mine and patted it. My big brother Bob, just his way again, to protect me of what he knew was to come. Later in his room I felt heavy hearted but I prayed and asked God to have his way.

To God be the glory! Today well I know I will always miss him I feel comfort in knowing that I have a another guardian angel in heaven to grab my hand too direct and protect me.

Rest in peace my dear brother, until we meet again.



Sandra Shannon - June 01, 2018 at 07:53 AM



Dear Sandra, as you can see from my post above, I learned of Bob's passing only yesterday. I'm still stunned today. I've shared the news with our academic organizations on social media. It's touching to see the way people remember him: kind, benevolent, generous. If there is any other information you'd like me to share with our colleagues, you can reach me privately at bonnie.gasior@csulb.edu I also have wonderful stories about him to share, as do at least two other students of his (with whom I still keep in touch). My most sincere condolences.

Bonnie Gasior - July 19, 2018 at 10:00 AM