



Dr. Maurice W. duQuesnay

January 18, 1936 - June 24, 2021

On Thursday, June 24, 2021, Dr. Maurice W. duQuesnay died at the age of 85. He began teaching at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 1968, making him the longest serving faculty member at the university.

An associate professor in the Department of English, Dr. duQuesnay dedicated his life to the instruction of thousands of students through the years and maintained life-long friendships with many of them. He also worked to cultivate closer connections between the educational mission of UL Lafayette and the wider community it serves.

In 1980, Dr. duQuesnay established the Flora Levy Humanities Series, thanks to a generous endowment to the university by his dear friend, Flora Plonsky Levy. The annual Levy Lectures brought internationally renowned writers and thinkers to the campus of UL Lafayette, including Noble Prize-winning author Isaac Bashevis Singer, psychologist and Holocaust survivor Bruno Bettelheim, and Professor Sophie Freud, granddaughter of Sigmund Freud. Later, the family of painter George Rodrigue also left an endowment to the university in Dr. duQuesnay's care, which was used to establish the annual Rodrigue Lecture. For more than 40 years, Dr. duQuesnay's faithful stewardship of these endowments has enriched the intellectual life of the university and encouraged the pursuit of lifelong learning among the general public.

An active part of Lafayette's Jewish community, Dr. duQuesnay supported a number of charitable causes. He was particularly devoted to animal welfare. Born to an historically prominent family in New Orleans, Dr. duQuesnay was a source of abundant knowledge about Louisiana's rich history and literature, especially pertaining to 19th century Creole culture. He was a favorite storyteller among his friends, colleagues, and students who, in turn, have delighted in telling colorful stories about Dr. duQuesnay, how he touched their lives, and his long, influential history at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

In lieu of funeral services, Dr. duQuesnay will be honored in a memorial event on campus later this year at the next Levy Lecture. Although he leaves behind no immediate family,

Dr. duQuesnay's memory is cherished by his many friends and admirers.

Personal condolences may be sent to the duQuesnay family at <http://www.delhommefuneralhome.com>.

Delhomme Funeral Home, 1011 Bertrand Dr., Lafayette, LA is in charge of funeral arrangements.

Comments



“ In my 4 years at USL in the 1970's , I had many professors whom I cannot remember their name.

But I do remember Dr. duQuesnay very clearly. He taught English. The Iliad and the Odessy. I ended up renting an apartment on Wilson St. and guess who was my next door neighbor, yes Dr. duQuesnay.

A very smart man. I enjoyed his friendship. I knew his dog.

Rest In Peace.

Kermit Bouillion

Kermit Bouillion - July 05 at 06:54 PM



“ Maurice is truly one of a kind! The world's light has dimmed for his absence.

Virginia Hanna - July 02 at 07:05 AM



“ I met Maurice many years ago due to his love of plants. He visited me in the biology department often throughout the years. He often would begin the conversation with “I wanted to be a botanist but my father wouldn't let me”. I heard that phrase over and over throughout the decades that I knew maurice

We shared many lunches and many talks about our mutual interest

When I visited him a few weeks ago at his home even in his weakened state he commented I wish I had chosen a different careerThat's as close as he could come to I wanted to be a botanist

I will miss him so much, love you Maurice

Garrie Landry - July 01 at 08:32 PM



“ Only had one class with Maurice, but had many, many conversations with him at Bisbano's! And the stories I could tell! Truly one of the most unique people I have ever had the honor to know. Au revoir Maurice. The world will not be as interesting.

Patricia Trahan - June 29 at 05:34 PM



“ KS
Kurt Schmersahl
2 hours ago
I am deeply saddened at the loss of my friend. We came to the English Department together in 1968. We went to LSU together to get our Ph.D. Maurice was my best friend, the best man in my wedding, a confidant, and a frequent debater. A thousand stories of fun, laughter, mischief, and adventure, and I shall never stop re-reading “The Witch of Maurepas.” I love and miss you Maurice.

Kurt Schmersahl - June 29 at 03:45 PM



“ I had Dr. duQuesnay for several English classes. He was an excellent instructor and was always so nice to me. May he Rest In Peace.

James Perot - June 29 at 02:47 PM



“ Dr. duQuesnay will always remain in my heart and mind. He was candid, kind, funny, and respectful. No one who knew Maurice will ever forget him.

Paul S Medus - June 29 at 02:29 PM



“ I had Dr. duQuesnay as a professor while at then USL. He was one of the most unique individuals that I encountered while in school. So enjoyable to talk with. A well-read man. Could always find him carrying a stack of books. May he rest in peace.

Al Karre' - June 29 at 01:33 PM



“ I decamped to Lafayette from New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, and shared lunch a few times with Professor Duquesnay. His work and history was known to me from anecdotes about the Levy Lectures shared by the late Joe DeSalvo, founder of Faulkner House Books, Pirates Allay. And the marble inscribed name of his antecedent, Father Duquesnay, 1800's Rector at Saint Louis Cathedral. A true native Son of Louisiana. A proud man of letters. May you rest in peace. ~ LEJ.org



Leonard Johnson - June 29 at 01:14 PM



“ I first met Maurice shortly after I moved back to Lafayette after retirement from the University of California. He only lived a block away and I would often see him riding his bike late at night, with his little dog trotting alongside. One time he stopped and we chatted for few minutes. That turned into a regular occurrence and we grew to know each other. I offered to help him organize the Flora Levy lecture reprints and his UL office and he offered me a paid position as an assistant for a semester that grew into two. I thought it was great fun trying to lend his office some semblance of order. He would squeeze himself into my little car and we would eat at one of the all-you-can-eat buffets or visit a local nursery for plants. He had a wry sense of humor that I will miss.

Maurice was a dear friend to me and I will miss him greatly. Olev ha-sholom.

Dan Keeling - June 28 at 11:55 PM



“ Dr. duQuesnay was my English professor when I was at USL and a friend of my uncle, Welton Mouton, who he met through Flora Levy. I remember visiting with him and watching him ride his bicycle while trying to walk his dogs. He will be missed, but not forgotten. Jeffery Mouton

Jeffery Mouton - June 28 at 05:18 PM



“ I am deeply saddened at the loss of my friend. We came to the English Department together in 1968. We went to LSU together to get our Ph.D. Maurice was my best friend, the best man in my wedding, a confidant, and a frequent debater. A thousand stories of fun, laughter, mischief, and adventure, and I shall never stop re-reading “The Witch of Maurepas.” I love and miss you Maurice.

Kurt Schmersahl - June 29 at 02:04 PM