

This is Just to Say We Miss You: A Tribute to Dr. John Creagh

I am a junior here at Meredith. To be honest, the first time I met Dr. Creagh I was scared to death! After a few weeks of class, I actually told him he scared me and, surprisingly, from that moment on Dr. Creagh was not just a scary professor; he was my friend, mentor, and inspiration. Last semester Dr. Creagh and I had several classes together and he gave me the nickname "got a second." This may sound odd, however, I would always run into his office five minutes before his next class, and ask him if he had a second? He never did, but he would always respond by saying, for you Sasser, one second.

Well Dr. Creagh, Meredith College will never be the same without you, but I'll see you again soon, and don't worry, I won't bring all my questions with me! Good Bye Friend!

-Natalie Sasser

Dr. Creagh was a wonderful professor. He taught me to think outside the box and was incredibly devoted to all aspects of communication. As a senior communication student, I am blessed to have known him as a teacher and friend throughout my time at Meredith. He was one of my favorite professors and helped me find my own passion for communication. His positive attitude and sense of humor created many memories that I will keep with me forever. Thank you, Dr. Creagh, for your time.

-Margaret Coulter

Dr. Creagh was much more than a professor and a friend. He touched so many of our lives and he

will always be frequently thought of and greatly missed.

-Molly Loughridge

I started working at Meredith in the fall of 2006. When I first came here for the interview in the spring of 2006, John came to pick me up at the airport and introduced himself in Japanese! I was so surprised and said to him that I didn't know that he could speak Japanese. Then, he said he learned that sentence from one of his daughters, and, actually, he had gone to Japan for the Fullbright scholarship a long time ago, so he was familiar with Japanese culture and language. He also said that Japanese culture was just fascinating for him.

One day, we talked about Kabuki, a traditional Japanese theater play, and he told me how wonderful it was. I told him that I'd never gone to see a Kabuki, and he said, "You gotta go to see it," so I told him that, next time he came to Japan, we could go to see it together. He also told me about the experience of climbing Mt. Fuji in Japan. I told him that it would take too long and would be too tiring to climb Mt. Fuji, and I'd rather not to do that, but instead, I'd definitely go to Kabuki with him!

After I started working, I had to learn everything about how things work in the first semester at Meredith, and I had so many questions. Whenever I had questions, I went to ask him, and he always took time to talk to me. Sometimes we would just chat, and it was so much fun just chatting with him about everything: movies, musicals, Japanese cultures,

and his daughter, Anna.

I have known him only for less than 2 years, but I know that he loved Meredith College and his students and all co-workers. He spent time with students in his office listening to their stories and joking with them. He had passion for teaching and enjoyed spending time with students and his co-workers. To describe him is not a difficult task. He is simply a wonderful person. Though I am so sad for not being able to see him anymore, I also must say that I'm happy to be able to have known him. He was one of the nicest, the most wonderful, and the most caring friends I've ever had.

John, the next time I go back to Japan, I'll go to see Kabuki for the first time, and I know you'll be there with me.

-Michiko Yamada,
Assistant Professor of
Communication

I will miss Dr. Creagh for many reasons. He had a great sense of humor that lit up the classroom and he was always so supportive and understanding of any concerns or questions that I came to him with. He genuinely loved teaching here at Meredith and I am truly grateful for the opportunity I had to learn under him. Dr. Creagh, you will be greatly missed by many!

-Meredith Joyner

I will miss Dr. Creagh's sense of humor that would make me laugh on any given day no matter my mood. He was a very generous, sincere, and sometimes quirky professor that made learning an experience that was unforgettable. I miss him

everyday.

-Zoe Playe

John Creagh and I shared many delightful conversations over the years. I remember his special interest in music associated with Shakespeare's plays as well as his general interest in the use of music in literature in general. The recent one-woman show at Meredith seemed almost dedicated to him. It was impossible not to think of him at many points during the program. It was almost too close to his spirit and passion at times but, nonetheless, made the program all the more special to me.

-Jim Fogle

John Creagh could liven up the duller of committee meetings. He could sing every line of H.M.S. Pinafore, and he could imitate every voice on The Simpsons. He said what was on his mind. He could quote Jacques Derrida and Dr. Seuss in the same sentence. He loved hummus. Some of his stories were longer than a lunch hour. He made me laugh. I'm going to remember the laughter.

-Rebecca Duncan

I will always remember John's wonderful theatre stories. He had lots of them, many of them dating back to his days as an undergrad and grad student at UNC. Some of them concerned his acting career and others were about his many adventures in directing. I will also always recall fondly the last role I saw him play, which was one of the evil brothers in Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes". It was produced

by NCSU's Summer TheatreFest and John was brilliant--intense, driven, and totally committed to the part. It was a "personal best" for John and the audience loved him. I was very proud to call him my friend and colleague--both then and now.

-Catherine B. Rodgers,
Head, Department of
Dance & Theatre

Long ago Dr. Virginia Knight and I team taught a Capstone course for seniors entitled "Coming of Age in the Milky Way", for which we used astronomy as a theme for exploring different ways of knowing about our physical surroundings and ourselves. A wonderful activity every year was the part of the course where John Creagh worked with us on performing a few scenes from Berthold Brecht's play, *Galileo*. Given that all of us in the course tended to be very fearful of public performance, we were amazed every year how John would help us all find our way to knowing and becoming the characters in the play. Space, motion, voice, body language, knowledge -- all these became ways to be the characters and ways to bring them across to others. Year after year we all emerged much more aware in ways that perhaps no one but John could have made available to us. He was a fine teacher and a warm, generous colleague.

-Michael Novak, Head,
Department of History
and Political Science