

## **Dr. Arthur “Andy” Boice VanGundy, Jr.**

Dr. Arthur “Andy” Boice VanGundy, Jr., who died Tuesday night of complications following heart surgery, was known for his variously wry and absurd sense of humor. Students in his classes in the Department of Communication at the University of Oklahoma, from which he retired as Professor Emeritus in May 2008, had to watch out for flying nerf balls, goofy puns, and often bizarre pop culture references. Dr. VanGundy devoted his career, and much of his life, to the study of creative problem solving and innovation research, publishing sixteen books and numerous articles on the subject.

He was born May 24, 1946 in Lancaster, Ohio to Dr. Arthur Boice and Sara Jane (Sally) VanGundy, both now deceased. He was the oldest of four boys, and is survived by his brothers Dr. Gregg VanGundy, , Ralph VanGundy and Christopher VanGundy. Chocolate syrup on the velvet couch, and a crib-launched escape from an open window are only two of the many adventures the four boys had growing up in the house on the hill in Lancaster.

Andy graduated from high school in Lancaster and went on to earn a B.A. in Psychology from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1968, an M.S. in Personnel Counseling from Miami University (Ohio) in 1970, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from The Ohio State University in 1975. In 1976, Andy moved to Norman, Oklahoma where was hired as an Assistant Professor of Human Relations at the University of Oklahoma, becoming an Associate Professor in 1982 and Full Professor in 1987, after moving to the Department of Communication, where he worked until his retirement in May 2008.

While at The Ohio State University, Andy met and married Denilyn Wilson, who moved with him to Norman. The couple had two daughters, Sarah and Laura, together and some hilarious and not so hilarious moments before divorcing in 1988.

Andy loved language and was known for wordplay and a love of clear writing. He also enjoyed wine, travel, and correcting the grammar of his family and colleagues. In his later years, one of his main joys was spending time with his granddaughter Chloe, who knew him as “Bumpa.” He liked teaching her bits of Algebra, and preparing Boca Burgers for her, which were so exquisite she subsequently refused to eat those made by her mother.

He was deeply loved by his family, and will be missed always.

A public memorial service will be held at 2 pm on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at the Havenbrook Funeral Home in Norman. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that mourners wishing to donate something in his name make contributions to Creative Oklahoma, Inc <http://www.stateofcreativity.com/index.php?id=6>

(Written by Sarah VanGundy, May 8, 2009)

Send condolences online at <http://www.havenbrookfuneralhome.com/Obituaries.htm>