



Dan Miller

February 19, 1948 - March 30, 2017

Dan Miller, formerly of Oakwood, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, died March 30, 2017. He was 69. A native of Iowa, Dan earned a B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Iowa. After teaching briefly at the University of Manitoba, Dan joined the University of Dayton in 1978. He earned tenure in 1982, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1983, and was promoted to Professor in 2000. He served as Chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work from 1998-2002. Dan earned the College's faculty award for outstanding scholarship in 2006. He retired from UD in 2014 to play golf, spend time with his family and continued to teach a class or two every Fall at UD. In his 39 years at UD, Dan was an influential scholar in the sociological field of symbolic interactionism. His article, "The Elements and Structure of Openings" (1975) was foundational in what came to be called the New Iowa School of Symbolic Interactionism. He served as the President of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction (2004-05). Dan authored many articles and was lead editor of the volume *Constructing Complexity: Social Interaction and Social Forms* (1997). Although he was a giant in the field of symbolic interactionism, he was never one to take himself too seriously. He wrote all of his documents in Comic Sans font, and was known for leaving cartoons and "the Onion" articles around the department. Deeply critical of "the man", Dan was known for being a force at UD who was quick to stand up for the little guy. Department chair Leslie Picca noted, "Dan was a scholar in every sense of the word. Conversations with Dan included a magical mix of

wit, wisdom, and esoteric references of popular culture. Students would flock to his classes as he didn't just teach sociology--he taught students how to live." Dan had a great wit and loved to laugh, often citing jokes verbatim from various comedians or movies. He played basketball in his youth and continued following college and pro ball throughout his life. Dan followed football and baseball, too. He was a proud card carrying member of the ACLU. Fond of opera, Dan introduced it to his wife. Above all Dan loved his family and friends. Dan is survived by his wife of 47 years, Barb Miller; children Nathan (Maya), and Lena (Tim); grandchildren Romy, Jonathan, Timothy, and Oliver; cousin Nancy (Steve); close friends and many relatives. A Memorial Service for Dan will take place Monday, April 10th at 2:30 pm in the Sears Recital Hall on the UD campus**. In lieu of flowers, donations to the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) are requested. https://action.aclu.org/secure/make-gift-aclu-someones-memory?s_src=UNH000001MEM&ms=web_left_nav. Arrangements in care of Reis Legacy Center Meyer-Boehmer Funeral Home.

**Guests attending Dan's Memorial Service must obtain a parking pass from either Campus Visitor Center upon entering the U.D. campus in order to park in Lot C. The best choice is to enter campus from Irving Avenue and turn North on to Evanston Street, which becomes Founders Lane. The Visitors Center is across from the RecPlex.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 10. 2:30 PM (ET)

Sears Recital Hall
University of Dayton
300 College Park

Tribute Wall

AS

“ *Nate and Family . . . Our hearts go out to you. We send our sincerest condolences and lots of love and big warm hugs to you all.*
-- Amy and Chris Schenck

Amy and Chris Schenck - April 10, 2017 at 12:44 PM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Dan Miller.*



April 09, 2017 at 04:06 PM

PR

“ *Dear Miller Family: I was a proud student of Dan's at UD and remained friendly after my graduation in 1980. I regret we didn't stay closer. that aside, one of the great legacies in my mind was that Dan taught people how to think. Yes, he had strong beliefs but a big part of what I learned was to not settle for what's in a newspaper or on TV as gospel. Think critically. And he gave us the tools to do just that. What a great gift to UD, Dayton and to me personally. They say you only have 2-3 teachers who truly affect you in life. Dan was No. 1 for me. May he rest in peace and blessings to your family. -- Patrick Rini*

Patrick Rini - April 09, 2017 at 06:08 AM

 Amber
Idell

“ Dear Mrs. Miller, Nate & Family & Lena & Family,

We are so very sorry your loss. We pray for all the love and peace that you need in this difficult time.

Take good care,

Idell Family

Amber Idell - April 08, 2017 at 06:56 PM

JU

“ *Our condolences to Barb and family during this time of loss.*

Dr. O and staff

Julie - April 07, 2017 at 12:21 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dan Miller.*



April 06, 2017 at 01:28 PM

TF

“ *The Palermo Family purchased the Rainbow Reflections Basket for the family of Dan Miller.*



The Palermo Family - April 04, 2017 at 10:57 AM

AV

“ *Angus Vail purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dan Miller.*



Angus Vail - April 04, 2017 at 09:54 AM

LV

“ *So sorry for your loss... keeping your all in our thoughts and prayers. We extend our deepest and heartfelt condolences. May your dear father Rest In Peace*

Laura / Julien Vernon-Biteau - April 04, 2017 at 09:13 AM

WS

“ *Woofie and The Spouse purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Dan Miller.*



Woofie and The Spouse - April 04, 2017 at 12:49 AM

EW

“ *Barb and family, I am so sorry to hear of Dan's passing. He accomplished so much and I love that he championed the under dog. Know that you all are being kept close in thoughts and prayers. My sincerest condolences to you and your family.*

Emily Thornbury Wallace - April 03, 2017 at 11:56 PM

WO

“ *Missing him already :(Had some great discussions and wonderful times with him and Sissy (Barbara). Much love and many hugs to you, Sissy, and family :)*

Woofie - April 03, 2017 at 11:37 PM

SS

“ *Barb, So sorry to hear of Dan's passing. From the Morey, Smith, Hampton, and Muir families*

sherry smith - April 03, 2017 at 10:37 PM