



Dennis Carroll Donnelly

November 6, 1967 - June 5, 2020

Dennis Carroll Donnelly passed away on June 5, 2020. He was born on November 6, 1967, in New Rochelle, NY to Ronnie and Fred Donnelly. Dennis attended Sts. John and Paul School, Larchmont, NY, played youth soccer and swam competitively for the Larchmont Yacht Club. When his soccer team won the area championship, Dennis had the honor of receiving his trophy from soccer great, Pele.

In Tulsa, Dennis attended Monte Cassino and Cascia Hall, where he played soccer, wrote for the school paper and edited the yearbook. As a junior, he was selected for the Umbro National Youth Soccer Team and he competed in England that year. In 1985, he graduated from Cascia Hall as valedictorian with highest honors and headed to Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH. At Dartmouth, Dennis played soccer for two years, which included competing in Scotland. He also wrote for the college paper and yearbook and studied in Toledo, Spain.

After graduation in 1989, Dennis taught English in Hong Kong and Thailand before returning to Tulsa. His various endeavors in Tulsa included Associate Editor of Uptown News, co-founder of literary journal Barbed Wire, writing curriculum for and teaching at Tulsa English Institute, and, ultimately, writing curriculum for and teaching at the newly-formed San Miguel Middle School. He also tutored many newly-arrived Tulsans in idiomatic English usage.

Dennis continued playing soccer all of his adult life and his teams won many local championships. Over the years, he shared strong bonds with his soccer teammates. His kind, generous spirit, humility and quick wit earned him numerous life-long friends. He appreciated the rebel and the underdog and treated each person equally without judgment.

An accomplished musician, Dennis wrote music and played bass guitar with local band, Jam Econo. Sharing his love of music led him to start a music program with donated instruments at San Miguel. Dennis had a vast knowledge of both music and literature and he had a huge collection of vinyl albums, musical instruments, and books. He was a prodigious writer of poetry and, in fact, he read two of his poems at his father's memorial service in May.

As a teacher, Dennis challenged his students by introducing them to classic literature and

encouraging learning in all areas as a lifetime endeavor. His association with his students stretched beyond the classroom to family events and life's milestones. While teaching at Tulsa English Institute, it was not unusual for Dennis to invite students from Japan, South America, the Middle East and Africa to dinner. At his request, his family hosted many students in their home for the months of their studies.

Throughout his life, Dennis traveled widely for business and pleasure to Hawaii, Mexico, Thailand, Ireland, Columbia, Saudi Arabia, Peru, and all over Europe. After a trip to Peru, Dennis and a friend began Sacred Valley, an import business bringing rugs, alpaca and vicuna sweaters, coats and scarves as well as folk pottery to Tulsa. The Gilcrease Museum purchased Sacred Valley rugs for their collection.

Dennis was predeceased by his beloved father, Fred. He is survived by his partner, Dana Deere; his mother Ronnie; siblings Amy, Andrew (Jennifer), Sarah (Ed Moncada), Cathryn, Meghan (Thomas Fredet); nieces and nephews Emma, Liam, Ava and Connor Donnelly and best friend, Dan Diver.

To honor Dennis' memory, the family has established the Dennis Donnelly Memorial Scholarship at San Miguel School and at Cascia Hall.

Fitzgerald Ivy Chapel, 918-585-1151

Events

JUN **Funeral Mass** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

15

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

2434 East Admiral Blvd, Tulsa, OK, US, 74110

Comments



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dennis Carroll Donnelly.



June 14 at 06:21 PM



“ In the days after Dennis died

I've been thinking a lot about who I wanted to be,
About how come these days I don't write poetry,

About arguments we had that went late into night,
All the time knowing you were probably right,

About paths that you showed me, overlooked and neglected,
That hid empires of beauty, perfection, and justice.

You told me things I remember today,
About Ween and the Beatles, or making my way.

Your mind was just sharper, your wit more perceptive,
Your integrity something I just imitated.

And then somehow we drifted, like so many do,
Because of career or just life, but I do not blame you.

Now regret has come calling, and I can easily see
That what I have lost, is what I desperately need.

It is selfish to say it, but I know that it's true,
We cry for you, Dennis, and for ourselves too.

Dan Langenkamp - June 13 at 03:39 PM



“ San Miguel Alumni & students - Fernanda Avalos purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dennis Carroll Donnelly.



San Miguel Alumni & students - Fernanda Avalos - June 12 at 11:57 AM



“ Mr. Donnelly, there is so much I can say about what an incredible teacher you were. You were my middle school Language Arts teacher back in 2005-2008. My love for books came from you introducing me to some of my favorite classic literature like Huckleberry Finn. I still remember you pushing me harder on my thesis in my essays. San Miguel will never be the same. You were a saint in my eyes for all that you did for us students. I will miss you dearly Mr. Donnelly.

Fernanda Avalos - June 12 at 11:48 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dennis Carroll Donnelly.



June 11 at 08:49 PM



“ Dennis was a wonderful person and an amazing soccer player. When he asked if you wanted to come over and “study” he meant study! He had a beautiful souls and our family will miss him.

Rachel Wilson Vogle - June 10 at 05:32 PM



“ My condolences to the Donnelly family on their loss. Dennis was beloved by his students and alumni because he demonstrated deep caring and encouragement. He is greatly missed.

Katie Boudreau - June 11 at 12:02 PM



“ Dennis and I played on the same State Champion soccer team in the mid-90's. We both started as defenders. When I switched over to the dark side and started refereeing we'd butt heads over calls I made he didn't agree with. But in the end we buried the hatchet, become good beer drinking friends. I've told him this and I don't think it'll change....he ended up being my favorite critic! :`(`

Lawrence Bernard Gullette - June 11 at 08:38 PM



“ Shoulder-to-shoulder in the church basement teaching students the first school year San Miguel opened, I grew to know Dennis as a co-worker, teacher, humanitarian, friend and enthusiast. I will always remember his compassion for people and his students whom respect him and miss him now. It was a long first year as the only two full-time teachers working for Curt Adams and Ms. Ellison. We were glad when we added Chris as a director and became a party of Five. In 2004 -2005 we made tea and coffee on our desks that were setup in a hallway and we made the school work under the direction of Curt Adams. Giving your Time is always more important than money and Dennis gave his lifetime to teaching kids the way of Christ in the Roman Catholic Faith. I will miss you, my friend. Rusty Renfrow+

Rusty Renfrow - June 12 at 12:21 AM