



Stephen Trobisch

January 25, 1960 - August 23, 2019

Stephen Walter Trobisch, 59, of Bolivar passed away on Friday, August 23, 2019, at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

Stephen was born on January 25, 1960, to Lutheran missionary parents Walter and Ingrid Trobisch in Cameroon, Africa. He grew up and went to school in Austria. His first degree was in mechanical engineering, but his love was for the arts. He received a Ph.D. from the University of Vienna in Theater Studies, worked as an actor in Vienna, London, Germany, and Los Angeles. He finally made his home in Missouri and taught at Drury University and Missouri State University in Springfield. He was the managing director and co-owner of two publishing businesses in Bolivar, and in this capacity edited more than 200 book manuscripts for publication. He also had a thriving translation business, translating technical, legal, and scholarly texts from German into English.

Stephen found much joy as a professor and earned several awards for his teaching. He proudly walked the 500 miles of the El Camino in Spain, traveled to Kenya, Tanzania, and Israel. Last year he fulfilled his dream of visiting Dublin and following the footsteps of James Joyce and Molly Bloom. He was a gifted piano player for whom sheet music was optional, loved to sing opera while driving, a life-long motorcycle enthusiast, and gifted carpenter. Nothing was more important to him, however, than spending time with family and friends.

Stephen is survived by his wife Kim, sons Neil, Sam and Kai, and granddaughter Skylar Henenberg, all of Bolivar; two brothers, David Trobisch (Vera, Simon) of Germany and Daniel (Gisela) of Austria; two sisters, Katrine (David) Stewart of Albuquerque, NM, and Ruth (Ernst) Weissensteiner of Austria, as well as many dear cousins, aunts, nieces, nephews, and the members of his beloved German Club.

A celebration of Stephen's life is to be held in January to commemorate his 60th birthday.

In honor of his love for the arts, memorial contributions may be made to KSMU, 901 S. National, Springfield, MO 65897.

Comments



“ Ugh! I just stumbled on this, looking to see if Stephen was still teaching at MSU. So sorry to hear this news.

I was in Stephen's German class in the late 80s/early 90s at SMSU. It was his first semester there I believe, whatever year that was. It was all great fun, especially Thursday night German Club at McSalty's and then getting together at student's houses periodically. Super smart, super friendly, Stephen always had an interesting take on life. Would have loved to have had another conversation (or two) with him.

So late now, but all the best to his family.

Paul Schreiber

Paul Schreiber - May 28, 2021 at 04:55 PM



“ Lieber David,
mit Bestürzung haben wir vom Tod deines Brudes gelesen.
Wir trauern mit Euch!
We remember Stephen well from our visits on Lichtenberg many years ago.
Please convey all our sympathy to ALL Family members.
Blessings and strenght during this difficult period of your life.
Elsi and Volker Gscheidle



Volker - September 12, 2019 at 02:23 AM



“ "When the parents of Stephen had returned from Africa, the Trobisch family lived in Mannheim/Germany. For several years we met each other often and had fun together. He is well remembered and we miss him a lot. I am sure he rests in peace."
Rev. Hans-Joachim Heil

Hans-Joachim Heil - September 06, 2019 at 09:57 AM



“ Thanks to your brother David, both of us, dear Stephen, have been able to work together in recent years. I am infinitely grateful for that. I wish your family a lot of strength which they need now. They are mourning for a wonderful Person.

Gabriele Holthuis - September 05, 2019 at 12:56 PM



“ Dr. Trobisch was my teacher, mentor, and friend. I can honestly say that my interactions with him, both inside and outside of the classroom, were formative for me personally. What wouldn't I give for one more German Club meeting with the old gang? He will be missed.

Blake Bartlett - August 31, 2019 at 12:57 AM



“ Stephen was always a kind, and pleasant colleague at the Modern and Classical Languages Department at MSU, with a great sense of humor, and an admired instructor and scholar. He will be fondly remembered!

Luis Lombilla - August 28, 2019 at 02:20 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Stephen for six years. He was a warm colleague and an outstanding teacher. He will be greatly missed.

Scott Handley



Scott Handley - August 28, 2019 at 01:10 PM



“ When I first moved to Springfield, and started working at MSU, Stephen and I shared an office, where we used to chat and laugh about a lot of things. He was a very warm, deep-thinking individual. My condolences to his family.

Dr. Tonia Tinsley - August 28, 2019 at 12:18 PM



“ Stephen and I have known each other through family functions after Kim married him. Several holidays we had active table tennis games where one time he would win then I. He was very competitive at the games! We would then go downstairs and I would make him an espresso or two and enjoy discussing the different aspects of motorcycles. I will miss him very much. Greg Hill

Greg Hill - August 28, 2019 at 10:05 AM



“ Stephen was a longtime instructor in Modern and Classical Languages at Missouri State University. I considered him a friend and a great scholar. He was a great instructor! My condolences to his family.

Jason Jolley - August 27, 2019 at 08:33 PM



“ Stephen and I met several years ago at the Thursday night German club. He was translating a diary written in d German that one of his relations at taught him many many years ago He became a friend and will be truly missed. When the diary of Wilhelm Mueller is finished he will have special mention in the printing. God Bless you old friend. gary fenner

gary fenner - August 25, 2019 at 04:02 PM



“ My late husband Randy Wingender would want to say Ruhe in Frieden to Stephen.
Prayers for your family.



Lisa Wingender - August 25, 2019 at 11:15 AM