



Ronald P. Colburn

September 3, 1949 - May 5, 2020

Ronald Price Colburn, age 70, died on May 5, 2020 from cancer. Mr. Colburn was born in Kissimmee, Florida on September 3, 1949. He has been a Professor of Speech at Valencia College since August of 1992.

Mr. Colburn attended the University of South Florida where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Education and a Master of Arts Degree in Speech and Communications. He also earned a Master of Arts Degree in Psychology from Rollins College. In addition, he had completed the course work for a PH. D in College Administration from Grand Canyon University.

Mr. Colburn was a Director of plays at the Osceola Center for the Arts, now known as Osceola Arts, for over 30 years. He served as the President of the Osceola Players for three years.

During his time at the Center, in addition to directing, he also received many awards for acting. His love for the performing arts began in high school and continued throughout his lifetime.

For 10 years, he was a judge for the State High School Thespian competitions held in Tampa.

His love of learning and reading was never ending. He has read every play Shakespeare ever wrote. He also loved to travel, paint with water color, and even learned to tap dance for a show. He sang and played the guitar and ukulele. He collected stamps beginning in high school and continued it throughout his life. He was a very accomplished chef. His family loved the invitation to dinner if Ron was cooking.

Mr. Colburn has been an educator in Osceola County since 1973, first at Osceola High School and then Valencia College. In that time, thousands of students have crossed his path. He won many awards for his contributions to the development of education at both levels.

"Ignorance is the curse of God; knowledge is the wing wherewith we fly to heaven."

Shakespeare Henry VI

--Be Brilliant!"

Mr. Colburn is survived by his wife, Diane, brothers Richard Colburn and Randall Colburn, and his "unofficially" adopted sons Ole Bendtzen and Austin Tavarez.

Comments



“ Ronald Colburn was my speech professor back in Valencia. I auditioned for his plays Romeo and Juliet and Othello. He was so much fun to work with. He was unapologetically himself and it was refreshing and delightful. He inspired me to go forth in my life as an artist. I absolutely loved his sense of humor! He was also so fashionable! He wore the coolest outfits I've ever seen! I will never forget him. I am so very grateful I got to meet him. I send love and compassion to his friends, wife, and family. Thank you so very much, Professor. Rest in peace.

Lynette Z - August 18, 2021 at 12:36 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to his family and friends. We were classmates so many years ago but always a great guy. RIP. Rick & Donna (Collins) Aiken

Donna Collins Aiken - July 12, 2020 at 04:21 PM



“ I am so heartbroken hearing of the passing of Mr. Ron Colburn. He was one of my favorite teachers at Osceola High School. Mr. Colburn had such a unique and phenomenal way of teaching his students. He was such a kind, caring, considerate and passionate teacher. I Thank God that I was able to see Mr. Colburn and his wife Diane (who I had teach Gym Class!) at The OHS Class of 1978 40th Class Reunion held October 2018. I will always cherish that most precious memory as well as the photos I was able to take of them both. Mrs. Colburn, my wish for you is to be held in God's loving, comforting arms as you come to terms with Mr. Colburn's passing, and be comforted knowing that he is no longer in pain. My wish for Mr. Colburn is that you fly high among those other Angels that we have sadly lost and continue to mystify them with your endearing humor, compassion and knowledge. My final wish is for all of us who were lucky enough to know this compassionate, fun loving, humorous, sensitive, knowledgable man - take that special part of your life which he touched and use it for good. RIP Mr. Colburn, you will forever be missed.

Sheila Quinn - June 13, 2020 at 06:28 PM



“ Dear Diane, Needless to say Ron will be missed. I only found out about his passing by stumbling upon some messages in a thread on someone’s recent post. I gasped out loud when I found out he had passed. My heart is so sad for you at the same time it is glad that he’s no longer suffering with cancer. I loved sharing the stage with him! He always brightened up the room. His laugh was fun! His mannerisms were hilarious! He was a gift. I thank God that Ron was a part of my life for so many years. My thoughts and prayers are with you, Diane. Peace and love to you. Hilda

Hilda Phillips Cathey - June 09, 2020 at 02:08 AM



“ My sincere condolences to you Diane and the family. Very sad news. I fondly recall an elevator ride at work with Ron a few years ago. A few, short but meaningful minutes, that changed my life, and are now a cherished memory. Unfortunately, I never got to tell him so. I meant to but we only saw each other sometimes in the hallways on his way to class. Just a few days before this elevator ride, I had presented to the Osceola campus community some work related topics. As a non-native English speaker, I have always been very self conscious when doing presentations in front of an audience. Am I projecting the right energy? Is my message clear? The day of the presentation was no different and Ron had been in attendance. In the elevator, Ron took the time to simply mention how much he had enjoyed my presentation, the energy, and the conviction and intonation in my voice. I simply and humbly said: Thank you...that's very kind of you Ron. He looked directly at me and into my eyes, and said like he knew there was doubt in me about his comments: "Liz, I know what I am talking about, I am a speech professor. Speech is what I do. You are an awesome speaker. Believe it." The elevator doors opened and he walked out and I was changed forever. Every time, I do a presentation or speak to an audience, I remember his words and I get the confidence I need to carry on with whatever message I need to deliver. He was an awesome human being...a professional and he will surely be missed and also remembered with deepest appreciation. To Ron...Thank you. I believe it.

Lisandra "Liz" Suarez

Lisandra Suarez - May 14, 2020 at 11:13 PM



“ I served on several committees with Ron. His sense of humor and his laughter were contagious! He was truly one of a kind and we will miss him dearly. Valencia won't be the same without him. My deepest sympathies to Diane and the entire Colburn family. I am so deeply sorry for your loss. Ron will be greatly missed.

Mariann Swenson

Mariann Swenson - May 13, 2020 at 08:26 AM



“ Tio Run te vamos a estrallar.para siempre.y muchas.gracias por Ser mi tio.espectacular.siempre te voy a tener en mi Corazon. Uncle il.away will.keep you in my heart. Thank you for be nice to me. Atte.jorge

George Hulk - May 12, 2020 at 07:04 PM



“ I worked with Ron both during my time on Valencia's Osceola campus and later as a fellow Speech and Communication professor. Ron was one of the first to welcome me when I began at the Osceola campus. He invited me to conversations, told me about traditions and what to expect, and often came to visit me in my office. You know what happened once he heard I had spent many younger years in the theater! He did not relent until I was in a Valencia production of Small Town. It's still one of my fondest memories of working for the college. In my heart, Ron epitomizes what it means not just to make someone feel like they belong in conversation but to help them fully belong in a place. He will be so greatly missed, but his generous, gregarious spirit will live on in so many.

Katie Tagye - May 12, 2020 at 05:09 PM



“ My deepest condolences are with you, Diane and family. My earliest experiences at Valencia involve Ron ... welcoming me to Osceola Campus, popping by our office suite with a smile and a wisecrack, and helping his students rehearse outside on afternoons. I will miss this gentle, kind, funny and vibrant colleague.

Shawn Pollgreen - May 12, 2020 at 07:26 AM



“ Ron was a force to be reckoned with; you always knew when he was walking down the hallway of Osceola Campus because the energy swept his direction. Whether it was his voice or laughter carrying through the air or the students or colleagues who would be walking with him, Ron never travelled quietly, in all the best ways. Without a doubt, our hallways will feel emptier when we return to campus.

Adriene Tribble - May 11, 2020 at 11:37 PM



“ When we first started planning to open the Poinciana campus, we were housed in the office suite for Ron's department so I would run into him frequently. What I remember most is that he always made some off the wall comment that would make me laugh. He was always willing to offer a helping hand and such a kind soul. Rest in peace, Ron.

-- Jennifer Robertson, Executive Dean, Poinciana Campus

Jennifer Robertson - May 11, 2020 at 07:21 PM



“ Ron will be missed dearly by many of us from his college community. I remember being inspired by his dedication and watching his students rehearsing for his plays with him throughout campus. Then he would not only pass by between classes to talk about his plays and say hello to us with a friendly smile, but he would also email us several times to remind us to go to his plays. His dedication to his work was admirable. I will always remember him as one of my most outstanding teachers my first year in college and a great colleague all the years after. Rest in peace Ron. Prayers and condolences go out to his family.

Daisy - May 11, 2020 at 09:34 AM



“ Diane --

I send my deepest condolences to you on the loss of Ron. He truly was "one of a kind".

I informed Volker Zielke, who is now living in Lubeck, Germany. He asked me to pass on his sincere sympathy. He commented that he enjoyed travelling with you and Ron on the Honors trips -- as my husband and I did also.

Sincerely, Elinor Teska

Elinor Teska - May 10, 2020 at 02:21 PM



“ I first met Ron when he taught at OHS. Ron had a great sense of humor. I always looked forward to his performances at Osceola Center of the Arts. He will be missed.

Steve Leach - May 09, 2020 at 07:53 PM



“ I remember Ron's humor! I worked with him in numerous plays with the Players and it was always a pleasure. Diane, prayers for you and your family during this difficult time.

Lynda Neale Rith - May 09, 2020 at 10:04 AM



“ A man of presence, style, and voice. You are missed greatly. One love.

Max - May 09, 2020 at 09:42 AM



“ So many good memories. Diane, sending you much love right now.

Tim Grogan - May 08, 2020 at 05:05 PM



“ Ron was a dear friend and colleague. I will miss him so much. My heartfelt condolences go to the Colburn family and all who loved him. He was a kind, smart, caring, fun, big-hearted person who will be terribly missed. Fly free Ron! -Melissa

Melissa Pedone - May 08, 2020 at 04:55 PM



“ Diane and family, I pray for your continued peace and comfort as you live through your loss. Ron was a wonderful colleague. His snappy movement, passion, and care for others will be missed. Stanton Reed

Stanton Reed - May 08, 2020 at 04:46 PM



“ I will remember Ron smiling and singing as he walked the halls of Valencia, Osceola Campus. He will be in our hearts and memories forever. Peace & Light for Diane and family.

Lisandra Berrios - May 08, 2020 at 04:01 PM



“ We would like to offer our condolences to the Colburn family. We will never forget his fantastic sense of humor. Ron was a dedicated professional and his laugh was always contagious. He will be missed dearly!
Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family.

Frank & Maritza Goodman - May 08, 2020 at 03:25 PM



“ Ron was a phenomenal professor and made such an impact on our students at Valencia. He will be deeply missed.

Laura Magness - May 08, 2020 at 02:59 PM



“ Ron was so talented! He could draw the best an actor could give him to portray a character. He will be missed by all who knew him! The local theater has lost a treasure!
Diane you are in my prayers.

Deb Dunaway - May 08, 2020 at 02:29 PM



“ Ron was one of the first people that I met (and remembered his name) when arriving at Valencia in 2017. Every morning he would sit outside my office and talk to all of us, asking how our day was and talking about current events. I was very saddened to hear of his passing. He will certainly be missed my many.

Jodi Staller - May 08, 2020 at 02:15 PM



“ Great teacher. Loved his sense of humor. Will be greatly missed by all who knew him.
God just called up another, now, no more pain, RIP Mr. Colburn.

Beth Carothers Helser

Beth Helser - May 08, 2020 at 01:36 PM



“ Diane I am so sorry and send my condolences. I hope you know how much I loved Ron. He was so funny and clever and I loved working with him at the theatre and having him as a teacher at Valencia. It always made my day when I would see you guys around town. He always wanted my job said I got paid for doing nothing! Ron I love you, rest in peace. The water won't turn off!

Marianne Davitt - May 08, 2020 at 07:32 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronald P. Colburn.



May 08, 2020 at 04:21 AM



“ Ron was one of the very first faculty members I met at Valencia and immediately made me feel welcome. I will miss him so very much. I loved seeing his smile on campus - it was clear he was doing what he loved. He made a positive difference for so many of our students, and we will miss him dearly.

-Kathleen Plinske

Kathleen Plinske - May 07, 2020 at 09:11 PM



“ Erin K Pg lit a candle in memory of Ronald P. Colburn



Erin K Pg - May 07, 2020 at 07:12 PM



“ Mr. Colburn not only taught my wife, Cindy Baldwin (deceased), and I at Osceola Senior High School he also sang at our wedding. He was a very nice and fair gentleman. He knew the arts and I always enjoyed his sense of humor I am sad to hear and share this news. Mr. Colburn not only taught my wife, Cindy Baldwin (deceased), and I at Osceola Senior High School he also sang at our wedding. He was a very nice and fair gentleman. He knew the arts and I always enjoyed his sense of humor. Prayers now for his family.

Randy Yates - May 07, 2020 at 06:21 PM



“ Very sad news. We loved Ron. He was the husband of my wife's cousin and always made family reunions more interesting and fun. He liked to laugh and made others laugh, too. A very smart man, conversations with him were always enlightening and pleasant. He was informed about so many topics.
We will miss him; it's difficult to accept that he's gone. -Erin Page

Erin K Pg - May 07, 2020 at 06:04 PM



“ So sorry to loose such a brilliant man! He was always full of life. We loved his abundance of energy and his willingness to always be in the moment when he was with us. You're in our thoughts and prayers, Diane.
He will be greatly missed!
Cousins, Richard and Beth

beth Wilmoth - May 07, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ Ron not only taught English, he also put on a show.....and you didn't have to buy a ticket, you just had to do the work! I could not have gotten through college without the skills he taught me.

Is there a donation site in lieu of flowers?

Lori Rogers - May 07, 2020 at 11:58 AM



“ It was always a highlight with Ronnie Colburn in the group. He was a bright sining star who will be missed by many. Condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.



Judy Flanagan - May 07, 2020 at 09:57 AM



“ He was my teacher in the 12th grade. He was one of the funniest people I’ve known. We loved his humour.

My dad was a former teacher as well. Especially for that reason, I realize what a lasting and important impact teachers make on their students. I remember Mr. Colburn coming into class one day asking volunteers to help with set design and creation for the play the “The ten little Indians” he was directing at the Osceola performing arts Center. I remember going home and asking my dad if he would like to volunteer. He showed up to put in manual labor for Ron and he came home with the script and the leading role in the play. Apparently Ron had asked him to read for the part. I remember practicing lines with my dad and at the end of the season he won the best actor award —with no prior experience. It is one of our most treasured family memories and we talk about that from time to time very fondly. We remember Ron as a very special person and he will be very missed.

deborah palla - May 07, 2020 at 08:53 AM



“ Our condolences. We share the many good memories of the plays we were in with Ron as part of the Osceola Players. Also appreciated his excellent teaching at OHS. Our prayers are with Diane.

John and Doris Drewes

John - May 07, 2020 at 08:46 AM



“ I’m a former student of Mr. Colburn, class of 1982. He was my favorite teacher in HS. He would give me extra credit for taking items to and from the Osceola Arts Center, he knew I needed it and I had a truck. He rode with me on a couple of occasions and we had the nicest conversations. I’m glad to see he was still involved in the arts for many years. My deepest condolences to Diane and the family.

Tammy (Brasher) Wade - May 07, 2020 at 08:21 AM



“ Mr. Colburn was one of my favorite teachers. Anytime we wanted to leave to go to Mc Donald's or wherever during his class, all you had to do was ask and he would let you to go. He loved to joke around and always had a big smile on his face.

Debra Moore - May 07, 2020 at 02:26 AM



“ How very sad, truly sad to hear about another one of our finest teachers passing. He had to have been one of the most patient and caring teachers in the history of Osceola High School. I regret being part of the crowd that used to give mr. Colburn a hard time. He was a great example, one of the best examples of patience and understanding young people. God has a very very special place for you mr. Colburn. Hope to see you again someday. God bless you always and your family. Tommy, 76

Tommy Joynes - May 06, 2020 at 08:46 PM



“ Sending healing prayers and comforting hugs. I was blessed to have had Ron as a teacher at OHS, and count Diana as a friend and wonderful past co-worker. Ron truly was an unforgettable, inspiring educator, and remarkable human being. My daughter just said, why are you sad. I told her one of my favorite teachers had passed. She said, oh no, one of my favorite colleagues and professors just died too. She said she was so upset, for almost two years, he greeted her in the mornings in the library, and all around the campus. Sharing our feelings, and sweet memories quickly led us to discover we were speaking of the same, kind, warm man. There truly are angels among us. I whispered to Ron, thank you for touching my daughter Jessie Padgett's life at Valencia, as well as my own. I am now hearing her share stories with her colleagues and friends. Diana, may the love of family and friends comfort you. And please give a hug to Randy from my Dad in heaven.
Melissa Padgett

Melissa Padgett - May 06, 2020 at 08:44 PM



“ So sad to hear this. He was not only our class sponsor but my favorite teacher and an amazing person. Condolences to his friends and family. We love you Mr Colburn

David Waters - May 06, 2020 at 08:37 PM



“ Ron was an old friend. He's and his brothers played many fun games with our group. One of my children had Ron as a teacher and said over and over how he made everything come alive in the class so they could understand it better.



Nina Sue Crowell - May 06, 2020 at 08:33 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. He was a wonderful man and a fantastic teacher. Kelly Marie Rexer OHS class of 85

Kelly Marie Rexer - May 06, 2020 at 08:25 PM



“ Ron was one of my favorite co-workers when I taught English at Osceola High School. He was so funny and so acidly funny sometimes, and he was a gifted teacher as well as a caring person. I am so sad to know that he's gone.

Vicki DiGiacomo - May 06, 2020 at 07:33 PM



“ Had many good times with him and Diane doing shows at Osceola Center for the Arts. My condolences to his family.

Carol Hilow Harty - May 06, 2020 at 07:29 PM



“ He was my teacher and directed me in two high school plays. He will surely be missed. He was a joy to be around and an inspiration. Tony Fletcher

Tony Fletcher - May 06, 2020 at 07:08 PM



“ Fantastic person and teacher. Always looked for the best in everyone. RIP



Mark A Baker - May 06, 2020 at 06:06 PM