



George Robert Jantzen

May 6, 1953 - July 21, 2017

In loving memory of George Robert Jantzen, age 64, who passed away on July 21, 2017.

George was born on May 6, 1953, to George Clinton and Eve Jantzen in Queens, NY. George met his wife Terri in Aurora, CO at her place of employment, 'Bally's Health and Fitness'. They were married on June 7, 1991.

George grew up in Queens, NY where he went to high school and spent time eagerly reading 'The Hardy Boys' mysteries! George had many interests that involved training for triathlons, skiing, and hiking.

George spent most of his working life as an English Professor at Dixie State University. He studied at Metro State in Aurora, CO to earn his undergraduate and continued on to earn his PHD at Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburg, PA.

George is survived by: his wife, Terri Lynn Jantzen; his daughter Jennifer Lee Jantzen of Ivins, UT; his mother Eve Jantzen; and his sister Joanne Hattman from Henderson, NC.

George is preceded in death by his father George Clinton Jantzen.

George's wishes were to not have a service, but rather a private celebration

where his daughter and wife will spread his ashes in the areas he most loved.

We encourage and invite friends and family to share condolences online at www.SerenityStG.com.

The family would like to thank Serenity Funeral Home for planting a tree in Dixie National Forest in honor of George.

Tribute Wall

SC

“ *First of all, let me say my heartfelt condolences go out to you and your family. I will surely miss the presence of a truly lovable and kind person.*

Second, George and I were close friends growing up in Bayside, Queens many years ago, especially during our grammar school days. As we got older and went our own separate ways, I always would often think of the good times we had together as kids growing up. Funny story: I remember George used to love olive pimento sandwiches for lunch in school as kids!

George was a great friend, always helpful/supportive, had a great attitude as I recall.

May he rest in peace and look over your family!

Sincerely,

*Steven Caccavallo
21 Clover Avenue
Floral Park, NY 11001*

steve253@optonline.net

Steven Caccavallo - April 17, 2018 at 02:56 PM



Jenny
Jantzen

Thank you Steven! I'm his daughter Jenny. Today (May 6th) is his birthday, came here to read some posts and saw yours for the first time. I'd love to hear more about his time growing up I don't have many stories about that!

Jenny Jantzen - May 06, 2023 at 06:42 PM

GK

“ He was without question my favorite teacher at DSU. He had a gift to make any topic interesting and worth your attention. I took as many classes from him as I possibly could, rearranging my schedule so that I could take whatever class he happened to be teaching during a given semester that would fulfill a graduation requirement. I always felt like he truly cared for and was sincerely interested in me as a person and as a student, which is not something you can count on getting from every teacher. I always felt that his humor, as well as his teaching style, coincided with mine which I'm sure are reasons why I felt drawn to and comfortable around him. I truly enjoyed my time at DSU and I know that is in large part due to Prof. Jantzen. I will most certainly never forget him.

Greg Knell - August 24, 2017 at 10:34 AM



Thank you for the wonderful memory of my dad! I have a question, I'm brain storming for a quote he always said or maybe a favorite line of his from classes? If you know of any I'd love to hear them!

Jenny Jantzen - February 25, 2018 at 09:36 PM

JA

“ Professor Jantzen not only managed to make what could have been one of the most snooze-worthy classes both fun and interesting, but also ignited a passion in so many of his students for language and history. In the hands of a lesser teacher, the courses he taught could have been mere hoops to jump through en route to a degree, but Professor Jantzen made every class his own and his passion and enthusiasm were infectious, as was his wry sense of humor and broad smile.

I was saddened when I heard the news of his untimely passing, but I feel honored to have been among the students whose lives he impacted. My sincerest condolences to his family, his friends, and the entire DSU community on your immeasurable loss. I know Professor Jantzen will be dearly missed.

Jamie

Jamie - August 08, 2017 at 03:05 PM

CR

“ I remember the first day sitting in Mr. Jantzen's English class feeling totally overwhelmed as he explained about all of the different types of papers we'd be writing. But by the end of the semester I had learned so much and it became one of my favorite classes because it challenged me. I appreciated his dedication to teaching his students!

Crystal - August 02, 2017 at 11:03 AM

CS

“ Dr. Jantzen was a wonderful teacher with a quick wit and a love of the written word kept his classes interesting and engaged. He helped me learn how to edit prose the correct way, and also to understand that why we write is as important as what we write. Something I have never forgotten.

He showed that he cared about each of his students and he will be sorely missed. I'm so grateful that I had the opportunity to have him as a professor at Dixie. My dearest condolences and prayers to his family and all that knew him. May he Rest In Peace!

Crystal Schwalger - August 02, 2017 at 09:09 AM

KJ

“ When I took History and Structure of the English Language, I affectionately nicknamed it "magical mystical story hour" because of his passion for the topic. Every class I took from him I knew I would in for a great time full of new knowledge, fun facts, and witticism. He will be missed.

Kelsey Jetter - August 02, 2017 at 02:53 AM



“ Dr. Jantzen was an outstanding instructor and, from the few passing conversations we had over the course of my time at DSU, a very kind and considerate man, and I am saddened by his passing. Although I only had one class with Dr. Jantzen, he always remembered me, and was sure to ask about my classes and eventually my plans after graduation--a consideration I am infinitely grateful for. But, more importantly, Dr. Jantzen had a killer haircut, great Ray bans, and a slick briefcase that always made me think he had just finished a stint on Wall Street. He had a dry wit that often made me wonder whether he was joking with the class or making jokes about the class--I like to think there was a little of both--and he never failed to make even the dullest aspects of composition a pleasure. Thank you, Dr. Jantzen.

Jesse Cook - July 31, 2017 at 04:37 PM



“ As a student of his many years ago, I was surprised by Professor Jantzen's ability to make a difficult, and sometimes dull, subject interesting--and even fun. I was in his History and Structure of the English language course. His passion was always evident in his teaching. I remember how he spoke fondly of English gatherings where they'd recite the prologue of Canterbury Tales. As I unpacked my moving boxes of books a few weeks ago, I turned to that page he'd given us and started reciting to my husband (let's just say Chaucer's prologue is probably only for English majors).

When I started teaching at DSU, Professor Jantzen was a wonderful mentor and friend. Whenever I would walk past his office, he would always have a smile or a wave for me. I will miss those waves and smiles until we meet again, friend.

Alexis Ence - July 31, 2017 at 01:54 PM

JS

“ Last November, I was hired on as the new administrative assistant to the English Department. I replaced a wonderful woman who was retiring after over two decades at DSU. She trained me for a month. During that time, I began to worry about fitting in with a department that was used to things being ran a certain way by a certain person. After she left and I was on my own, I tried my best to find my “place” within the department. The day I knew I had finally found it, was the day I received the following email from George Jantzen. He said: “Jenn, Thank you for your creative, funny, and lively messages. The one about the refrigerator had me laughing for hours. I appreciate the comic relief. George”. This email meant so much to me that I saved it, and referred back to it often whenever I was having a difficult day.

George always knew just what to say, and how to say it!

Everyone has stories of George’s quick wit and dry humor. I have a classic George email like this too, which read: “Hi, Jenn. I was pleased to learn recently that the textbook I use for English 1010 has a new edition. Because I am eager to spend hours of unnecessary work updating my syllabus for the fall semester, could you order me an instructor copy of the Longman Writer, 10th edition, by Pearson? Thanks, George”. He made me laugh out loud several times while sitting at my desk reading something like this from him. RIP George, you are missed by so many.

Jenn Stewart - July 31, 2017 at 12:33 PM

RR

“ I returned to school years ago to finish my degree and was one of the lucky students to be in one of Professor's Jantzen's classes. *History and Structure of the English Language* sounded incredibly boring, but he made it so fun with his dry humor & the way he'd bust out a poem or historical fact. He was so kind to me and influenced me greatly as a teacher. Professor Jantzen taught me it's not as much what you teach, but how, that will make an impact. He made a difficult class enjoyable and brightened each day that semester. My thoughts, prayers and sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Rachel Robins - July 30, 2017 at 09:35 PM

SM

“ Professor Jantzen was one of my favorite college professors. He helped me and many others gain confidence in the art of writing and showed us how to recognize our own voice. I was always impressed on his effortless professionalism and genuine care for others. I'm sad the world lost such a great human being but glad I was able to know him. A+ Professor Jantzen!

-Shawn M

Shawn Mattson - July 30, 2017 at 08:01 PM

 Kami
McArthur

“ I took two classes from Dr. Jantzen, and use some of the information I learned in those classes regularly. Just a couple of weeks before he passed, I was mentioning his History and Structure of the English Language course while in a deep conversation with my dad. I have talked about Dr. Jantzen in passing several times to my brother, simply remarking on how impressed I was with how knowledgeable he was, and how often in class periods, he could simply recite mountains of historical English information for a whole hour without any notes. I learned so many fascinating things from him--information that has popped up in conversations and been relevant to my life in unexpected ways.

Probably the most characteristic thing about Dr. Jantzen was his dry humor--hilarious in part because if you didn't know him, you couldn't always tell when he was joking.

I still have all the books from his classes and have referred to them in articles on my blog and recommended them to other writers. It's strange how we build on others' knowledge--how him teaching me has helped me teach others. I guess that's one reason people say the departed live on in the living.

Sending love and well wishes to his family and all who knew him.
Thank you, Dr. Jantzen!

Kami McArthur - July 30, 2017 at 10:40 AM

JJ

I love the last sentence " I guess that's one reason people say the departed live on in the living" almost made me cry! Thank you -His daughter

jenny jantzen - August 01, 2017 at 11:27 PM



“ Like countless other former students, I'll always remember Dr. Jantzen's kindness, his brilliance, and his dry wit. Sending thoughts and prayers to his loved ones.

Trisha Haber - July 29, 2017 at 10:18 PM



“ Dr. Jantzen was someone who brought out the best in his students. He saw their potential and helped them to reach it. I had my first class with him way back in 2002. He helped me realize that I shouldn't limit my writing, and then truly helped me find a passion for English. Nearly 10 years later, I came back to Dixie to finish my degree. He was there. He remembered me and truly made me feel like I was in the right place. He was so encouraging and helpful. He was an inspirational teacher, loved by so many. My prayers are with his family at this time.

Jessica Staheli - July 29, 2017 at 12:06 PM

“ From the Anglo Saxon poem

The Wanderer

*Often the solitary one
finds grace for himself
the mercy of the Lord,
Although he, sorry-hearted,
must for a long time
move by hand
along the waterways,
the ice-cold sea,
tread the paths of exile.
Events always go as they must!*

*So spoke the wanderer,
mindful of hardships,
of fierce slaughters
and the downfall of kinsmen:*

*So spake the wise man in his mind,
where he sat apart in counsel.
Good is he who keeps his faith,
And a warrior must never speak
his grief of his breast too quickly,
unless he already knows the remedy -
a hero must act with courage.
It is better for the one that seeks mercy,
consolation from the father in the heavens,
where, for us, all permanence rests.*



“ George taught me how to write. Really write. Up until I took his English class I was unaware that I would ever be able to write, I just sucked at English that was the way it was. I had a flare for the sciences but could not articulate my thoughts in a meaningful way. I always believed I was destined to be a poor writer until I earned my first ever A in English in his class. I have had many accomplishments but that A in English changed my self - perception. A' s in chemistry and biology were easy; that A in English was hard. George asked me to be a mentor and assist at the writing center... me...I had previously only ever scraped C's in English. I would have never believed it. I am now a published professor. My life was forever changed because he inspired confidence in me and give me the knowledge and tools I was lacking in order to be able to write. Once my scientific mind was given a "formula" a set of rules I could use to write everything fell into place. I completed my masters thesis, became a thesis advisor and have written text book chapters because of the skills he taught me. I am currently working on my doctorate and will use the skills he taught me when I work on my dissertation. I hope one day I can be even close to the teacher he was and although he taught me well I do not have the words to lament his passing.

Lisa Maria - July 29, 2017 at 01:08 AM

“ Love his dry humor. And those Old Norse and Old English recitations-AMAZING! We will miss you, George.

Summer - July 29, 2017 at 12:02 AM



“ Dr. Jantzen was an amazing teacher. I had the opportunity to take his History and Structure of the English Language class back in 2009, and I'll never forget hearing him read Beowulf in Old English. I loved his wit and humor and passion for literature and the English language. My thoughts are with his family and loved ones.

Stephanie Foote Zupancic - July 28, 2017 at 11:05 PM

SB

“ I had the privilege of taking a class with Dr. Jantzen. Though it was just one, I learned so much from him during that time and thoroughly enjoyed how truly great and understanding of a teacher he was. It was always such a welcoming atmosphere that he provided. He would make time for each and every student and was always so genuinely kind, compassionate, knowledgeable, and humorous. I remember he attended my senior thesis presentation and it meant so much to me that he would take the time out of his busy schedule to go to it. My sincerest condolences to the Jantzen family. I'm so sorry for your loss and will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.

Samantha Ballantyne - July 28, 2017 at 07:25 PM



“ I'll miss his deadpan humor, his recitations of Old Norse and Old English poetry, his practical advice on technical writing, and, most of all, the way he strolled into class in those Ray-Bans. Thoughts go out to his family.

Sean Scott - July 28, 2017 at 05:42 PM



“ *Sending prayers and love to you, his family. Dr. Jantzen was truly a joy to have as a professor. I still remember his class with fondness, and though rusty, can still quote the first part of Canturburry Tales I learned as part of his class. Because, according to him, you never know when you may need to recite it to the person sitting next to you on a plane.
He'll be missed, may you be comforted at this time.*

DerekMyrianne Jones - July 28, 2017 at 05:34 PM

“ I don't know where to start. Dr. Jantzen was one of my favorites, and I loved his stark honesty, quick wit, and humor. I had the pleasure of taking one class with him, Advanced College Writing, and I'll always regret not taking History and Structure from him because my friends always talked about how he could read Old English perfectly. Where to begin with memories? I have several. Our first assignment in Advanced College Writing was a memoir, which I wrote about my relationship with my dad, who has suffered with failing kidneys. I was nervous because I had never done something so personal, but I was the first person to turn in my paper. I heard back early the next day or the day after (I can't quite remember) and he explained that he loved my memoir - not because of its technical skill or the artistic wording, but because it reminded him of his relationship with his daughter and how important that is to him. That was the first time that a professor had really shared something personal with me, and it really struck me and stuck with me. The second memory I have is from April Fool's Day in his class. The classroom we were in is positioned at the entrance to the English department offices and there is a glass wall letting people look into the classroom. We as a class decided to flip around the seating arrangements while we waited for him. Now the front of the classroom was against the glass rather than the chalkboard. He walked in in a rush and noticed the podium and his chair at the wrong end of the classroom. He laughed, but told us we were in for a distracting class period. He spent the next five minutes or so, explaining how hard it is to teach in the room because everyone walks by and waves at him. "Do I wave back? I am teaching." He introduced us to the conundrum of having glass walls. While it's great for tours and aesthetically pleasing, it's actually super distracting. The third memory I have of him is how much he cared about the students. He worried frequently about our safety and wanted to ensure that the campus considered our safety. He would give the occasional lecture about it and I was always surprised to know he cared so much. Professors seem to be in a higher sphere than students, but he showed me that they still care about the students. I will always remember and cherish the time I

got to spend with him. He is and always will be an incredible man. My thoughts are with his family.

Bailee Christiansen - July 28, 2017 at 05:29 PM

JJ

:) I love this so much! Thank you for sharing

jenny jantzen - July 28, 2017 at 08:37 PM

KN

“ *I had the great privilege of taking two classes from Professor Jantzen during my time at DSU. He was a joy to learn from and constantly catching you off-guard with his dry, witty comments. He genuinely cared for the well-being of his students and never had an unkind word to say about anyone. I took an evening class from him one semester and I was toying with the idea of participating in the D-Queen pageant. He overheard a few of us talking about it and suggested that it would be a valuable experience and a great story idea as well. He was right. My thoughts are with his family during this time. He will be deeply missed.*

Kim New - July 28, 2017 at 05:00 PM

AC

“ *George has been my colleague just down the hall or around the corner for the past ten years. I loved running into him unexpectedly and having a wonderful conversation that always included some of his witty sense of humor. He is missed already by so many, including me. So grateful to have shared the DSU English Department and our little hallway with Dr. Jantzen. I'll miss his wit, good sense, and care for his students, colleagues, and English faculty and staff. Irreplaceable. Rest well until we meet again, my dear colleague.*
--Ami Comeford

Ami Comeford - July 28, 2017 at 04:47 PM

FB

“ One of the first few people who welcomed newcomers like me back in 2008, George Jantzen was a brilliant professor and well-respected colleague. I loved working with him on the professional and technical writing team -- he's terribly smart, funny, and generous to those around him. We lost a good man and he will be sorely missed. Rest in peace, good sir. -- Florence Elizabeth Bacabac

Florence Bacabac - July 28, 2017 at 04:47 PM

TW

“ Professor Jantzen was an amazing man. I took several of his classes and his dry sense of humor made for some of the best classes I've taken. He always gave great feedback on my assignments and really helped me develop my writing skills. He was always very professional, but also knew how to have fun and not take himself too seriously. One evening class we came back from break and right before class started his phone went off and he quickly fumbled to turn it off. After the class laughing he said, "Well, I might as well let you know what my wife has to say... Homemade McMuffins waiting for me at home! Sweet! Let's get this show on the road!!" We all laughed that a simple egg mcmuffin would bring so much joy to him. He really was a kind and wonderful man. Always willing to mentor his students and help them. I'll miss seeing him on campus. He will not be forgotten on DSU's campus. Rest In Peace Professor Jantzen.

Trevor Williams - July 28, 2017 at 04:25 PM

JJ

“ Enjoy you're next adventure in the spirit world dad!! I love you :)



jenny jantzen - July 28, 2017 at 03:37 PM

JJ

*He would have killed me for my grammatical error in that post haha
your **

jenny jantzen - July 28, 2017 at 03:40 PM

JS

lol, no doubt about that! ;-)

Jenn Stewart - July 31, 2017 at 12:02 PM

LH

“ I had the privilege of taking two classes from Dr. Jantzen during my time at DSU--Advanced Writing and History & Structure of the English Language. While I associate some of my best learning experiences with his classes, I'll always appreciate the trust he placed in his students as growing writers. One assignment for Advanced Writing required us to write on something scientific, which proved to be a difficult task for me. Apprehensive about the assignment, I ran a rather odd idea by him--combine personal narrative with the quantitative data he wanted. To be honest, I thought it was a long shot, but rather than greeting the idea with hesitation, Dr. Jantzen not only approved of my idea, but also gave me advice as to how I could best go about it. He trusted me and my writing abilities to pursue an unconventional approach to the assignment. That trust, which he placed in all of his students, definitely showed in the classroom, as my peers excitedly played around with new ways of expressing their thoughts and ideas. Writing is often so personal and scary, and the fact that he provided such an open and safe environment to experiment is absolutely incredible, and I (and I imagine many of my peers) will always be indebted to him for that.

Dr. Jantzen's dry wit, vast knowledge, and care for his students and colleagues will be greatly missed at DSU and in the academic community.

~Lacy Hope, Former DSU Student

Lacy Hope - July 28, 2017 at 01:06 PM

JJ

Thank you for sharing :) I'm his daughter, I love hearing what his students had to say about him!

jenny jantzen - July 28, 2017 at 03:39 PM

RC

I had the privilege of not only taking classes from George but also working with him on committees. I loved his sense of humor and the fact that he was always so upbeat and positive about life. George's love for the English language was so apparent, and he was able to pass on his love and enthusiasm on to his students. And he never shot down an idea for any writing assignment. I cannot remember the specific topic for Advanced Writing, but I proposed writing about the "sweet spot" on a baseball bat. I will never forget his enthusiasm regarding my idea and how he couldn't wait to read my paper. He was kind, compassionate, witty, and a student advocate. He will forever be in our hearts and greatly missed.

Roberta Cole - July 28, 2017 at 05:34 PM

CC

“George was on my hiring committee nine years ago and became a mentor after I arrived at DSU. He had a dry wit, such a great sense of humor. Students would say, "Do you know he's funny?" like it was such a big surprise. He was sneaky with his humor that way. He was smart, kind, thoughtful, diligent--a terrific colleague. I'm going to miss him.

Cheri Crenshaw - July 28, 2017 at 10:45 AM

 Jenny Jantzen

I love this, he did have such a dry sense of humor that would through you off guard

Jenny Jantzen - July 28, 2017 at 02:22 PM

TD

I think it's ironic that he was on Cheri's hiring committee. Cheri was on my hiring committee. After I gave my interview presentation to my hiring committee, someone made a positive comment about my presentation, and I replied, "yeah, I stole the idea from Professor Jantzen." After a couple of funny looks from the committee (I'm assuming regarding plagiarism), I continued to explain that I got the idea for my presentation from a class I had with Professor Jantzen. I have based much of what I teach from what I learned as a student in his class. He will be missed.

Tiffany Draper - July 28, 2017 at 04:50 PM



“ George Jantzen was an amazing professor and human being! I had the opportunity to take one of his classes--History and Structure of the English Language. I enjoyed his lectures and his attempt to teach his students to speak Old English. We could never speak as well as he did, but we had fun trying. He always made his students laugh, and was committed to our success. I feel blessed to have known him. He will be missed.
-Leslie Twitchell

Leslie Twitchell - July 28, 2017 at 10:20 AM



Loved hearing this thank you so much 😊

jenny jantzen - July 28, 2017 at 03:39 PM



“ 2 files added to the album George Jantzen



Front Desk - July 27, 2017 at 01:00 PM