



Lenita Childers Locey

May 12, 1940 - December 11, 2019

Lenita Childers, entered this world on Mother's Day, May 12, 1940, and died, leaving it a better place, on December 11, 2019. She was the daughter of Leonard L. Childers and Thelma Coleman Childers of Kansas City, Kansas. A 1958 graduate of Wyandotte High School, she attended Kansas State University, the University of Hawaii and Southern Methodist University before earning her B.S. (Magna Cum Laude), M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Kansas. The year following her undergraduate degree was spent in Paris as a Fulbright grantee. Returning to Lawrence to begin graduate studies, she met fellow student Michael Locey, and the couple were married on September 5, 1964.

In 1969, she took a position in the Department of Romance Languages at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where she and Michael would continue teaching until retirement in 1999. Her research interests and publications focused on the areas of medieval theater and Francophone women writers. She was a strong advocate of study abroad, tirelessly promoting the Bowling Green Academic Year Abroad among her students, while also devoting untold hours behind the scenes logged into the university mainframe, verifying enrollments and financial balances to insure the viability of all three of Bowling Green's European language programs. Under her leadership the offerings in France were expanded to include Masters-level courses, summer sessions, even travel/study opportunities for advanced High School students.

Lenita greatly enjoyed the interaction with students, frequently inviting her classes into her home near the campus to learn to prepare and to appreciate various French specialties. Gifted with a beautiful voice, and a persistent advocate for singing as a tool in language acquisition, she could often be seen heading off to class, her guitar and bundles of song sheets in tow.

When retirement had removed her from the classroom, she turned to organizing annual trips for members of the Bowling Green Retirees Association, each time focusing on a specific region in France. Lenita enjoyed cooking and entertaining at home both in the US and the tiny stone cottage in France, perched on a hillside overlooking the River Loire.

In 2016, the couple joined their daughter Abigail and her family living in Saint George, Utah. Lenita died there in the Intermountain Hospital on December 11, 2019, following a brief illness. Her memory is cherished by her husband of 55 years; her sister Margana Hunter of Kansas City, Missouri; daughters Elizabeth Locey-Hampe of Dunwoody, Georgia, and Abigail Porter of Saint George; sons-in-law Thomas Hampe and Timothy Porter; granddaughter Anne-Charlotte Locey Hampe; and grandsons Xavier Porter and Maxim Porter. As a life-long believer in the value of learning, Lenita made her final gesture the donation of her remains to medical research. In lieu of burial, a tree has been planted in a National Forest. Tributes may be made to the University of Kansas Department of French, Francophone and Italian Studies, or to the charity of one's choice.

Tu ne te plains jamais et crois très sûrement
Que rien de vrai ne meurt quand on s'aime dûment,
Et que le feu vivant dont se réchauffe notre âme
Consumme jusqu'au deuil pour en grandir sa flamme.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Lenita was a beautiful and talented person and an excellent professor. She loved her profession and truly cared about her students. She helped so many of us achieve our goals and she opened the world to us. She became more than an educator, she became our friend. I remember so well the summers we spent in France and the adventures we shared. She and Michael opened their home and their hearts to me. They were so generous and hospitable and made me feel like part of the family when I visited them in Bowling Green. Without them, I would never have attained my Masters Degree. I am eternally grateful. Michael, Elizabeth and Abigail, I am deeply sorry for your loss. She was an inspiration to all who met her. I send my sincere sympathy and my heart shares in your grief. “There’s a hole in the world tonight.” I wish you all peace and love. Your beautiful family is her legacy, along with the hundreds of students and friends whose lives she touched. My deepest condolences to all. I will keep Lenita and you in my heart forever, along with the beautiful memories of the time we spent together. Be Safe, Be strong. Love and peace be with you.

Radojka “Joyce “ Skocic
Mount Vernon, Ohio

Joyce Skocic - April 14, 2020 at 10:54 PM

ML

“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Michael Locey - April 12, 2020 at 11:16 PM



“ 11 files added to the album Lenita Memories



Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah - April 07, 2020 at 04:44 PM



“ 30 files added to the album Lenita



Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah - April 06, 2020 at 12:37 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Lenita



Michael Locey - April 02, 2020 at 05:57 PM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Michael Locey - April 02, 2020 at 05:54 PM

LC

“ It is not a stretch to say that Dr. Locey and her AYA France program changed my life. Through this amazing opportunity that she created, I was able to live in France, cultivate lifelong friendships, and go on to a life I never dreamed possible, in and out of France.

I often think of Michael and Lenita Locey when I am in France, of their impeccable taste, of their vast knowledge of French culture. When I am in Tours, when I go to the Dordogne, to Normandy, they often cross my mind. I now lead my own student trips to France and draw on those experiences of my past.

When I think about the people who had the greatest influence on who I am now, Dr. Locey and her husband are among them. I wish I had told her. My condolences to her entire family.

*Lesley Chapman
AYA France 1987-1988
AYA Spain 1989-1990
AYA France Summer 1990*

Lesley Chapman - April 02, 2020 at 09:44 AM

AG

*I echo everything that Lesley said. I was an AYA student in France in 1984-85; 1987-88 and in the summer of 1989. Lenita and Michael were so inspiring to me. I remember going to their home on Wooster in Bowling Green for French get-togethers. Years later, as a university French teacher, I would host my students in my home for a meal, where I would make the main course (of their choice) and they would all bring the side dishes. Extra credit, of course, if they tried the escargots.
Merci pour tout, Madame Locey.
Amanda Gilmore*

Amanda Gilmore - April 02, 2020 at 10:26 AM

BA

The Member's of the BGSU Retirees Association were saddened to learn of Lenita's passing and extend our deepest sympathy to her family!

BGSU Retirees Association - April 08, 2020 at 02:17 PM