



Stanley Thomas Kordinak

March 29, 1944 - March 3, 2015

Stanley Thomas Kordinak (Tom) born in Johnson City, NY on March 29, 1944 to Stanley Joseph Kordinak and Susan Puskar Kordinak, passed away March 3, 2015.

Raised in New York State, Tom moved west to complete his education receiving degrees from Iowa Wesleyan College, Drake University and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. He accepted a position in Sam Houston State University's newly formed Department of Psychology in 1970, serving SHSU for 45 years. His research interest ranged from personality assessment, psychometrics and more recently academic achievement with computer assisted instruction. He dedicated his career to educating others. Tom was active in the Huntsville community, serving on the Board of Directors of the Tri-County MHMR, elected to the Huntsville Hospital District, consultant for the establishment of Spring Shadows Glen Psychiatric Hospital; he also coached soccer, was a Cub Scout Master, President of both the Gibbs and Mance Park PTA's and he was an elder in the First Presbyterian Church.

Tom is survived by his mother, Susan Kordinak, of Binghamton, NY, his sister Susan Queen, of West Palm Beach, FL and her sons, Robert and Max Queen, his son Joseph, daughter-in-law Heather, granddaughter Carrie of Dale, TX, his aunts Anna Lucas, and Helen Walker, and his loving partner of 24 years, Ann Holder, her family, Matthew and Rebekah Holder, Beth and

Nathan Stotts, whose 4 grandchildren, Abbey, Connor, Darby and Patrick called him Grandpa. He was preceded in death by his father Stanley Kordinak.

A visitation will be held from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM on Monday, March 9, 2015 at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville, Texas. A memorial service will follow the visitation at 3:00 PM on Monday, March 9, 2015 in the chapel at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville, Texas with Rev. Sue Hyde officiating.

Funeral services will be held later at the Chopyak-Scheider Funeral Home, in Binghamton, NY with the Very Rev. Protopresbyter James Dutko officiating. Burial will be in the St. Michael's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to make donations in Tom's name may do so by contributing to the James Weber Scholarship Fund, the John Symonds Scholarship Fund, the Thomas W. Satre Endowed Scholarship Fund or the Newton Gresham Library through the Division of University Advancement, Box 2537, Sam Houston State University.

Memorial condolences may be made to the family at www.shmfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 9. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfh.com

Memorial Service

MAR 9. 3:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Stanley Thomas Kordinak*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I have just learned of Dr. Kordinak's passing and feel a deep sense of loss. I was a student and a graduate of the Class of 1977. Dr. Kordinak was by far my favorite professor and I considered him a mentor. I kept in touch with him for a short time after graduation but then life went on. I always meant to stop in at SHSU and visit with him again. Oh, how I wish I had. I hope he realized the positive impact he had on so many.*

Angela Morris

Angela Morris - July 28, 2015 at 01:07 PM



“ *Dr. Kordinak worked with my Dad, Dr. James A. Johnson in the Psychology Department at Sam Houston for many years. I have fond memories of him attending Psychology Club parties at our house on Ave. R. with my Dad, Dr. Bruce, Dr. Gilhousen, Dr. Miller, and many others. I know my Dad would be sad to hear of his friend's passing. On behalf of my Dad and our family, our deepest condolences to Dr. Kordinak's family.*

Lesli Johnson Tutt

Lesli J. Tutt - April 16, 2015 at 02:11 PM

RB

“ I just found heard of Dr. Kordinak's passing, was so sorry I wasn't able to pay my respects in a more timely manner. My thoughts & prayers are with those he left behind.

Rhonda Beard-Lindsey - March 15, 2015 at 10:49 AM

MR

“ My first semester at SHSU, I took personality with Dr. Kordinak. Out of all my professors, he seemed the most old-fashioned, yet keenly interested in everything the students had to say. He encouraged discussion, and voiced his strong sentiments regarding my generation; our issues, our perspectives, our beliefs. His beliefs seemed to emulate that of another great psychologist, B.F. Skinner, in that we are each responsible for our own actions, yet he never denied the wonders of the outside world. I'm sad that I only knew this great man for a short period of time, and in the few weeks before, seeing him every morning gave me hope that we'd speak again soon one day.

Your life touched thousands of students and professors along the way, and your experiences will continue to touch many beyond your passing. I still remember you shaking my hand, and telling me that I've shaken hands with hundreds of great men before him. You will be missed greatly, and my condolences to your family, friends, and community.

Mizraim Reyes - March 11, 2015 at 04:32 PM

FC

“ I'll never forget my first day of personality psychology last semester with Dr. Kordinak. Most professors spend the first day going over the syllabus and discussing their class. Instead, being the strongly opinionated and dominant man Dr. Kordinak was, he openly shared his views on the world. He basically chewed out problems with our generation, modern psychology and human ignorance in general. I'm not going to lie his personality really intimidated me at first but going to his class after that first day I liked him more and more. He challenged me in a way that few professors could. He challenged my faith, challenged my outlook on life and challenged me to not only do well in his class but to be a better person. To be a person who questioned things and looked for answers. He was a brilliant man with a compassion for human growth. You could tell from the dedication he put into his teaching that he cared a great deal about his students and the world we live in. Dr. Kordinak you were a great professor and you will be greatly missed here at Sam Houston University. My condolences to the Kordinak family.

Faith Carroll - March 10, 2015 at 04:41 PM

TW

“ Tom Wood’s Reflections of Dr. Stanley Thomas Kordinak

Tom was my closest colleague at Sam Houston State University and a valued friend. I had the privilege of knowing Tom for eight years, as we both worked for the Department of Psychology. Over the years, I realized that Tom was like an onion, you had to peel him one layer at a time. He was not necessarily an easy man to get close to as he valued his privacy and I respected that. He was truly a character with many sides to his personality. I feel lucky that he shared with me his faith to help others whether they be with colleagues, students, friends, or animals. I realized what a truly thoughtful and dedicated man he was to the field of psychology, the university, community, church, and family.

Tom was extremely bright and a scholar. Although only a year older than myself I perceived him as my mentor. He was a master at statistics and could do anything related to computers. Although we only published one very nice piece together we had planned to do more and had collected a lot of data. Tom loved data. His work with students kept him busy and went beyond the classroom in order to help students achieve. He taught statistics, not any easy subject area, and one that required students to not only to learn but to apply their knowledge. Students had to study and grading on a curve was not necessarily a practice representative of his teaching. Although he frustrated some students with his high expectations; that did not sway him from his belief that students who applied themselves would do well. He would always be available to help students outside of the classroom. Many undergraduates shared with me that without the help of Dr. Kordinak they would not have graduated. Tom worked harder than anyone I know and may have not been fully appreciated by the University that consumed his 45 year career. I regret that many of his colleagues did not know him the way I did because he would have been held in higher regard. He would literally do anything to help anyone.

My first experience meeting Tom, was during the time I served as

the newly appointed Dean of the College of Education and Applied Science at SHSU. It concerned a student grievance issue. He was a "big guy," extremely well dressed (his trademark was a tie with a sweater vest under a sport coat) and took his role as a professional very seriously. In November of the same year, I had a near fatal bicycle accident, hospitalized for six months and out of university life for a total of nine months. The University did not allow me to resume as Dean so I returned to the department as a professor. It was the first time to teach freshman level courses in about 20 years and the first time to teach in the department. As I was adjusting to my new circumstances and responsibilities in the department, Tom shows up at my office door. He taught me how to put my gradebook on the computer. He would take a VCR and TV from the third to the first floor for my classes and then pick it up and bring it back. The amazing thing was that Tom I were basically strangers. He totally volunteered his services. Sometime later, he went to El Paso with me over Christmas break to drive a large truck full of furniture back to Huntsville. Who was this guy? It renewed my faith in the goodness of people. He was always helping me and seemed to be able to understand my situation. He was always calling me a "bleeding heart liberal" but in reality he was the one with the soft heart but he never really wanted people to know it. Tom did have a gruff side to him. Unfortunately there may be individuals who never got beyond that exterior to know the kind and caring person he really was.

Tom, please know I have always valued your advice and am keeping busy in my retirement from SHSU. You have made a giant contribution to this world during your lifetime and to my life as well. I will never forget you. Rest in Peace Good Buddy!

Tom Wood

Tom Wood - March 09, 2015 at 02:52 PM

A.

“ A.S. lit a candle in memory of Stanley
Thomas Kordinak



A.S. - March 09, 2015 at 07:53 AM

CR

“ I had the pleasure of being Dr. Kordinak's student for I/O and for statistics. He was an inspiration to me on more than one occasion so I asked him to write reference letters for graduate school which he was very enthusiastic about writing. When I approached him with doubt about my acceptance, he quickly reminded me that the worst thing a graduate school could do was say no. He firmly believed in all of his students having the ability to overcome any obstacle. I wish I had the chance to tell him that I will be starting graduate school in the fall and that I would not have had the confidence to apply without his support. He has influenced the lives of so many students and colleagues and will continue to do so in memory. Thank you Dr.Kordinak, you will be severely missed. My sincerest condolences to Ann Holder and the rest of the Kordinak family.

Caitlin Riddle - March 08, 2015 at 06:53 PM

TS

“ For the past twenty-plus years, I have occupied the office right next to or opposite Tom’s. During this time, more than just being my trusted colleague, Tom has become my dear friend. His departure is a big loss not just for all in the department, but for everyone in the university community. In an environment with a shift in paradigm, Tom adapted well without compromising his principles. He was a consummate professional. His commitment in the classroom was motivated not by student evaluations but by the students’ education. Students enrolled in his classes received a true college education, whether they were aware or otherwise. He set high standards rather than succumb to the call of convenience and expedience. Yet, he had infinite compassion and patience for students genuinely yearning to learn. On many occasions have I witnessed the unselfish and caring manner in which he gave his time to providing the extra help and encouragement to students who came to his office. Head and shoulders above his peers, he understood ethics, and he practiced it — he was a man of integrity, always doing what was right rather than what would have been popular. He was a wonderful colleague. I will dearly miss Tom’s presence and friendship, and the tea sessions during which we have had many discussions on topics ranging from San Francisco to the university.

TC Sim

TC Sim - March 08, 2015 at 01:07 PM

JL

“ My name is John Lee and I had the privilege of being a student of Dr. Kordinak . I was fortunate to have had several great professors and mentors in my life . But , Dr. Kordinak was the one who taught me how to think . He had a gift and he would give that gift to anyone , with one caveat . You had to learn how to think for yourself . I realized several years later that Graduate school and business experience taught me how to think in a certain way , but what success I've had in business , parenting , marriage etc can be directly traced back to Dr. Kordinak .

Over the years , Dr. Kordinak asked me several times to call him Tom . And , on this wet dreary sunday down in galveston ,I'm sitting here wondering why that was such a difficult to-do . I think it had to do with respect . I wasn't sure that I had earned the right to call him " Tom " . I think I will go to mass and pray for eternal peace for my mentor , my friend , my professor Rest in peace Tom !

John Lee - March 08, 2015 at 08:07 AM

DB

“ Ann, so sorry about your loss. Will keep you in my prayers.

Dr. Mary Berry - March 07, 2015 at 10:24 AM

DE

“ My condolences to Ann and other members of his family. His absence will be felt by many. I have known Tom for the past 32 years. During that time he has consistently stressed the need for all to give maximum effort. Although demanding as a teacher, he only wanted the best for his students. He demanded much but was willing to demand the same of himself as he prepared for his classes. He was always willing to give his students as much time as they needed. Over the last few years my administrative duties did not allow me to be in regular contact with Tom. When we did run into each other, it was as if no time had passed. Tom never shirked from any job. When given a job, he would attack the problem with a passion and would devote hours to researching possible solutions. I will miss his enthusiasm and his honesty. The department will not be the same.

Dick Eglsaer

Dick Eglsaer - March 07, 2015 at 10:22 AM

SB

“ I was a student of his this semester, He was a very kind hearted man. He will be greatly missed around the SHSU campus!

Sarah Bearden - March 07, 2015 at 07:31 AM

CA

“ Dr. Kordinak was one of my favorite professors and was very helpful to me during my graduate studies and during my time as an adjunct faculty for many years in the psychology department. He volunteered to supervise me in two independent study classes so I could graduate quickly and start teaching. Upon my joining the adjunct faculty, he continued his support and his door was always open for me to meet with him, which I did often. I especially have very fond memories of him from learning how to administer the Roschach Test. I remember how fun he made a very difficult class. My sincere sympathy,
Carolyn Martinez

Carolyn - March 06, 2015 at 06:09 PM

Amy
Engelbrecht

“ I was a student of Dr. Kordinak. I am deeply saddened by his death. He was a great professor and a kind man. I will miss him he was by far one of my favorite professors here at shsu. My deepest condolences to his family in this difficult time. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Amy Engelbrecht - March 06, 2015 at 12:23 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Stanley Thomas Kordinak.



March 06, 2015 at 10:25 AM

AD

“ Tom’s family is in our thoughts and prayers. May you take comfort in knowing we are remembering him and honoring his memory at Iowa Wesleyan College.

Anita Hampton, IWC Alumni Director - March 06, 2015 at 09:14 AM

RH

“ Tom was a wonderful man. I had the pleasure of caring for his father and mother over the past few year and got to know Tom fairly well. He will be deeply missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this time of need.

Rhonda - March 06, 2015 at 08:48 AM

JE

“ I am a Psychology student at SHSU and heard about Dr. Kordinak's passing Wednesday morning. I'm deeply saddened by his loss and he will be truly missed. Please accept my sincere condolences during this time of grief. May God comfort your family. My daily thoughts and prayers are with you.



Jeri Robertson

Jeri - March 06, 2015 at 08:26 AM

JB

“ Tom Kordinak has been an important member of the Psychology Department at SHSU for many years. He loved the students he taught but was insistent that they learn the materials. Many students returned to tell the Department, years after graduation, that their success in the world was due to Dr. Kordinak's pushing them over the top of the mountain he place in front of them to climb. The Department is richer for having had him in it and it is certainly poorer with him gone. We love Tom and miss him.

Jerry and Betty Bruce

Jerry Bruce - March 05, 2015 at 10:21 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stanley Thomas Kordinak.



March 05, 2015 at 08:08 PM

DS

“ My condolences to the family of Tom and his partner, Ann. Tom will be truly missed. He was a colleague and friend. Our offices are in the same hall, and every morning around 7am when I came in (and I wear heels and have a rather loud walk) he would come out of his office to shout, “Here she comes!” (And I really mean every morning for several years!) Also, he would often look at this picture of New York in my office and reminisce about his past growing up NY. It is those little things that I will miss. It was blessing to know you Tom. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Diane Stoebner-May

Diane Stoebner-May - March 05, 2015 at 08:00 PM

LO

“ *Friends are the family we choose. Tom will be missed by the Tennessee branch. Our condolences to all.
Lynn and John Oliver, Dorothy Bagley, Patsy and Bob Nichols,
Janet Nichols*

lynn oliver - March 05, 2015 at 05:17 PM

 Abram
Garc

“ *my sincere condolences, Mr. Kordinak was a great professor that had a passion to teach and help students. As one of his students i was honored as having him as my professor. He will be greatly missed but may he rest in peace as he is in a better place.*

Abram Garc - March 05, 2015 at 05:09 PM