



Kenneth "Ken" Ridgedell

April 15, 1967 - May 29, 2023

Ken, age 56, passed away on Monday, May 29, 2023. He was a resident of Hammond, LA. Ken graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University and took a job at the college right after graduating. He began his career at SLU as an instructor and worked his way into the position of Director of Career Services. Ken had a true passion for teaching and mentoring students, and he gave all of himself to his work. His students always looked forward to attending his classes and they never forgot Mr. Ridgedell. Ken was a member of the Kiwanis. If you had the opportunity to meet Ken, not only did he make you laugh, but you walked away with a friend. Ken was a true family man and was happiest spending time with those he loved. He never missed an opportunity to crack a joke or be silly, and he was always the life of the party. Ken was an easy-going man with a huge heart. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Missy Ridgedell; daughter, Taylor Ridgedell (Garrett Jones); son, Kade Ridgedell (Abby Palmer); sisters, Karen Bass, Kathy Drude; mother-in-law, Esther Rodriguez; sisters-in-law, Debi Pittman, Julie Wagner (Chuck), Michele Lee (Stephen); brother-in-law, Mike Rodriguez; many nieces and nephews; fur babies, Mia and Finn; and numerous co-workers that he considered family.

Ken is preceded in death by his parents, Wade and Catherine Ridgedell; and

father-in-law, Alex Rodriguez.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers donations be sent to Southeastern Louisiana University Counseling Center in honor of Ken. Donations may be sent to www.southeastern.edu/alumni_donors/foundation.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the visitation from the chapel of Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home at 12012 Hwy 190 W. Hammond, LA 70403 on Sunday, June 4, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. until the memorial service at 1:00 p.m.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 4. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home - Hammond, LA
12012 Highway 190 W
Hammond, LA 70401
(225) 567-1884

Memorial Service

JUN 4. 1:00 PM (CT)

Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home - Hammond, LA
12012 Highway 190 W
Hammond, LA 70401
(225) 567-1884

Tribute Wall



“ *Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth "Ken" Ridgedell*



Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home - June 03, 2023 at 09:16 AM

MC

Ken gave me the best Gift anyone could ever receive. He told me about Jesus Christ when we were in Highschool

Mark Cologne - June 04, 2023 at 06:04 PM

AJ

“ *Ken was on the hiring committee that allowed me to come back to my alma mater as a professional. For over ten years, he was one of the most affirming and supportive colleagues I had the pleasure of working with.*

I would often see him and his wife in town. They both always had the biggest smiles and we never walked away from each other without having a barrel of laughs.

His absence will be a tremendous loss for Southeastern and his impact will be felt for years to come.

Sending love to Missy and their children as well as the Southeastern Family.

Angela James - June 05, 2023 at 12:55 PM

GR

“ Ken is a great friend and mentor to me. He gave me my first “real” job and I was his first hire. It was a fortuitous intersection of timing, need, and careers. I think we both needed each other right at that moment. He was the best boss I have ever worked for and I don’t think that will ever change. I miss him already. I know he will be missed by so many. He was the best!

Garrick Robert - June 04, 2023 at 12:09 PM

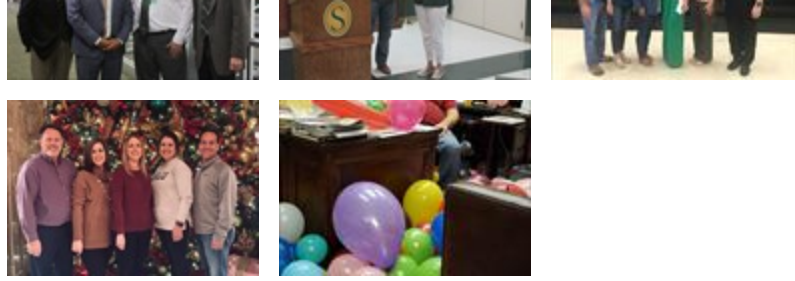
“ Spending four years with Ken as a member of the Career Services Office provided a great deal of laughter, hard work, professional growth, and fun. There are many stories that I could share that would show Ken as a great leader and many others that would show his compassion and care for others. Other stories would highlight his quirks for details both in emails and events. Yet the stories that have resonated most with me over the past week are ones that made me laugh.

Ken had an unquenchable thirst to get to know people, no matter who they were. He didn't just want to know your name and where you were from, rather Ken wanted to dive into the deep end of your life and immerse himself in your stories. Questions like, "How did you get to where you are now? What were the influences and influencers in your life? What is your why? What motivates you? Who are the important people in your life and why? What was the most impactful thing to happen to you? What is your MBTI? Why do you want to be here, now?" were mainstays for Ken in his ever-evolving desire to get to know you better. There were no strangers in his life because everyone he encountered was a new friend.

I will always remember Ken's words of wisdom that he shared with me daily. I will miss the impromptu meeting that would randomly occur throughout the day as a new idea revolved in his mind. His crooked smile when he knew that he had you was also a favorite of mine. I'll miss his rapid pace and endless font of ideas, his intelligence, and his humungous heart. He will forever be a guiding light for me and I will never forget the impact that he had on my life and the lives of countless others. I miss my friend and will do my best to help make sure that his legacy lives on through the work that I do and the people that I help each day.

God Bless you Ken and may perpetual light shine upon you for all eternity!





Craig Marinello - June 04, 2023 at 11:24 AM

BS

“ *I have known Ken for quite a few years from working at Southeastern. Each interaction I had with him was always pleasant; he was always happy, funny, and very talkative. I am sadden and so sorry for your loss. May God grant you the grace to grieve your husband/father's death and the faith to remember the joy of his life.* ”

Brenda Sciortino - June 04, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Ridgedell.* ”



June 02, 2023 at 12:58 PM

BC

“ *Bob and Cindy Chedville purchased the Sweet Sampler Basket for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Ridgedell.* ”



Bob and Cindy Chedville - June 02, 2023 at 10:01 AM

BC

“ Missy, Taylor and Kade, please accept our most sincere condolences during this challenging time. Ken was an awesome friend and classmate. I have so many great memories of our senior year of high school. Much of them was because of Ken. He was truly a kind and gentle man with a personality larger than life. He could make you laugh at the drop of hat. His smile was endless. Our hearts are broken for you all. May God bless you and your entire family. Bob and Cindy Chedville

Bob Chedville - June 02, 2023 at 09:52 AM

MS

Mr. Ken was one of my instructors at SLU over 20 years ago and I will always remember the caring, kind, and great person. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity I had to reunite with him at the business fair on campus earlier this year.

Marlice Sanders - June 03, 2023 at 09:01 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Ridgedell.



June 01, 2023 at 07:38 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kenneth "Ken" Ridgedell.

June 01, 2023 at 07:38 PM

KF

“ I am so blessed to have gotten to work and learn from Mr. Ken during my time at Career Services. He was always so determined to make every small task relate to real-world experiences; always pushing us to work harder and find meaning and purpose in the work that our team was doing together.

Not only was he an excellent boss, but he was an incredible life mentor. He always made time for all of us and listened to our stories and issues like they were the single most important thing that day (changing majors, friend drama - you name it!) He treated each one of us like family and genuinely cared about our struggles and successes.

He even let us hang Christmas lights all around the office one year, despite the paint tears all over (I'm pretty sure he even helped hang a strip or two!) He just wanted our office to be a safe haven for all of us during our time at Southeastern, no matter how horrible our decorations were at times.

This is one of my favorite photos of our crew during the years we worked together - the friendships and mentorships wouldn't have been possible without him and his leadership. He was good at building teams and even better at leading and inspiring them. Thank you, Mr. Ken for everything you did for us - miss you big!



Karley Fontenot - June 01, 2023 at 05:17 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Ridgedell.



June 01, 2023 at 05:01 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Ridgedell.



June 01, 2023 at 12:33 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kenneth "Ken" Ridgedell.

June 01, 2023 at 12:33 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Ridgedell.



June 01, 2023 at 12:15 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Ridgedell.



June 01, 2023 at 11:38 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Ridgedell.



June 01, 2023 at 11:00 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kenneth "Ken" Ridgedell.

June 01, 2023 at 11:00 AM



“ It has been a pleasure to work with Ken. His passion for his work was second-to-none! When we switched to Workday, it was his idea to use the Student Employment Network to post graduate assistant positions. Ken will be missed by the many lives he touched. His family are in my thoughts and prayers.

John Boulahanis - June 01, 2023 at 10:14 AM

KB

“ Ken, you have been the pillar of strength for so long. Now it's your time to rest in peace. I am forever thankful to have had you as a friend and boss. I would not be where I am today had it not been for your mentoring, love, and support. Let us always remember the happiness and joy you brought to our lives and treasure all of those memories made.

Missy, Taylor, and Kade, let us love and support you through this tragic time. My heartfelt condolences for losing someone so special from your life.

We will miss you dearly, Ken.



Kim Bergeron - June 01, 2023 at 09:30 AM

FT

“ Kenny teaching me how to play chess, 1987 or 1988. It was snowing.



Foster Trecost - June 01, 2023 at 09:29 AM

KB

Loves this picture

Karen Ridgedell Bass - June 01, 2023 at 12:10 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Ridgedell.*



June 01, 2023 at 06:17 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kenneth "Ken" Ridgedell.

June 01, 2023 at 06:17 AM



“ *Mr. Ken was one of the kindest and most sincere people that I met during my time as a student at Southeastern. His passion for his work and determination to seeing students succeed shined in every interaction that I had with him.*

I'll always remember when I started graduate school, he encouraged me to let my light shine and reassured me that God has my back. Thanks for sharing your light with us, Mr. Ken — your amazing legacy will live on through all the lives you touched.

Sending my deepest prayers and condolences out to his family on this incredible loss.

— Richard Davis, Jr.

Richard Davis, Jr. - June 01, 2023 at 12:49 AM

DS

“ I am deeply sorry for Ken's family and friends. I send my condolences.

Dayne Sherman - June 01, 2023 at 12:02 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Ridgedell.



May 31, 2023 at 11:13 PM

JM

“ Our prayers and thoughts go out to Missy, Taylor, Kade and the entire family. I have known Ken since he graduated from High School, and we have been neighbors for 19 years. A great family man, and friend who will be forever missed.
Joel Morgan

Joel Morgan - May 31, 2023 at 10:38 PM

DA

“ Any tech connect event I got to experience Mr. Ken was a bright light of positivity. He was a truly ,kind man who would go above and beyond for us students. Rest in Peace. God bless your family!

Dahlia Alkadi - May 31, 2023 at 08:14 PM

GA

“ One of the nicest people I have ever met. May you RIP Ken. God bless you and your family.

Ghassan Alkadi - May 31, 2023 at 07:59 PM

AV

“ I will always remember Mr. Ken as full of enthusiasm, laughs, creativity and heart for both the students he served and the business community. He had a way of making everyone around him comfortable and his ability to add fun to the day was welcome by all. He will definitely be missed by many. My heart goes out to his family at this time.

Amy David Valentine - May 31, 2023 at 07:05 PM

MS

“ I served with Ken on several SELU committees and his enthusiasm and tenacity were something to be admired. I loved watching his thought process when it came to ideas and planning! It was a pleasure to know him, although briefly. His reputation supersedes him; his dedication to SELU and community is something to be admired. He will be missed and his legacy will continue through those who love him.

Marcela Spicuzza - May 31, 2023 at 06:40 PM

ML

“ Mr. Ken was a pleasure to work for the past 2 years. He had a way of truly showing interest and curiosity in things the GAs and student workers were working on, and then using what he knew to make decisions about our roles to expand on our skills. I’ll never forget when he called me after I got hired at Career Services to switch me from one position to another. I had met him one time and he’d only really heard about me from others before deciding I was a better fit for the career counseling GA role. I always appreciated him going out of his way to make that change for me because it WAS the position I truly wanted and one of the reasons I knew Career Services was going to be an amazing place to work. I enjoyed joking around with him and our conversations in the office, playing “Pin the Goatee on the Boss,” celebrating birthdays, teaching the 2 men in the office (Mr. Ken & Mr. Craig) alongside all the girls the important difference between texting “okay” versus just “k.” He seemed quite amused by all of that! I’ll never forget his kindness, sense of humor, and attentiveness/interest in any conversations we got to have throughout the workday. He will be missed greatly and I am blessed to have known him as a boss and friend.

Marlie Lynch - May 31, 2023 at 06:25 PM

AB

“ Ken has been a professional that I have worked with my entire time here at Southeastern Louisiana Univeristy. I admired his thoughtfulness in meetings and his committment and Loyalty to the University. I had consulted with him a few times on a few new career ventures I had taken. Always ready to give thoughtful intuitive insight. I appreciated his helpfulness with my career. He will be missed for sure.



Annette Baldwin - May 31, 2023 at 06:03 PM

BB

“ Ken was always so nice to me. I enjoyed working with him. He had the most energy and kind spirit in anyone I have known. He was a quick thinker and a deep thinker and he will be missed. I'm especially thankful for him calling my future wife and asking her to come back to Career Services to work for him. If that would have never happened, I don't think we would have ever started dating.

Brad Bergeron - May 31, 2023 at 05:36 PM