



William "Bill" Bruce Parrill

October 18, 1932 - April 2, 2017

William Bruce Parrill passed away on April 2017 at his home in Hammond, Louisiana, at the age of 84. Born in 1932, in Westernport, Maryland, to parents Wade Hampton and Mae Parrill, he spent his childhood and youth in Keyser, West Virginia. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Anna Sue Parrill, his son, Stephen Robert Parrill, of whom he was very proud, Steve's jewel of a wife, Gretchen Kopfler Parrill, three precious granddaughters--Haley Marie Thonn, Emily Anne Galjour, and Marie Adele Parrill-- and their spouses-- Michael Galjour and Trew Thonn. He lived long enough to welcome three great grandsons--Trew Dorice Thonn, Jr., Robert Lawrence Thonn, and Christopher Joseph (CJ) Galjour. Preceding him in death were his twin brother, Robert Joseph, and his parents. He earned degrees from West Virginia University (BS, MA) and the University of Tennessee (Ph.D.). After teaching for a year at Carson Newman College in Jefferson City, Tennessee, he found a home at Southeastern Louisiana (College) University, where he taught English and communications from 1965 to 2004. He was awarded The Reimers Endowed Professorship for the years 1999-2002. He was co-founder and co-editor of the journal Louisiana Literature from its inception in 1984 until 2002. Related to the courses that he taught in film studies and literature, he published numerous book reviews and five books, including *The Films of Sam Peckinpah*, *European Silent Films on Video*, *Ridley Scott: a Critical Filmography*, *The Films of Johnny Depp*, and *The Long Haul: Conversations with Southern Writers*. He also taught a class each semester at Saint Joseph

Seminary College in Saint Benedict, Louisiana, for twenty years. The possessor of an enormous library of books and films, Bill was an avid reader of books on many topics--Shakespeare, films, the history of Christianity, ancient Greek literature, the American Civil War, World Wars I and II. During the years before his knees betrayed him, he liked to play tennis and afterwards he enjoyed watching tennis on TV and developed a fondness for NASCAR. Although Bill did not suffer fools gladly, he consistently demonstrated great understanding, compassion, and generosity toward his family and friends. He will be remembered by his friends for his propensity to deliver an apt Shakespearean quotation on every occasion, even on his deathbed. Recently, asked how he felt, he whispered, "On fortune's cap, we are not the very button."

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to Saint Joseph Seminary College, 75376 River Road, St. Benedict, LA 70457, or to North Oaks Hospice.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a visitation Tuesday evening at Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home in Hammond from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm. Then on Wednesday morning at St. Albert the Great Chapel, there will be a Mass of Christian Burial starting at 10:00 am. Fr. Michael Miceli will officiate and interment will follow in St. Joseph Abby Cemetery.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 4. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 5. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Albert the Great Chapel and Catholic Student Center
409 W. Dakota Street
Hammond, LA

Burial

APR 5 (CT)

St. Joseph Abbey Cemetery
75376 River Rd.
Covington, LA

Tribute Wall

JB

“ *Bill will be greatly missed. It was an honor and a pleasure to know Bill and to share many hours of conversation about film and literature.*

Jeff Bell - April 07, 2017 at 06:37 AM

BD

“ *So sad to see Bill go, yet so happy to have had the chance to see him smile when I visited a week ago Wednesday. Bill's penchant for quoting Shakespeare had me searching for other appropriate lines, such as, "Men must endure their going hence, even as their coming hither: Ripeness is all" (King Lear). Having such a wonderful family around him at the end was certainly a great consolation for Bill, as was his faith. Wish I could have stayed in town for the wake and funeral.*

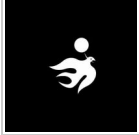
Bill Dowie

Bill Dowie - April 06, 2017 at 01:06 PM

IW

“ *Dr. Bill and Dr. Sue were regular fixtures in White Hall before English/Literature was moved to Vickers. SLC, before it was SLU, was a smaller campus then, both in size and student body. Possibly a sign of the times-no cell phones, the campus was family. Administrators, Professors, and students enjoyed each other's company in the Student Union, the library, downtown Hammond, etc. Dr. Bill and Sue were a part of this family atmosphere. Our condolences to Dr. Sue and her family. Irvin West*

Irvin West - April 05, 2017 at 09:43 PM



“ Dear Dr. Sue Parrill, I had the pleasure of having Dr. William Parrill for a sophomore English Literature class lonnngggg ago. I thoroughly enjoyed his class and his knowlege he shared with us. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your son.

Donna Burge - April 05, 2017 at 08:38 PM



“ My condolences to Anna Sue and Steve. Biii was unique. I have fond memories of him as a fellow teacher with my husband husband Gary at SLU.

marilyn fournet - April 05, 2017 at 08:27 AM



“ A brilliant and endearingly quirky man. I still never see a great movie that I don't think of him. He was a real scholar and a great teacher whose completely unstructured approach to Shakespeare made his classes fun. What a loss! My condolences to his wife and son.

michele Fournet - April 05, 2017 at 07:23 AM



“ Steve, so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you and your family.

Glynn Fendlason - April 04, 2017 at 07:19 PM

JF

“ John and Celeste Fontenelle purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William "Bill" Bruce Parrill.



John and Celeste Fontenelle - April 04, 2017 at 02:52 PM

GA

“ So sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you.

Gordon Anderson - April 04, 2017 at 01:49 PM

GA

“ So sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you.

Gordon Anderson - April 04, 2017 at 11:53 AM

PC

“ Bill was the most intelligent, caring person I ever knew--or am likely to know. When he laughed, it was so genuine everyone could not help but laugh with him. One of the things I shall miss most is the times we shared when his powers were at their highest. The very best of his life was embodied in his wife, his son, and his granddaughters. His deep religious faith will serve him well in the life everlasting. Goodnight, Bill!

paul crawford - April 04, 2017 at 01:07 AM

MM

“ My memories of the five classes I had with Bill are filled with awe, comedy, and a little bit of fear. I wanted to do my best to please him and not embarrass myself. During my graduate level Shakespeare class in 1975, he held up my essay on disease and death imagery in Hamlet in front of the whole class. He went through each paragraph and said this topic has been discussed by many scholars of the past, so you should try a new idea on Hamlet. My answer to him was, "Well, the topic was new to me!" He laughed and gave me an "A-." What a unique man! I will miss him.

Mary Mocsary

Mary Mocsary - April 03, 2017 at 10:50 PM



“ Sherri Craig lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Bruce Parrill



Sherri Craig - April 03, 2017 at 10:21 PM



He was my old Shakespeare professor. He ruffled a lot of students' feathers, but to me, he was always the epitome of academia and my mental image of what a professor was. I have a lot of hilarious stories, but I'm not sure they are fit for publication. He used to come visit me in my office after he retired, because I am in Sue Nichols' old office, and he would talk to me for at least an hour before looking at me and saying, "And you are?" And he would always ask how my "fellow" was (Lee Babin, who, for some reason, he always thought of when he saw me. I think it was because I used to go visit Lee in the LA Lit office all the time, which was near Bill's, but I can't be totally sure how his mind worked.) The world is less interesting without him.

Sherri Craig - April 03, 2017 at 10:22 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Bruce Parrill.*



April 03, 2017 at 07:21 PM



“ *Smart, smarty, funny, brilliant, and always sharing his knowledge, insights, and passions. Fabulously well-read! Great to talk to! Fine scholar, fine man.*

Charles Elliott - April 03, 2017 at 07:10 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Bruce Parrill.*



April 03, 2017 at 06:48 PM



“ *Bill was a wonderful friend over the years and will be sorely missed.*

Al Dranguet

Charles A. Dranguet, Jr. - April 03, 2017 at 04:11 PM