Daniel Eldon Shaw

August 31, 1952 - September 30, 2020

Daniel (Dan) Eldon Shaw died unexpectedly on Monday, September 28, 2020 at 68 years of age. Having recently retired from his second career of teaching journalism, Dan never retired from his commitment to living each day to the fullest. Dan was deeply committed to his wife and family, including three children and eight grandchildren. After family came traveling, playing basketball and helping his former students, all of which he carried on faithfully until his untimely passing. Dan was born in La Grande, Oregon in 1952 to Eldon and Joan Shaw. He graduated from Junction City High School in Junction City, Oregon, in 1970. Dan excelled as a student and as a three-sport high school athlete. He obtained a Bachelor's from Oregon State University and a Master of Science in Journalism from the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois, before embarking on a successful and fulfilling career in the newspaper industry, including roles as a reporter, editor, publisher, editorial consultant and executive. Dan's career took him to seven newspapers and two large media companies. Dan was committed to journalistic integrity and helping people in the communities he lived and worked in. He worked locally for the Monroe Evening News through 2008 and finished his career at Monroe Community College from 2008 to 2019 doing what he did best – teaching journalism, inspiring people to make a difference in the world, and telling good stories. Dan is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Kathy Shaw; daughter, Angela Shaw Mitzel; son-in-law, Kevin Mitzel; son, Jason Shaw; daughter-in-law, Sachi Otawa Shaw; son,

Joshua Shaw; daughter-in-law, Nell Shaw; eight grandchildren: Zack Mitzel, Connor Mitzel, Kaylee Mitzel, Amelia Shaw, Stella Shaw, George Shaw, Anne Shaw, Helen Shaw; sister, Mary Maas; brother-law, Bill Maas; brother, Jim Shaw; brother, Ted Shaw; and many nieces and nephews. Dan leaves behind hundreds of colleagues and students over the years who have admired his work ethic, values, and integrity. Friends and members of the community are invited to join the Shaw family on Friday, October 2, 2020 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon for a gathering of friends to remember Dan. Join us at the Robison-Bahnmiller Funeral Home at 301 East Michigan Ave. in Saline, Michigan. His surviving family will return him to the earth in a green burial later that day. Dan was passionate about traveling, living life and telling stories; he was passionate about good journalism and enabling students. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Dan's memory to The Foundation at Monroe Community College memo line: Journalism Fund. https://www.monroeccc.edu/foundation/danshaw Envelopes will be available at the funeral home. To leave a memory you have of Dan, to sign his guestbook, or for directions please visit www.rbfhsaline.com.

Cemetery Details

Marble Park Cemetery

520 West Main Street
MIlan, MI 48160
http://www.marbleparkcemetery.com/

Previous Events

Gathering of Friends

OCT **2**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmiller Funeral Home & Cremation Services
301 E Michigan Ave
Saline, MI 48176
(734) 429-9760
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com
https://www.rbfhsaline.com

Tribute Wall

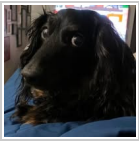
KG

Dan Shaw, the true mark of a man. Rest in peace, sir.

K Gardner - February 09 at 10:55 AM

Daniel Eldon Shaw

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



Thinking of you this Thanksgiving. I have so many stories I want to share with you and Kathy (and Maggie!) Miss you always!
Vanessa

Vanessa Ray - November 28, 2020 at 12:01 PM

SB

I was shocked and greatly saddened to hear of Dan's passing. During a 10-year stint at The Oregon Statesman and its successor Salem Statesman Journal, I got to know and appreciate Dan. He was both a wonderful journalist and wonderful human being. We kept touch sporadically over the years and had the opporunity to meet and reminisce on a couple of recent occasions. I feel a better person for having known him. As a fellow lifelong journalist, I join others in lamenint the loss.

Steve Bagwell - October 09, 2020 at 04:21 PM

DF

So sorry to hear, our heart and prayers go out to Kathy and his children. I built Dan and Kathy a new home in eastern Licking County a few years ago. They both where so pleasant and caring people to work with when it came to every phase of the project from environmental to making sure the wild life was protected. I have great memories of Dan and like all, my heart aches for the family. Duane Flowers

Duane Flowers - October 06, 2020 at 07:40 AM

BV

We have had such great memories of Dan and Kathy. They've been dear, dear friends throughout the years and always wonderful hosts when we visited. Great memories of the Great Lakes and Tony Packo Cafe with them both. It's such a shock to us. God bless Kathy and the kids. Benji V

Benji VOLL - October 05, 2020 at 10:31 PM

DV

My favorite memory of Dan is our hiking the South Three Sisters in Oregon. I'd never done anything like it before but Dan encouraged me. It took all day but we made it. Thanks, Dan! Dave V

DAVE VOLL - October 05, 2020 at 10:27 PM

KO

Dan was a great colleague. We at MCCC will miss him dearly. We continue to keep his family in our thoughts and prayers. May he rest in peace.

Kojo - October 05, 2020 at 04:16 PM

RS

Dan was a great colleague and friend at MCCC. I will miss him dearly.

Roger Spalding - October 04, 2020 at 10:05 PM

KM

Dan Shaw was one of the fairest, brightest and most motivational individuals I've worked with in my 40 years in the newspaper business. He allowed me and encouraged me to switch from sports to news at The Newark (Ohio) Advocate in the late 1990s, and I remain a news reporter there today. Thanks Dan for showing all of us how to be a leader who gets the most out of employees while also earning their utmost respect in a competitive industry.

kent mallett - October 04, 2020 at 11:02 AM

CP

So sorry to hear of Dan's passing. I recently thought of him and hoped we would bump into each other sometime. Very much enjoyed working with him at The Granville Sentinel. He was outstanding.

— Chuck Peterson, retired editor, Granville Sentinel

Chuck Peterson - October 04, 2020 at 10:47 AM

LP

When Dan joined us at the news he brought new enthusiasm it's a position that we had not seen in quite a while. Seeing him often after he left the news I saw his Zeal for life and his new position at the college. I was stunned to hear of his passing and I'm deeply sorry for your loss. He will be greatly missed by all Lonnie peppler-moyer

Lonnie Peppler-Moyer - October 03, 2020 at 09:27 AM

TC

I was shocked and saddened to learn of Dan's passing just today. We were friends and former colleagues at The Monroe News. He had a true zest for life, his family, the profession of journalism and his students at MCCC. We had enjoyed our semi-regular lunches in our years after The News. My heart goes out to Kathy and the rest of his family.

Tom Chulski
Green Valley, AZ

Thomas Chulski - October 02, 2020 at 05:27 PM

We have been friends with the Shaw family for 60 years. I was so shocked to read about Dan's passing. We send our love to Cathy and family and also to all of his siblings. Love from the Huston's.

Kathleen Huston - October 02, 2020 at 02:22 PM

RS

Rachelle Salisbury lit a candle in memory of Daniel Eldon Shaw

Rachelle Salisbury - October 02, 2020 at 12:17 PM

RS

My son talked highly of you, thank you for making such an impacted in the students lives. Prayers to your family.

Rachelle Salisbury - October 02, 2020 at 12:20 PM

EL

Dan was by far my favorite professor and mentor at MCCC. I took his class randomly because I needed a credit and he helped me discover a passion I never knew I had. Aside from this, he used to tell me the story about how he meant his wife. He would always laugh and say she was the only one he ever kissed and how they were life long soulmates from the start. Another favorite story was about the rabbit named Peter-Josè! My goal at graduation was to get a hug from him but he insisted that he wouldn't hug students, only shake hands. My thoughts & prayers go to the entire family. He left a lasting impression on me just as a professor, I couldn't imagine losing him as a family member. God bless.

Emily Lorton - October 01, 2020 at 09:58 PM

MD

We has lost a wonderful soul. Daniel "Dan" Shaw was an exceptional man, a passionate teacher and a loving husband and father. He was the healthiest man I knew, so when I learned of his passing, it came as a complete shock.

I began my college career at MCCC back in 2011. Dan was my very first professor upon returning to school. I liked him from the moment I met him, he lit up the room with his wit and energy.

I was going through the most difficult time in my life when I met Dan. I shared my story with him, and from that point on he was more like a father-figure to me, than just a friend or professor.

Dan is the reason I have the love for writing that I have. He inspired me to write, and continue to write, until changes are made. He gave me hope when I was surrounded by so much darkness. He loved me when it seemed like noone else did.

I went on to graduate from MCCC with Dan by my side, and I even earned the distinguished honor of Outstanding Student of the Year. I did an internship with 13abc News, that I would not have received if it weren't for Dan.

I called him a few months ago to tell him I enrolled at Wayne State to finish my bachelors degree. He was so proud. I can't imagine where I'd be if it weren't for him. My heart is breaking for his children and his wife.

Dan, I cant imagine life without you in it. Thank you so much for your selflessness and love. You will be sorely missed and never forgotten. Im going to miss you.

RIP 💔

Melanie M. Davis - October 01, 2020 at 08:31 PM

SA

Dan was not only an amazing professor but a truly caring and kind person. He was a mentor an encourager and friend when needed. I had the gift of meeting Dan my freshmen year of college at MCCC in an intro level journalism class, and I was hooked on his teaching style and the guidance he provided me with through my next step in college life. He saw potential in my writing abilities which lead to him convincing me to join MCCC newspaper The Agora! I went on to write for the Agora for the remainder of my time at MCCC, taking in all of his wisdom and guidance he had to offer. Dan brought to life my desire to travel and learn not only around the U.S but abroad as well. I had the privilege of traveling to NYC with the Agora and Dan drove the entire way...through a snow storm of course smiling the whole time. He was patient and had admirable understanding of everyone. He genuinely cared for all of his students and they knew that. Dan encouraged me to take his photo journalism class and study abroad in Greece and Italy and it truly changed my life and perspective. Dan was always full of life and I will forever cherish the many me memories we got to make together. To your bright light and infectious energy. Forever grateful to have been apart of your life.

Selene Avila - October 01, 2020 at 02:58 PM

KI

I first met Professor Daniel Shaw, best known as "Dan," at MCCC. After coming back from an au-pair stint in Poland, I made up my mind to study journalism. Dan convinced me to try it and see for myself. I enrolled in the intro classes and immediately fell in love with them. Thanks to him, he gave me the tools and instilled a love for storytelling. His examples in and out of class brought us back to when he was a reporter and top editor at twelve newspapers across the country. Some of those stories left him shedding a few tears. It was also through these narratives that I got to know his wife and three children, whom he deeply cherished.

Moving on, I became a reporter on the university's The Agora. Dan genuinely cared about us. He helped edit our stories line by line. He ordered pizza whenever we stayed late to get our publication out. He invited the entire group plus alumni to his home for annual BBQs. He remained until there was no work left. Dan saw into our struggles, and at the same time, strengthened us for excellence.

That led to earning several awards. Then, in 2014, I got nominated for the Student Journalist of the Year award for all of the Michigan community colleges. When the judge called my name for that award, I could see Dan cracking a smile. He believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself. At one Agora awards ceremony, he asked me to come up to the stage. And that's when he said that my curiosity and hard work would make me a good journalist.

Post Agora, Dan still cared. He introduced me to story opportunities at Monroe News. These experiences led to other unexpected projects and jobs as a video editor.

Later, I moved back to Poland. In the summer of 2018, I met with him while visiting family. He gave me a hug. It had been almost three years since we'd seen each other. We sat, and he talked about his recent trip to Israel, which he described as an awakening. Tears welled up in his eyes.

Now in 2020, I'm working with students as an English instructor at UAM. Sometimes, I would see him in the classroom or in the halls cheering me on as I overcame challenges. Dan will forever be in my heart and will always inspire me to become the very best for my students.

Kathryn Idema - October 01, 2020 at 02:33 PM

AK

If a picture could say a million words about Dan and his teaching this is most definitely it. Dan was so extremely kind and generous to me when he was a professor at MCCC. I took his media class when I was in my first year of college and then had the please of having him as a professor again on a study abroad trip to Italy and Greece. His passion for life and adventure rubbed of on anyone he was around. Every time you went on an adventure with him you knew you would be doing a lot of walking but it was always worth the walk for the place you ended up at. He taught me so many valuable life lessons on that trip and was so generous to help me with recommendations to get into graduate school. Your kind presence touched so many lives and you will be truly missed.

Alexis Kupovits - October 01, 2020 at 02:13 PM

Casey Charles

I was very saddened to hear of Dan's passing, who was our faculty advisor and mentor at The Agora at MCCC.

Dan was one of the single most influential instructors during my time in college. I was blessed and fortunate enough to be amongst his first group of students when he arrived at campus. Always a tireless proponent of his craft, Dan was first and foremost a journalist at heart and truly a fitting veteran who was always in his element as our instructor. In no small part because of Dan, I ended up not only on the staff of the campus newspaper, but also pursuing communication as my degree concentration.

Dan was also an incredible mentor to so many students during his 11 years at MCCC. Not only are we all better writers for having known him, but he also took great pains to help secure funding for students when it came to the annual staff trip to New York; as well as always being available during off hours to reach out, take a call, give some career advice or have a coffee.

He will be missed remarkably.

- Casey C. Cheap

Casey Charles - October 01, 2020 at 01:11 PM

PW

I enjoyed worked with Dan at The Monroe News, and occasionally saw him on MCCC campus afterward. I remember the big smiles whenever he was excited about a project or idea. --- Paula Wethington

Paula Wethington - October 01, 2020 at 11:56 AM

RY

This is a photo of Dan trying to capture all of us in a photo. He was always making memories. After countless trips to New York he was still so enthusiastic about everyone's reactions. Dan was a very enthusiastic and compassionate person. I always looked forward to his classes and discussing stories with him. I certainly wouldn't be where I am without Dan Shaw and I hope he is in a better place now. He touched the lives of so many and he will be missed. Thank you for everything, Dan.

Rose Younglove - October 01, 2020 at 01:28 AM

CC

This is my last photo of Dan, taken right before he retired from MCCC. No matter what happened in my life, me moving, taking breaks from school he always welcomed me back with open arms. He never gave up on me and helped me whenever I had any problems. He was the first person to show me NYC and made me fall in love with the city. It was an honor to know him, and he will leave an impact that will never be forgotten.

Carla Cohen - September 30, 2020 at 11:19 PM

TS

Dan was more than an advisor and professor, he was an inspiration and role model. But most of all, he was a friend. I came to know Dan from a meeting during the summer of 2018. I had inquired about careers in communications and was directed to him. I entered the meeting already with a booked Fall semester planned and some general ideas. I left with a whole new schedule and an invitation to join the Agora, our campus student media. If Dan hadn't been a journalist I bet he would have made a great car salesman. I never knew what the Agora was and yet after just one short meeting I had found myself a part of it. Over the next two semesters I found out quickly what journalism really was and thanks to mentorship and guidance from Dan, I learned how to be good at it. Without Dan I still would have taken classes aimlessly, had no resume and would have much fewer friends. We always talked about sports but mostly basketball and college basketball. My favorite memory is during the Agora trip to NYC when Dan and I stopped at a sports pub in Brooklyn to watch the Michigan State Spartans take on University of Michigan. We jabbed each other jokingly over who would win, him a Michigan fan while I prefer MSU. When the Spartans won I made sure to give him my sarcastic comment and smirk before heading back to the hotel. We talked fantasy baseball on the way back and even took some advice on who to draft. I will never know how the last two years of my life would have gone if I never had that meeting. Honestly, I don't care what they could have been. I would have never met Dan and would have missed out on knowing one of the best people to enter my life. Dan thank you for everything.

Todd Salisbury - September 30, 2020 at 09:37 PM

RL

My deepest sympathy. Dan I so enjoyed are friendship and basketball games all these years! I'm so glad we met and became friends, always talking about are families. I'm going to miss you so much !!

Your Friend
Rick LeBrun

RICHARD LEBRUN - September 30, 2020 at 08:42 PM