



Louis C. Thayer

August 24, 1939 - August 10, 2012

Age 72, passed away on August 10, 2012, after living with Cholangiocarcinoma, bile duct cancer, since May 2010. His loving family was at his side. Lou was born in Wolbach, NE, on August 24, 1939, to Clarence and Agnes Thayer. Lou received a B.S. in Physical Science and Mathematics from Nebraska State College at Kearney. He taught mathematics in the Overton Public Schools in Nebraska for a year before becoming a science teacher in the Grand Island Publics schools for two years. He received his Masters Degree in Counseling & Guidance from Nebraska State College at Kearney, and then completed a Post Masters Fellowship at the National Defense Education Act Institute at the University of Illinois. From 1964-1966, Lou served as a guidance counselor and teacher for the Department of Defense for the overseas dependent schools in Wurzburg, Germany. Upon returning from Germany, Lou launched into a doctoral program in Counseling/Psychology at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. On August 23, 1969, Lou married Lois Jeanne Weber from Bloomington, IL and moved to Ypsilanti, MI. After receiving his doctorate in 1970, Lou began his 35 year tenure as a professor at Eastern Michigan University in the Department of Leadership and Counseling. Lou was known for his experiential learning techniques including T'ai Chi Ch'aun exercises, playing music in class, storytelling, and encouraging students to embrace their own unique path by having them develop their own experience modules. Of special note, Lou spent a year post-doctorate studying the Person-Centered Approach with Carl

R. Rogers as a visiting fellow at Center for Studies of the Person in La Jolla, CA. Lou's professional memberships included the American Psychological Association, the American Counseling Association, of which he served as president for a year, the Michigan Counseling Association, Association for the Development of the Person-Centered Approach, Counseling Association for Humanistic Education and Development, and Phi Delta Kappa. He was also an active participant in the Michigan Association for Humanistic Education and Development including writing articles for their newsletters. He was a Licensed Professional Counselor in Michigan and a National Certified Counselor. Lou's many passions included his family, meaningful friendships, teaching, hobbies, and the learning process in which he was endlessly involved. Lou cherished the 39 years of marriage to his wonderful wife, Jeanne, before her passing in 2008. He enjoyed loving and supportive relationships with his daughters, Alison, his Wonder Woman, and Shannon, his Hero. He also found joy in the special relationship he formed with his son-in-law, Jorge. His granddaughter, Shiloh Jeanne, was the light of his life and for over two years he received "Shiloh Therapy" every day, and there is no equal to the love he had for that little girl. Lou's other passions included woodcarving in Frankenmuth and with the Saline Woodcarvers Club, watching Nebraska football, practicing T'ai Chi Ch'uan, enjoying Southwest art, turquoises stones, Native American culture, old westerns, and reading about everything from Kachina dolls to cowboy pistols to Zen philosophy. He also loved learning about friends' interests and surprising them with a book or special item that he picked up just for them. Further interests included old classic antique cars, farming, traveling, estate sale shopping on the phone with his sister in Nebraska, having a cup of coffee with friends at the Drowsy Parrot, creating opportunities for his daughters to learn and enjoy rich life experiences, and reading to his granddaughter. Lou was known for his piles of books and papers, and somehow still knew the location of every last paper he ever had. Lou will be remembered and missed for his accurate and humble wisdom, his quiet and ever-present strength, and most of all for how he made

people feel just by being in his presence. He is loved and respected by numbers too great to count and will be remembered as one of the great ones. Lou is survived by his daughters, Alison (Jorge) Laura Livingston and Shannon Julia Thayer; his granddaughter, Shiloh Jeanne Livingston; his sister, Clarice Elliott (Ted Price) of Omaha, NE; his sister-in-laws, Sandy Bumpus of Bloomington, IL, Debbie (Steve) Mesner of Lincoln, IL, and his brother-in-law, Steve (Patty) Weber of North Bend, WA. A "Coffee with Lou" will be held in his honor on Saturday, September 1, 2012, from 1:00pm-4:00pm at the Drowsy Parrot in downtown Saline, MI. Casual attire. Lou received wonderful care at the University of Michigan Hospital. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to one of the following: University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, UMHS Office of Medical Development, 1000 Oakbrook, Suite 100, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, or the Louis C. Thayer Endowed Scholarship at Eastern Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University Foundation, P.O. Box 972057, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Cremation has taken place. A special "thank you" for the support, thoughts, love, and shared memories of Lou. He was a very special dad. Arrangements entrusted to the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home of Saline. To leave a memory or for more information please visit www.rbfhsaline.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

SEP 1. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

The Drowsy Parrot
105 N. Ann Arbor Street
Saline, MI 48176
<http://thedrowsyparrot.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Louis C. Thayer*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *To Louis' Family,*

I just learned of Louis' passing. I was a counselor and director of the Career Planning Program at EMU at the time Lou was a professor in Guidance and Counseling. We presented several professional programs together at various conferences. It truly was a pleasure to work with Lou. He was an inspiring professional. I am no longer in the Ypsilanti area so it was quite surprising to learn he has not been well and passed away just recently..

My sympathy to all of his family. Lou will long be remembered for his contributions to improving life for so many people.

Joanne Burns

Joanne M. Burns - August 31, 2012 at 02:17 PM

MP

“ I was fortunate to have Lou as a teacher soon after he started at Eastern. More than an instructor, he also was a role model. His approach to working with others is one that I adopted. I later worked for the Federal Government for over 23 years. During that time I became a mediator working with federal employees in conflict. Some of my assignments were on Indian reservations in the southwest. I think he would have found that interesting. My thoughts are with his family. Please know he lives on through the lives he touched.
Peg Porter

Margaret E. Porter - August 28, 2012 at 05:29 PM

BG

“ Thinking of you in the loss of Louis. I always enjoyed visiting with him the times he was in Wolbach.



Bonnie J. Gilpin - August 28, 2012 at 09:02 AM

RO

“ Randal Olds lit a candle in memory of Louis C. Thayer



Randal Olds - August 28, 2012 at 07:25 AM

RO

Thayer Family.

*May you find strength
in the love of family
and in the warm embrace
of friends.*

*I woodcarved with Lou at the Saline woodcarving club, for 8-9 years,
Lou was very instrumental, in my advancement of tool making his vast
experience was very helpful.*

Lou always had a smile, and or a smart little quip, to make us laugh,

Lou will be missed.

Randal Olds - August 28, 2012 at 07:40 AM

KM

“ *Shannon, Alison and family,
You were blessed with very special parents, they brought out the
best in each other.
Remember all your visits to Nebraska, we really enjoyed seeing all
of you in May.
Mom always enjoyed your visits and the love you all had for each
other. Remember your roots and stop by anytime!
Our love to all of you,
Fred and Kay Meyer
St. Paul, NE*

Kay Meyer - August 27, 2012 at 08:37 AM

JR

“ It was my great pleasure to know and to work with Lou Thayer for all the years since 1991 when I came to the EMU College of Education. He was highly respected as a professor and much appreciated for all that he did for the Department of Leadership and Counseling, the College of Education, and EMU through the years that he was there. My--and our--deepest sympathy goes out to his family. He will be greatly missed. Jerry Robbins, Dean Emeritus, COE, EMU

Jerry Robbins - August 26, 2012 at 08:50 PM

FR

“ Alison, Shannon & Family I will really miss your Dad. he was one of my best friends
We had some great years carving together. if there is any thing I can help with
I would be happy to love you Floyd Rhadigan

floyd rhadigan - August 20, 2012 at 06:44 PM

CZ

“ Dear Shannon and Allison,

I have been away but felt so so bad when I read the AA news about your father passing. Working in the Dean's office all of those years I always was impressed at Lou's love and caring for his family. He would stop by with both his girls (young children at the time) on Bring your Children to Work Day and you both were full of smiles and friendly, just like your dad. He was proud of you Allison with your viola and musical talent and Shannon, your talent also but most of all when Allison was sick and you jumped right in there to help your sister. Lou used to talk about getting back to his guitar but he also had his wood carving talent plus all he did as a professor and colleague at EMU. Lou was loved by many and truly will be missed. God Bless You Always. Carole

Carole A. Zakrzewski - August 20, 2012 at 02:52 PM

MR

“ *Lou Thayer was the best professor and advisor. His mentoring and encouragement helped me change my life career. His insightful teachings were rare and profound. He was literally " the teacher who changed my life" that we all hear about. And 21 years later, I will grieve his passing knowing that he would not grieve but pull out his little TAO and find some appropriate message to mark his passing.*

*Deepest sympathy to his family, Lou has left a great legacy.
Maggie Roberts, MA, LPC, NCCC*

Maggie Roberts - August 19, 2012 at 04:20 PM



“ Dear Shannon and Alison,
I just learned of your Dad's passing, and wanted you to know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. As you are aware, those of us in the Michigan Counseling Association, and especially MAHEAD (Michigan Association for Humanistic Education and Development) were very close to Lou during the years that we worked together to benefit counseling. Lou was a dear, loving and caring friend to all of us. Thank God for this great, wonderful, sensitive human being!

Robert VanEvery - August 17, 2012 at 08:57 PM



“ Lou was my first professor in my counseling program at EMU. He had a dramatic and very positive impact on me. Although I graduated over 20 years ago, I still think of him and remember him very fondly. The world was a better place with him in it. My heartfelt sympathy to his family. Mary Pequinot

Mary Pequinot - August 17, 2012 at 05:34 AM



“ Dear Thayer Family,
I was so sorry to hear of Lou's passing. He was a very unique and a special friend. I enjoyed chatting with him whenever I had a chance. I especially enjoyed working with him on his projects. He will be missed.
Bill Bell

Bill Bell - August 16, 2012 at 07:21 PM

JC

“ Alison, Shannon, George, and Shiloh, We are very sorry to hear of Lou's passing. We had such an enjoyable time on your last trip to Nebraska, when you were at Vincent's home. I remember the times when Lou would stop by the farm, we would stop what we were doing and go to the house to see what Lou was up to. He would always have a smile and be ready to share a little ribbing back and forth. Or the smile we would have when we walked into the truck stop in St. Paul for breakfast and there was Lou and Shannon. There are many good memories.

Jim Christensen

Jim Christensen - August 16, 2012 at 03:25 PM

BP

“ We would like to express our deepest sympathy to the Louis Thayer family. We so enjoyed your dad when he stayed at the Super 8 in St. Paul NE. We were the night managers then and he would stay there when he visited his farm. Sometimes he had his daughter, Shannon along I believe to help cut cockaburs. Butch so enjoyed his visits with your dad, this was about 6-8 years ago. A wonderful person, cherish all the memories. Again our sympathy and prayers. Butch and Velda Peters

Butch and Velda Peters - August 14, 2012 at 08:18 PM