



Mark A. Hector

July 12, 1941 - January 4, 2016

Mark A. Hector, age 74, of New Market, TN, passed away January 4, 2016. He was an active member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Knoxville. Mark was born at home in Royal Oak, MI to Valfrid and Virginia (Schwartz) Hector and graduated from Royal Oak Kimball High School, where he held a state record in swimming. He graduated from Albion College and has been inducted into their Athletic Hall of Fame. After teaching math in Navrongo, Ghana with the Peace Corps and Teachers for West Africa, he earned masters and doctoral degrees from Michigan State University. While at MSU, he married his wife of 47 years, Judith Harle Hector. They met while both served in the Peace Corps. The University of Tennessee hired Mark to teach counseling and psychology in 1973; and he continued until his retirement in 2015. Daughters, Wendy and Shannon, joined the family through adoption in 1976. Mark is survived by his wife, daughters, son-in-law, Chris Stafford and grandchildren, Sage, Seth, and Aaron Stafford. In addition, Mark has two brothers, Bob (Debby) and David (Peggy) Hector and many loving extended family members. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Mark's church, the Men's Chorale at UTK or a charity of your choice. There will be private arrangements for a celebration of life at a later date.

Tribute Wall

SH

“ I am just learning of Mark's transition. We were colleagues at UT for my first job. He was nice to me and a rather soft spoken man who was supportive of a new African American assistant professor. I am grateful that our paths crossed for five years. Rest in Peace.

Shanette Harris

Shanette Harris - May 06, 2017 at 08:49 PM

KE

“ 15 months after Mark's passing and I still miss him and think of him fondly as my major professor with my doctoral work. Mark was patient, humorous and diligent in helping all of us graduate students be the best we could be. Every time I hear the word "unique" I think of Mark because he did NOT allow us to use the word, he said it was way too general of a description, a lazy word, he implied. So there you go, impressions and gifts that go deep and I am forever thankful for Mark and his care for me. Kathy Bradley Ehrnschwender

Kathy B. Ehrnschwender - April 23, 2017 at 02:49 PM



“ *Mark Hector's family has selected a tree to be planted in Mark's memory on the Morristown campus of Walters State Community College as part of its Honor/Memorial Tree Program. The tree will likely be planted this spring and then will be featured in the college's online tree gallery (including a map of where it is located.) <http://ws.edu/foundation/tree-program/gallery/>*

This tree planting allows us to create a living memorial to our beloved husband, father and grandfather on an already beautiful campus. We selected a Norway Spruce in recognition of Mark's Scandinavian/German ancestry. At the same time, we are having two Colorado Spruce trees planted in memory of Mark's parents, Valfrid and Virginia Hector. Valfrid was born in Colorado and Mark's parents lived most of their senior years in Lakewood, CO.

Again, we would like to express our gratitude for all the loving expressions of support we have received from family and friends at this time.

*Fondly,
Judy and family*

Judy Hector - March 05, 2016 at 04:00 PM



“ *Poem by Henry Scott Holland
Sent by Angelika and Bernd Brueckner
Saarbruecken, Germany*

*Death is nothing at all.
I have only slipped away to the next room.
I am I and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other,
That, we still are.*

*Call me by my old familiar name.
Speak to me in the easy way
which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.*

*Laugh as we always laughed
at the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me. Pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word
that it always was.
Let it be spoken without effect.
Without the trace of a shadow on it.*

*Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same that it ever was.
There is absolute unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind
because I am out of sight?*

*I am but waiting for you.
For an interval.
Somewhere. Very near.
Just around the corner.*

Judy Hector - February 13, 2016 at 07:30 AM



Beautiful. Thinking of you, Judy. I miss seeing your husband in the Starbucks in the Hodges library. :(

Romana Rouskova - February 13, 2016 at 07:45 AM

BS

May your sweet memories be a comfort.

Bonnie Sparks - February 13, 2016 at 11:50 PM



Mark indulged me in a game of squash many times, and even sometimes showed a little mercy! ;)

John Bohstedt - February 14, 2016 at 01:23 PM

JG

“ Dr. Hector inspired and blessed our church family by his dedication, love, intelligence, and devotion. His work with the young people in our Sunday School has provided them with not only a wonderful example of a fruitful life, but also with spiritual knowledge which will enrich their own lives. We are ever grateful to have known Mark, to have learned from him, and to have the privilege of friendship with his beautiful wife and acquaintance with his dear children and grandchildren. John and Cicely Gallagher

John Cicely Gallagher - February 05, 2016 at 04:17 PM

JH

“ The Hector and Stafford Families want to say “Thank You” for all the expressions of caring we have received since Mark passed away January 4. We also wanted to share a few of Mark’s favorite things from this past year via photos.



Judy Harle Hector - January 27, 2016 at 01:15 PM

JH

“ Mark was Uncle Mark to 5 Hector boys, now adults. Here are two pictures shared by Scott Hector and Paul Hector is with Scott and Mark and the dinosaur in Denver Colorado.



Judy Hector - January 25, 2016 at 11:15 AM

AC

“ Thank you for your kindness to us as new graduate students! - Allison (Whitesell) Clark

Allison Clark - January 23, 2016 at 08:53 PM

JH

“ (Judy’s translation of Regina Neubauer’s remembrance written in German below)

My daughter, Patricia Neubauer, had a practicum at the University of Tennessee. We had never been in America, so I decided to accompany her there for the first week. Everything was foreign. At first we found no lodging and discovered how completely one is lost without a car in Knoxville. On the very first day at the university, Craig Wrisberg introduced us to his friend, Mark. Beginning that day, everything became easier. Mark and Judy, Craig and Sue took up with us as good friends. Because we found an apartment with 4 bathrooms, but without furniture or anything that belonged in an apartment (frying pans, cups, saucepans, the Hectors and Wrisbergs invited us to eat at their homes and in restaurants (favorite dish at the Sunspot-Rasta Pasta) Mark lent us his car and when I was again in Germany, I knew that my daughter was not alone in Knoxville. Several years later Mark and Judy visited us in Potsdam. We strolled around the city and Mark discovered a store with used books. Full of enthusiasm he besieged the place, snatched himself a ladder and climbed to the highest shelf to see what treasures he could find there—and the people in the shop laughed about this crazy American ;-))

Mark was always Mark and a splendid, humorous, warm human being.

Judy Hector - January 22, 2016 at 01:42 PM

CW

“ I will always cherish my times with Mark. He was my colleague and a great friend. Every time I see a Viking River Cruise advertisement I am reminded of the wonderful river tours my wife (Sue) and I shared with Mark and Judy. They were perfect travel companions-- laid back, funny, and congenial. Mark and I also shared many aspects of our Christian faith and were of one mind regarding the way it should be lived out (i.e., loving God and neighbor unconditionally). Mark "walked the talk" of his faith in many ways-- from his Peace Corps service to his mentoring of students at the University of Tennessee to his faithful teaching of many little children at his church to his unswerving dedication to family and friends. I will miss him but I will never forget him. Craig Wrisberg

Craig Wrisberg - January 22, 2016 at 10:40 AM

RE

“ *Meine Tochter Patricia hatte 2004 ein Praktikum an der Universität in Tennessee. Wir waren noch nie in Amerika, daher hatte ich beschlossen sie für die erste Woche dorthin zu begleiten. Alles war fremd, wir fanden zunächst keine Unterkunft und mussten feststellen, dass man in Knoxville ohne Auto sehr verloren ist. Am 1. Tag an der Uni stellte uns Craig Wrisberg seinen Freund Mark vor. Seit diesem Tag wurde alles einfacher. Mark und Judy, Craig und Sue nahmen uns wie gute Freunde auf. Da wir inzwischen eine Wohnung mit 4!! Badezimmern, aber ohne Möbel und alles was noch in eine Wohnung gehört, gefunden hatten, brachten sie Bratpfanne, Tassen und Töpfe, luden uns zu sich nach Hause oder ins Restaurant zu Rasta Pasta ein. Mark borgte uns sein Auto und als ich wieder in Deutschland war, wusste ich dass meine Tochter in Knoxville nicht alleine ist.*

Einige Jahre später besuchten und Mark und Judy uns in Potsdam. Wir bummelten durch die Stadt und Mark entdeckte ein Geschäft mit alten Büchern. Voller Begeisterung stürmte er hinein, schnappte sich ein Leiter und kletterte bis zum höchsten Regal um zu schauen, was dort für Schätze zu finden sind - und die Leute im Geschäft lachten über diesen verrückten Ami ;-)).

Mark, war eben Mark und ein großartiger, humorvoller, warmer Mensch

Regina - January 21, 2016 at 09:45 AM

JG

“ Mark and I met one another at a church gathering during our first week on campus at Albion College in 1959. We were classmates at Albion as well as members of the same Sunday School class and church college organization. My fondest memory of Mark is an evening when he and I were the only persons who showed up for the weekly meeting of our college campus church related organization. When I suggested to Mark that we cancel the meeting, he insisted that we go ahead with it. The meeting of the two of us turned out to be one of the most inspiring religious experiences in my life.

After graduating from Albion, we saw each other only one other time when Mark stopped by for a short visit in my home when I was living in the Atlanta area. However, we corresponded with one another every year at Christmastime. Moreover, my stepdaughter Sara sang with Mark as members of the Knoxville Symphony chorus about 15 years ago.

Mark was an avid sportsman and a true gentleman. He will be missed but the inspiration that he gave me and many others will live forever. He was a wonderful friend.

Jim Goodnow
Denton, Teas

Jim Goodnow - January 16, 2016 at 09:55 AM

MA

“ I attended college in Mark's class at Albion. I did not really get to know him well, but he always seemed to be such an extraordinarily nice person. I did not really know that he was from Royal Oak. Now when we spend summers in Michigan, we go to Royal Oak for dinner and movies. I will think of Mark. He obviously has made wonderful contributions to this world. Mary Holler Archbold

Mary Archbold - January 15, 2016 at 04:08 PM

JM

“ *Doris, Andrew and I had just returned from the Christmas break to hear the shocking and saddening news of Mark's passing. Together with our daughter Laura, we have fond memories of our time together in Germany. Mark was a friendly presence, a thoughtful and modest person, always ready to help, support and enable others to achieve their best. It is this spirit we celebrate as we mourn his passing.*

Jeff Mellor and Doris Gove

Jeff Mellor - January 14, 2016 at 06:36 AM

JF

“ *A remarkable man,
A remarkable scholar,
A remarkable husband,
A remarkable father.....*

We have all lost a good man.....

Jim and Ann Ford

James and Ann Ford - January 12, 2016 at 07:14 AM

GY

“ *3 files added to the album New Album Name*



Geof Yager - January 11, 2016 at 05:33 PM

GY

What a shock! Although I've not seem Mark in a number of years, he has always been so central to my development as a counselor and teacher, it seems like I've continued to be in touch. We started out our careers together as full-time instructors of the master's class of counseling students at Michigan State in 1972-1973. We worked together well, collaborated effectively, and even published a few journal articles. But, more important than that was that we were friends. Our families spend a lot of time together through the 70s and 80s, and it was always great fun to see Mark, Judy, Wendy, and Shannon. I can only imagine how difficult this time of loss is for all the family. Everyone is in my thoughts and prayers.

*Geof Yager
Cincinnati, OH*

Geof Yager - January 11, 2016 at 05:40 PM

JH

“*Friday morning breakfast at Harold's--a many year tradition for Mark with his special friends, Andy Kozar and Craig Wisberg. Mark and Craig continued at Pete's after Andy passed away.*



Judy Hector - January 09, 2016 at 04:18 PM

SS

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Shannon Stafford - January 08, 2016 at 08:54 AM

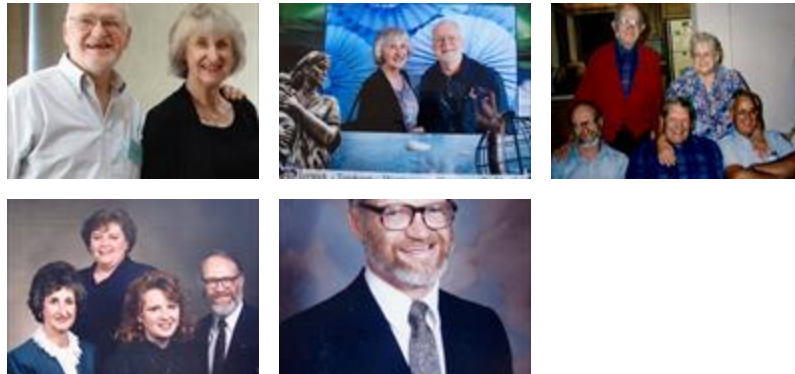
BB

“ *Mark was the closest to my age of my cousins. I spent many summers with the Hector family on Houstonia Avenue in Royal Oak, MI. Mark taught me how to play hop scotch, which you don't learn living in the country, Aunt Virginia took us on a day trip to Bob-lo Island, and Mark gently coaxed me down the "giant" superslide. I also remember Mark teaching me how to sand and build a model airplane. He was a busy teenager, but had time for his visiting cousin. I love him dearly and will keep all these memories and many more in my heart. Bless you Mark!*

Betty Ann Rodeheaver Briggs - January 08, 2016 at 08:44 AM

JH

“ Thought I would share some pictures of Mark: HS Graduation 1959, 1968 on our way to our wedding, our June 1968 wedding, our family in 1980, a 30th high school reunion pictures from 1988 (Royal Oak Kimball, MI), our family in 1992, Mark's parents and the three sons, our 2015 cruise picture, and at the 2015 50th Peace Corps reunion.



Judy Hector - January 07, 2016 at 03:53 PM

MA

“ *Judy and Family,*

John and I are so sorry for your loss. After I retired I managed to see Mark at least once a year when he sang with the chorus at a Knoxville Symphony concert. I enjoyed the times when Mark and I talked about our international living experiences. He will be fondly remembered by many.

John and Marla Peterson

Marla - January 07, 2016 at 10:16 AM

BW

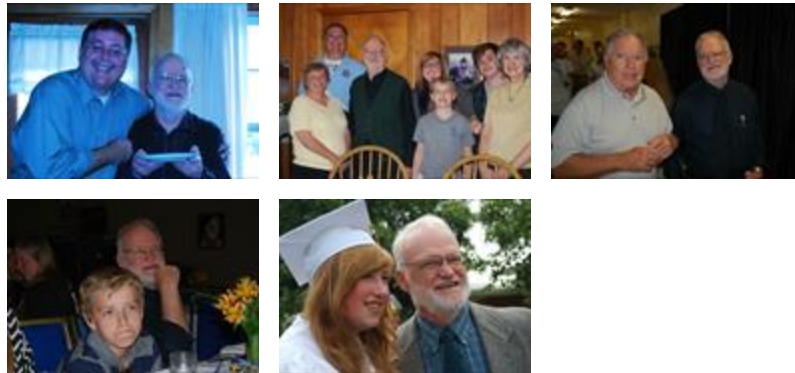
“ *The memory plays tricks, but I think I can remember Mark from long ago. I remember a Christmas in Navrongo in 1965 where Mark was surely our host. This was my only chance to see that part of Ghana, and as I recall, Mark set it up so that we would have the maximum local experience. I remember a midnight mass at the church and spending part of Christmas day in a pito bar. I am guessing that this was the occasion when Judy and Mark met, but I am sorry to say that I never asked.*

Mark was a great person to see at our Ghana VI reunions, and we will miss him very much in Bismarck this summer and at the future gatherings. Judy and family, Evie and I want to extend our sympathy to you in Mark's passing. He was an outstanding person, and we will miss him.

Bill and Evie White - January 07, 2016 at 01:12 AM

SS

“ *15 files added to the tribute wall*



Shannon Stafford - January 06, 2016 at 05:41 PM

TA

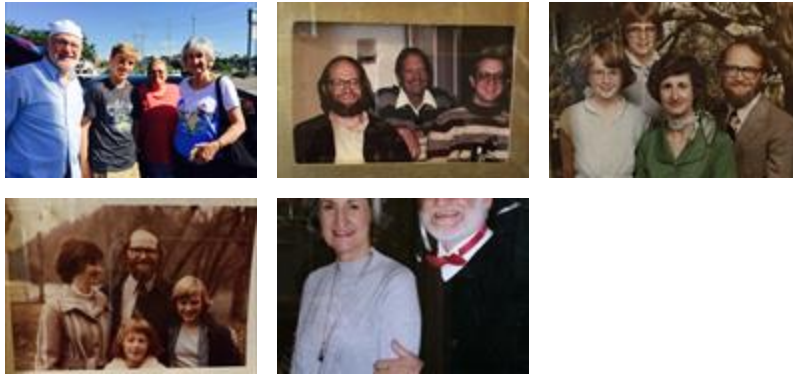
I was really saddened when Judy sent the news of Mark's passing. I got to know him through our Ghana Peace Corps Reunions and looked forward to talking with him. He will be missed by so many. I send my heartfelt sympathy to Judy and the family.

*Terry Anderson Ghana PC: 1965-1967
Teachers for West Africa in Ghana: 1967-1969*

Terry Anderson - January 08, 2016 at 10:44 AM

SS

“ 17 files added to the tribute wall



Shannon Stafford - January 06, 2016 at 05:30 PM

JH

1. Mark in Shetland Islands snapping the view.

Judy Hector - January 07, 2016 at 08:59 AM

AS

“ *We are so sorry to hear the sad news of Marks passing. It was a pleasure to meet him at our PC reunions and share the special bond of Ghana veterans and spouses. We will remember him in the very best light.*

Alan and Elisabeth Stemler

Alan Stemler - January 06, 2016 at 03:02 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mark A. Hector.*



January 06, 2016 at 02:26 PM



“ *My dad so loved his granddaughter that he flew to St Louis to escort her to a concert. Given the rules of her boarding school she had to have a guardian. It did not matter so much who the band was as much as that he was always interested in the activities of the grandchildren. His actions impressed the band, too. Here, the band posed with him. Oberhofer!*



Shannon Stafford - January 06, 2016 at 11:01 AM



My dad and Oberhofer

Shannon Stafford - January 06, 2016 at 06:23 PM

SS

“ *My dad so loved his granddaughter that he flew to St Louis to escort her to a concert. Given the rules of her boarding school she had to have a guardian. It did not matter so much who the band was as much as that he was always interested in the activities of the grandchildren. His actions impressed the band, too. Here, the band posed with him. Oberhofer!*



Shannon Stafford - January 06, 2016 at 10:54 AM

JH

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Judy Hector - January 05, 2016 at 09:48 PM