Incomplete list of tributes to Bruce from scholars in Communication and related fields (n = 95)

Walid Afifi:
Struggling today. He was an impeccable human being. So glad that we got a chance to give him a community hug just two nights ago.

[Wendy Gronbeck response: Bruce had such a great time at this party and was thrilled to have the local RSA chapter named in his honor. He loved all of these people and those who wish they could have been there. A few hours later he left his beloved field in the hands of all of you whom he respected and trusted to carry on.]

Michael Mario Albrecht
Very sad to hear about the passing of Bruce Gronbeck. Ugh. He always kicked my butt at tennis.

Melissa Wood Aleman:
Reading all the tributes tonight to Bruce Gronbeck and thankful for a medium that allows us to connect across the miles in our grief and in celebration of a wonderful, life-affirming person. He leaves us a beautiful inheritance, living on in his teaching (and now ours), mentoring, joy for life, caregiving, humility and brilliance. Sending much love and a big hug to our Iowa family.

Ece Algan:
What a great pleasure it was to work with Bruce in Iowa. I cherished his support and guidance. He was a great role model for students and junior faculty with his wisdom, generosity and dedication. How much I loved his keen sense of humor! You left us with great memories. I'm grateful for that. You will be missed, Bruce. My sincere condolences to his family.

Jennifer Ambrose
Bruce. I am so thankful for the ways our lives overlapped while you were at Iowa, and for your kind and generous support of me as an individual and of my work. Thank you for everything. I am so glad to have known you and will miss you greatly.

Mark Apple
It was a true honor to have known Bruce.

Robert Asen
This seems so unreal; I can't seem to process this news. Bruce, you were an amazing scholar and an even better person.

Bernardo Attias
Terribly sad to hear that Bruce Gronbeck has passed. I never would have finished my dissertation without him, and I always think of his advice both when I am writing and when I am advising others. A great scholar, a comforting friend, a supportive advisor who encouraged those around him to let their best qualities manifest. Rest in power, Bruce!
Lisa Barry:
My experience of Bruce Gronbeck was unlike most. I did not attend Iowa. I made the short list when applying for doctoral programs, but I was not selected. He let me know personally, probably because my Master's mentor/advisor, Benita Dilley, had been one of his doctoral advisees. I attended Penn State instead (and loved every minute of it), but Bruce maintained contact with me, encouraged me when I needed it, provided feedback--both positive and negative, academic and personal, and continued to maintain contact with me even when my own peers and program ostracized me for not following the path they had deemed appropriate for me (let's be honest... sometimes life intervenes). Bruce had no obligation to support me in any way, but that's just what he did. He was an amazing scholar, teacher, mentor, and person. He will truly be missed. Thank you, Bruce, for your kindness, your support, and your friendship.

Rob Bellamy:
This is a sad day. Bruce Gronbeck was one of the great ones. I will always remember him as a teacher, scholar, and friend.

Jeff Bennett:
On Tuesday night we celebrated the life of Bruce Gronbeck by recognizing him with a CLAS alumni fellowship, an award that has been given fewer than 100 times at this university. As part of the ceremony the graduate students announced that the new RSA student chapter being established here would bear his name. It was my favorite part of the night because he was so clearly touched by the gesture. He loved Iowa and, as demonstrated by the many testimonies on Facebook today, Iowa loved him right back. Thank you, Bruce. We'll miss you.

Carol Blair
It just doesn't seem possible that Bruce--vibrant, funny, smart, with it--is gone. He's been a true mentor and friend for so many years. RIP, Bruce.

Dawn Braithwaite
An incredible scholar and bigger than life man who gave so much to Iowa, NCA, CSCA, and the discipline at large. A giant in the discipline.

David Bobbitt
Bruce Gronbeck was a humble, gracious, and unassuming person. Once I was at a conference with a group of my undergraduate students when we ran into Bruce. I introduced my students to him, telling them that he was one of the top scholars in our field. But Bruce was so humble and self-deprecating in his demeanor that my students seemed skeptical that he could be anyone noteworthy.

Arthur Bochner
Bruce Gronbeck will always be a GIANT in my eyes. He helped me immensely when I first became Chair at USF--and was groping in the dark for how to handle the challenges I faced in putting together a new Ph.D. program. I called on him many times and he always gave me great advice. What I remember best is his lightness of being. He had a great sense of humor and regardless of his extraordinary contributions as a scholar, he refused to take himself too seriously. But make no mistake about it, he was both a brilliant and a kind critic who had an
interest in all aspects of rhetoric and communication. He wrote a brilliant prepublication review of Carolyn Ellis' FINAL NEGOTIATIONS that was tremendously helpful and encouraging. I'm devastated and feel a deep loss and grief.

**John Bowers**
I learned from the University of Iowa that Bruce Gronbeck died last night. He and Wendy were in Iowa City where Iowa was honoring Bruce with an alumni award.

As it happens, I had been asked to contribute a few words to that occasion. Here they are:

I've known Bruce Gronbeck since 1963. He came to Iowa as a beginning graduate student, and I was starting my second year on the faculty. He took a course or two from me, and I was a member of his doctoral committee. Faculty and students were allowed to be friends in those days, and Bruce and I became good friends. My family provided home life for several graduate students, and Bruce was among our most frequent visitors.

We published one article together in 1964 with Sam Becker as another co-author. Bruce always has characterized that article as his easiest publication.

He was hired at the University of Michigan in 1967 first as lecturer and in 1970, when he completed his Iowa Ph.D., as assistant professor. Michigan invited me to give a lecture on the rhetoric of agitation and control, I assume at Bruce's instigation, in 1971. Michigan's real motive was to interview me for its chairmanship. I arrived in the midst of student strikes and demonstrations, and the word was that my lecture might be a focal point for the more rebellious among the students. No demonstrations developed, but the situation was tense and the dean, a statistician whose work I actually knew, obviously didn't have his mind on hiring decisions. In the end, we decided mutually that I wouldn't become the chair at Michigan.

Bruce often has reminded me over the years that when a position in rhetoric opened at Iowa for fall 1973 he wasn't my first choice. As things turned out, he should have been. I served on various committees to evaluate him along the way toward his distinguished career, and he always amazed me with his insights and his careful preparation. I remember being especially impressed once when I observed his class in rhetorical criticism. He had worked out succinct, clear, descriptions of three or four different approaches to the subject, and both he and his students had assimilated the comparative advantages and disadvantages of those approaches.

He also was good at crossword puzzles. He and I would almost daily do the Times puzzle during noon hour in Jessup Hall, sometimes cooperatively and sometimes competitively. We were fairly even contestants.

We agreed on most things but not on everything. I remember, for example, that he persistently tried to make sense of the writer to whom I still refer as MuckLoon.

We've kept in touch. I became his and Wendy's daughter Ingrid's honorary uncle when she enrolled at my new home, the University of Colorado, in the late 1980s.
Both personally and professionally, Bruce Gronbeck merits the award that Iowa is giving him today. Congratulations, Bruce.

Dwight Brooks
I just learned of the passing of the most down-to-earth, yet prolific scholars I will ever know. Bruce directed my dissertation and although it was not the greatest piece of scholarship, he began the defense, by saying: "This is not a defense of a dissertation, but a celebration of a daring historical exploration into African American consumer culture." Among his many talents was softball. I'll miss you Bruce, on, off and in the field.

Judd Case
Bruce was unique. He was tough and yet a careful listener. I'm glad to have had him as a professor.

Rafael Cervantes
I miss you, Bruce Gronbeck and I am so sorry that you have passed. I have been so grateful for the compassion, friendship and mentorship you showed me at Iowa and beyond. You were the steadying presence, the source of reassurance and the support I relied on to complete my graduate education. You taught me how to learn, how to read, how to write and you showed me that the knowledge is never as important as the people, the friendships. I'm holding tight to my memories of you: of walking the dogs in the woods behind the pond, sitting with classmates in your living room, you calling me doctor for the first time, ever and countless more. I won't let go. You will be missed and always remembered, with love.

Jongin Chang:
Bruce was such a wonderful human being. Bruce was a great scholar with a good sense of humor, sincerity, gentleness, and love. I’m grateful to have him as my teacher, mentor, and friend. When I visited him in Colorado, Bruce took me to a classy tasteful restaurant for lunch. I won’t forget the pleasant, warm, intellectual conversation we had. Bruce, you will be missed a lot. Rest in peace.

Joshua Chen:
I was privileged to meet you through a family friend. As an undergraduate only first discovering Communication, you welcomed me into your home as one would an old friend or family member. I'm grateful and honored to have been able to sit down and talk with you, learn from your vast knowledge over the past year, over BLT sandwiches, which you ate whenever you could because your wife was vegetarian. It always made me smile. And as it turns out, the very professor who mentored me and encouraged me to explore Communication as a field of study, was in fact, taught by You, which only confirms why I still enjoy and love the discipline today.
Now, as I look to the future, getting ready to graduate, I want to say "Thank You so much" for investing in me - I'll be certain to do the same for others!
**David Cheshier**
Bruce was a terrific large lecturer teacher and performer. Having first encountered his quieter small seminar and in-person style, it came as something of a surprise to see how well he could capture the attention of students new to the field. I was among the many Iowa grad students over the years who TA'd for him in one of those big "intro to the field" large lecture core/frosh classes, and I picked up more from his really well put together lectures than in many of the advanced grad seminars I took. Those notes and handouts saved me in my own classes for years...

**Adrienne Christiansen:**
I feel very sad to learn that Professor Bruce Gronbeck of Iowa has died. I had such a ball getting acquainted with him and taking seminars of his through the Hope College Faculty Development Institutes. I especially remember a deep water fishing trip with him on Lake Michigan one year. I giant in the field is gone from us.

**Karen Pitcher Christiansen:**
My heart hurts at the news of Bruce Gronbeck's passing, what a loss for so many. During my first visit to UI, he looked me in the eye and said, "You belong here"...and he was right. Throughout the years of courses and dissertation advising, he always made me feel that I was on track with what I was doing and that my work mattered. I will always be thankful to have known him, and had him as a model for a life well-lived. We will all miss you, Bruce. Thank you for everything.

**Jay Clarkson:**
Truly devastated to learn that Bruce Gronbeck has passed. No one will ever do more to inspire through sheer strength of character. You were like a father to so many of us and you made us all better. You still inspire me.

**Dana Cloud**
Bruce Gronbeck was my teacher and friend. He recognized the humanity of everyone around him and brought a care for community into his leadership in the department. He supported me through some rough times during my graduate student years. He taught me rhetorical criticism and the ideas of Kenneth Burke in such a way that I still hear his advice to students coming out of my mouth. He welcomed me to the Iowa party at NCA each year as if I were coming home from a place far, far away. I am so sad to hear of his death. My heart goes out to his family and friends around the world.

**Gordon Coonfield**
I wasn't his student, but I had on a number of occasions the pleasure of his company both socially and professionally. He was a great rhetorician and, obviously, a great mentor. So many of my closest academic friends were from the program of which he was a big part. That is an awesome legacy.
Diane Crosby:
My beloved mentor and champion, Bruce Gronbeck passed away last night. I feel like there is a giant hole in the universe once filled with his humane spirit, brilliant mind, and kindness. He was truly one of the great ones.

Frank E. X. Dance
Bruce and I shared an interest in the work of Walter J. Ong, S.J. We would chat and email discussions of primary and secondary orality and their relevance to the interests of the SCA/NCA. Although not always in agreement we were always in concord. Bruce was insightful and Bruce could be funny. Bruce was a pleasure and a model of a fine academician.

David Deifell
My heart is heavy. If it weren't for Bruce, well, I don't know ... a lot. I am so sad.

Marilyn DeLaure
Most days, I just love my work and feel such gratitude for the teachers and mentors who showed me the vibrant, engaging life of a university professor. Bruce Gronbeck was paramount among them. His generosity and his genuine love for his students and for scholarly inquiry will live on in the hearts, classrooms, and writings of those who knew and studied with him. We are a fortunate clan indeed. Thank you, dear Bruce, for everything. You will be deeply missed.

Fernando Delgado:
The passing of Bruce Gronbeck provokes tremendous sadness. Thoughts and prayers to Wendy Gronbeck and the entire Gronbeck family. To those connected through Bruce's wonderfully complex network of friends, colleagues and mentees: group hug. This great man contributed in ways he will never know to my professional personal growth and I owe whatever success I have achieved as an academic to his amazing persistence, support, and care. Without Bruce (and Michael McGee and Philip Wander), I am not here. You left a tremendous imprint Bruce and the comments that preceded and follow mine bear testament to your tremendous impact. Farewell, Bruce . . . say hello to Sam and Michael Calvin.

Bill Eadie
Bruce Gronbeck was one of the great ones in our discipline. He came into his own as "Speech and Dramatic Art" was becoming "Speech Communication" (with or without a hyphen) and the study of rhetoric was undergoing a radical transformation in light of a turn toward including communication as a major focus of study. Ever patient, ever encouraging, Bruce not only participated in the re-making of rhetorical study but he trained more than one generation of scholars who turned that re-making into a vibrant and important part of the communication discipline.Bruce deserves, even posthumously, all of the accolades that will surely be piled on him.

Janis Edwards:
I bet everyone who crossed Bruce's path feels like they had a special relationship. I envy his students and advisees who really did. I could never be the teacher he was.
**Dan Emery**
I just learned that Bruce Gronbeck died. Don't have all the details yet, although he'd been struggling with illness for a while. My heart goes out to Wendy and his kids. In my field, the awards for research excellence, for leadership, and for service are all named after him. He supervised 65 students as their dissertation or thesis advisor and worked with and taught thousands more. The picture of me at my hooding is with Teri, Maeve, and Bruce is up in my mom's house. While I love many of my great teachers, Bruce was the greatest of all time.

**Susan Fillippeli**
My heart is broken. Just found out that my friend, mentor, and dissertation advisor passed away last night. So I imagine Bruce Gronbeck walking into the ultimate PhD Seminar last night. Sam Becker was there as were Michael McGee, Michael McGuire, Donovan Ochs, and all the other Iowa scholars. There in the center of the third row was Donald Bryant ready to ask Bruce the first question. Rest in peace, my friend.
[also added: Bruce, just heard the news. Somehow, I imagine you walking into the ultimate PHD Seminar and Donald Bryant waiting to ask you the first question. Rest in Peace my friend and mentor.]

**Melanie Finney:**
I am so sad to read of Bruce's passing. He was one of the true "gentleman scholars" that I knew and loved at University of Iowa- Department of Communication Studies. You will be so deeply missed. I'm imagining you and Donovan Ochs and Sam Becker together, drinking coffee, and reminiscing of wonderful, happy times. Thank you. Thank you for being you.

**Donna Paul Flayhan:**
Bruce Gronbeck--professor to many of us, second reader of my dissertation, the man who asked the stinging questions in my oral comprehensive exam (and the entire committee grinned and laughed when I stung back successfully but was too young and nervous to realize I had nailed the argument), the mentor who drove me to St. Louis to honor and meet Walter Ong and then chastised me publicly during my Ph.D. lecture introduction back in Iowa City for "beating up on an old man" in St. Louis! The man who took me and several other students out to dinner to celebrate my successful oral defense of the dissertation. Great human being in every way, a hot shit (that's a major compliment where I come from), a fun and wonderful human being. So sorry to hear of his passing, so glad our paths crossed in wonderful ways.

**Joshua Gunn**
Many years ago, Bruce Gronbeck came to UT to give a talk, and then +asked+ to lecture for undergraduates. I don't remember the talk as much as I did the lecture. What I remember is how he moved and taught them--a room full of over 100 strangers hanging on every word--and his thanking me afterward for the opportunity. I met Bruce as a graduate student at Minnesota, as an interviewee at Iowa, and many times since. In all these interactions his person and manner confirmed the reputation that preceded him: a man with a tireless work ethic and a top rate mind that, nevertheless, was the benchmark of what it meant to be "humane." The love he expressed with and to that large, undergraduate class full of strangers: this is what I remember the most. Thank you, Bruce, for role modeling what should be.
**Heidi Hamilton:**
How many posts already from Iowa alumni saying how much Bruce meant to making it through the graduate school experience. Let me add mine to them. I always knew Bruce was in my corner, whether during the dissertation phase, coming to my presentations at conferences, or encouraging current research projects. All with thoughtful reflection coupled with a love of life, teaching, research, and the people involved. I cannot imagine not receiving a hug from him at NCA this year.

**Leslie Hahner**
Dear, sweet Bruce. You provided constant encouragement to me from my earliest days at Iowa and even into my tenure at Baylor. You were a source of abounding inspiration. You will be dearly missed.

**Josh Hanan**
Very saddened to learn of the passing of Bruce Gronbeck, one of the most prolific, generous, and kind scholars our discipline has known. I feel grateful for the time I got to spend with Bruce over the past two years in CO, and only wish I could have had more time to get to know his witty and optimistic personality. RIP Bruce.

**David Heineman:**
Outside of my immediate family, no other single person has been more important or influential in my life than my advisor and friend Bruce Gronbeck. He not only shepherded me into coursework, through a dissertation, and on to a career, but he continued to stay in touch with Brianne and I over the years, offered me a wonderful opportunity to work with him in publication, and continued to serve as the model for everything I may aspire to in my professional life well after my time at Iowa concluded. My deepest sympathies to Wendy and his family at his passing. I take comfort in knowing that his brilliant mind and warm heart will always inspire those of us who knew and loved him.

**Randy Hirokawa**
Very sad day for the field of Communication. One of its greatest teacher/scholars, and a dear friend of mine, Bruce Gronbeck, passed away yesterday after receiving a distinguished alumni award at the University of Iowa. Bruce was many things to me during my 20 years at the University of Iowa: distinguished colleague, valued mentor, trusted friend, good fishing and poker buddy, and competitive tennis partner. RIP, Bruce. Your job on earth was very well done!

**Pertti Hurme**
Our heart-felt condolences. Bruce was an inspiring teacher at our Department of Communication, and an Honorary Doctor of the University of Jyväskylä.

**Richard Ice**
Bruce was a great mentor to me. I share the same memories that Susan shared in her message. Bruce was one of the great ones and he cared deeply for his students. I have always been touched by the fact that he has remained interested in my professional career. I will always miss him -- he was one of the people responsible for my success.
Kevin Johnson:
Bruce Gronbeck was one of the influential people who encouraged me to become a rhetorical scholar. I know I am not alone in mourning his passing. I will forever remember our hour long conversations at Alta while watching the deer from the balcony. He didn't need to give such time to graduate students, especially from institutions other than his own. But, that was the kind of scholar he was--always finding time to cultivate the field one emerging scholar at a time. I hope to be as generous as he was.

Samantha Joyce
Bruce, my friend, say hello to Sam Becker for me.

Jamie Landau:
Bruce Gronbeck, who sits atop my academic family tree as the PhD Advisor of my PhD Advisor Celeste Condit, passed away yesterday. Bruce was also the PhD Advisor to John M. Sloop, the professor who inspired me as an undergrad to go to grad school. I could go on and on about how Bruce shaped his still growing academic family tree that includes me and many other "grandchildren" through Celeste's lineage such as Marita Gronnvoll, John Lynch, Tasha Dubriwny, Benjamin R. Bates, Emily Winderman, Nicole Hurt, Leland Spencer, Dustin Greenwalt. Generations are forever indebted to Bruce, our family.

Kit Lam:
I've always cherished this handwritten course plan for me by Bruce. He wrote it out word by word during our discussion after I just became his advisee. He genuinely cared for students and was willing to devote much time to guide me in completing my qualify exam and dissertation. He was always pleasant with his students, charming them with his humor, generosity and encouragement. My life is so blessed by having such a mentor. He will be deeply missed!

Katie Langford:
Remembering Bruce Gronbeck. Like so many others, one of my favorite memories from my time within the discipline is a conversation I had with him while at a conference. He was a great advocate for graduate students and young scholars.

Ramona Liera-Schwichtenberg
I'm very saddened to hear of Bruce's passing. He was all the things an academic should be---funny, smart, witty, intellectual, analytical, welcoming of new ideas, friendly, warm---He made the time I spent at Iowa part of the "Golden Age" with all of the formidable intellects who were there at that time. I got an Ivy League education without the snobbery. I was so lucky and blessed to have Bruce Gronbeck as one of my teachers, and when he stepped in as my advisor (for McGee), he was exceptional. I was able to finish my PhD because of him. Bruce was never threatened or negative about the new fashion in academe, and would try it on and check it out. I will always value what I learned in his Mythic Criticism Seminar---I still am still using Joseph Campbell's mono-myth pattern in my teaching today. I loved his Minnesota-ness. Bruce Gronbeck will be missed by many whose lives he touched, including mine.
**John Lyne:**
He was an amazing man, and so damn lovable that people were constantly hugging him (a norm that I had to unlearn when I came to Pitt.) I want to add that his wife Wendy was a big factor in making the Bruce Gronbeck we knew and loved possible.

**[also added: I was conducting the Proseminar for our new grad students, and when asked who decides what will be studied, and who defines the field (these are often expressed as rhetorical questions, but I decided to give my answer), I went into a long spiel about how the field, and probably most other fields, take shape around certain personalities and intellectual innovators who create or shape institutional supports for their vision. Bruce Gronbeck and Sam Becker are in my mind, jointly, Exhibit A. Great departments don't just happen. They are extentions of the visionary men and women who shaped them. Gronbeck and Becker understood this to an extraordinary degree, and they exemplified it as few have been able to.]**

**Joseph MacDoniels & Roger Smitter**
We join others in mourning the death of Bruce Gronbeck while celebrating the many contributions he made to our field and more importantly to the many students, teachers and scholars who were encouraged, directed and inspired by his humble and considerate nature.

We worked with Bruce when he served as a Resource Person at the Essential Undergraduate Curriculum Conference (known as the Hope conference). He was quick to express an eagerness for taking on the role and his presentations at the conference and his seminar leadership offered astute insights and analysis of issues in the discipline. But more than that, he shared with us his respect and appreciation for the investment attendees make both in his seminars and in the work they do at their own institutions. He publicly stated that during the conference that he had realized that the participants, "...were not only eager scholars in our field but engaged colleagues who had become his friends". His leadership and self-effacing manner motivated us and many conference attendees to strive be more effective scholars and inspired teachers. For both his gifts and his many contributions we join many others in both remembering and expressing our gratitude.

**Brent Malin**
It was 20 years ago this semester that I sat in my first graduate course--Bruce Gronbeck's Rhetorical Criticism seminar. That class, and Bruce's teaching, were very important for me as I found my way as a graduate student. He's been an inspiring mentor and a great friend and I know I wouldn't be where I am--in so many ways--if not for his guidance. He advised my as a graduate student, advised my dissertation, and then kept advising me through many more challenges. I couldn't have asked for a better role model as an academic or human being.

**Roseann Mandziuk**
Tears flow this morning -- as so many have said, Bruce was so very special, and a tremendous mentor to so many of us. He truly, truly cared, and remained so engaged with his students, many, many years afterward. We all will miss that warmth, humor, and keen intellect.
Joan Faber McAlister:

Tribute #1:
I cannot imagine how I could have survived my first year of grad school at Iowa without Bruce Gronbeck. His warmth, support, and sound advice guided me throughout graduate studies, the tenure process, post-tenure career moves, and the constant struggle to manage the tension between professional and personal obligations. Most recently, Bruce and I were corresponding via Facebook about the children in our lives (I'll never forget that Bruce's baby gift when my oldest daughter was born was a Hawkeye baseball cap!). I am hurting and heartbroken today, so I cannot even imagine the loss and shock for Bruce's family. Sending you so much love as you mourn a special figure in so many lives.

Tribute #2:
When Bruce Gronbeck came to Drake University in 2009 to teach my Rhetoric in Popular Culture course and give a public lecture, I introduced him in the following way:
Bruce Gronbeck, By the Numbers
It is impossible to sum up a record like the one that Bruce Gronbeck has established in the field of communication studies, so I am just going to read you a list of numbers and let you do your own calculations…
1: years since he officially retired from classroom teaching
2: number of journals and book series he has edited
3: countries in which he has been awarded honorary degrees
14: books he has co-authored or authored
16: universities/schools where he has taught courses
17: pages of his vita
40: years he has been contributing to rhetorical and communication studies scholarship
72: dissertations he has advised
127: articles and book chapters he has published
Hundreds: presentations and lectures he has given at national and international conferences
And…
Countless: number of times he has offered me—and so many other aspiring communication scholars—advice, support, and encouragement
It gives me great pleasure to introduce...
Professor Bruce Gronbeck
My public speaking students who were present later discussed this introduction in class, focusing on the content, the way I sped up (humorously) and then slowed way down (with quavering voice) near the end. Q: "What was I telling you about this man with my words?" A: "That he is a very important and distinguished scholar." Q: "What was I telling you about this man with more than words?" A: "That you love him." Yes. Right on both counts.
[Also: she added these comments to someone else’s post: “Bruce always kept boxes of tissues in his office--I think he needed them more than any other faculty member. His was the proverbial shoulder to cry on, both metaphorically and literally.”]

Bryan McCann:
Teaching rhetorical criticism to graduate students inevitably gives you a heightened sense of reverence toward those who came before you. I never met Bruce Gronbeck, but my gratitude is immense. Rest well, professor.
Margret McCue
Bruce,
You dear soul. You were my lifeboat at Iowa. Our loss is heaven's gain.

Raymie McKerrow
I was privileged to work with Bruce as a co-author of Principles and Types (also known as the "Monroe-Ehninger" public speaking text) from the 9th edition through the 16th -a twenty-five year collaboration. His influence on my development as a young scholar and writer was boundless. I always knew I could count on his support, as well as his kindness in telling me when I was wrong. The tributes here and on Facebook are clear evidence of the breadth and depth of his influence on countless students and others within the discipline. We truly have lost an exceptional scholar, mentor, and friend too soon.

Kembrew McLeod
I'm still reeling over Bruce Gronbeck's death. So glad I got to talk to him just a couple days ago, and participate in the events celebrating his scholarly life at the U of Iowa. The only silver lining is that he was able to make it back to Iowa and be with friends just before he died.

Brad Mello
I will never forget meeting him for the first time at a convention -- carrying a scroll and dressed in a toga! Hope there are pictures of that somewhere. I will greatly miss hearing him at conventions. I always learned something new.

Nina-Jo Moore:
So sad to learn of Bruce's passing. That man was a true gentleman and scholar. It has always been a highlight of NCA seeing him; he will be missed my many. Rest in peace, my friend.

Chuck Morris
I'm saddened to learn of the passing of Bruce Gronbeck, a wonderful colleague in the field who gave so much to so many during his long and luminous career, and who was a lovely human being.

Lawrence Mullen:
I'm thankful he touched my life. Random thoughts of him . . . his first-baseman's glove was always too clean, the time he visited UNLV and I messed up the poster of his talk, that he always hugged me at NCA, his study of magic lanterns, as a member of my dissertation committee, as a good man, as a good man indeed.

Elizabeth Nelson
Bruce Gronbeck was one of the more important scholar / friends in my life. I remember when I drove to Iowa City from Madison to visit Michael C. and Gina McGee, I stayed a few days extra to walk around the University of Iowa campus and see whether I might be happy moving there from Wisconsin. Bruce Gronbeck very warmly welcomed me and on a white board in his office he wrote "B.A. U.C. Berkeley; M.A. University of Wisconsin, Madison; Ph.D. University of Iowa." Then he stood back, looking over his thumb at the "effect," and said "this could work!"
Bruce was a Minnesota Norwegian, and was among the first to see the Norwegian in me. Bruce had been reared in Norway West (in Northwestern Minnesota), while I was from the S.F. Bay Area, so I had very little sense of cultural Norwegian-ness. Bruce pointed out my subtle mannerisms and vocal signals that led him to discern "Norway," even though "Nelson" was the Swedish spelling.

When I was pregnant, shortly after completing my third semester at Iowa, a few colleagues expressed worry that having a baby would compromise my ability to excel in studies. Bruce and Wendy Gronbeck were singular in their support and enthusiasm, gifting us with books on parenting, on life / career balance, letting us house-sit for them, and giving us full access to the beefy contents of their freezer.

 Probably the most significant thing Bruce Gronbeck did for me -- and this is a testament to his goodness, kindness, and "citizenship" about which so many others have spoken -- was when I needed supervision on my Ph.D. Dissertation, and my advisor was unable to participate, Bruce Gronbeck stepped up and moved me through the process. The turn-around time on chapters sent to him was phenomenal, his comments useful, his guidance the sine qua non of my completing my Ph.D. in a timely manner. I am forever grateful to Bruce for his kindness and his willingness to help me -- a graduate student to whom he "owed" nothing.

Countless memories of supportive Bruce -- urging me on to home plate during one of our softball games, consoling me in the throes of divorce, talking optimistically about children who suffer from migraines (we each had one).

My regret is that when Walid Afifi invited me to Iowa for this week's celebration of Gronbeck, I did not respond. I kept thinking "I can't make it to Iowa, but I will send a note to Bruce." Alas, that opportunity is gone. And I am sad.

My last comfort is this: my daughter, Laurena, currently in the Ph.D. program in Communication Studies at Iowa, was at Bruce Gronbeck's Tuesday afternoon talk. I asked her whether she had had the chance to speak with him and she said "no, he was surrounded by admirers, and my ride was leaving." Bruce Gronbeck, surrounded by admirers. Always and forever I am among them.

She also wrote these words on a separate space: Bruce's passing hurts my heart, as I am certain that it does countless others'. I did not take the time to thank him for so many of the good things in my life, not the least of which was his willingness to step in and supervise my Ph.D. at a time when my "official" advisor (Michael C. McGee) was not able to do so. I fully understand that Bruce Gronbeck's friendship and dedication to graduate students was key in what has been, all in all, a wonderful professional / academic live.]

Kim Hong Nguyen
Two of my dearest mentors, Yuri Kochiyama and Bruce E. Gronbeck, died this year. When I first met Bruce E. as an immature inarticulate graduate student, our conversation was very much like my first with Yuri, filled with strong opinions about the Vietnam War. Because of that conversation, I always felt like I knew where his heart was-radical. As I became more involved in coursework, my friendship with Bruce grew. Having taken me on as an advisee and discovered his middle name, Elliot, I called him Bruce E., knitted him an ugly scarf, and brought
him coffee during our many meetings. During my time at Iowa, I vividly remember his unique ability to recite page numbers of a citation from his days of having to type out references, how his sharp, challenging questions always surprised me in light of his kindness and charm, how he would add anecdotes about scholars when we discussed their work, and the way he was so open and candid about departmental politics with me. I remember how dinners, dog-sitting, and parties at his home were social highlights of my graduate life. While it is hard to grapple with the idea that some memories of my many interactions with Bruce are now so fleeting, no specific encounter or story can encapsulate his strong commitment to democratizing education and increasing access to all.

As I mourn Bruce with a very heavy heart, I am reminded of how he carefully managed to inspire me to think and analyze more, without using language that made me feel inadequate. I am reminded of how many arguments we had and how many arguments we should have had. I am reminded of how protective he was, taking on sexism and confronting feelings of unwelcomeness I experienced with other faculty. I am reminded of how many times he prioritized my work and helped me move forward, even though he was traveling to conferences or juggling his own ideas. I am reminded of how he never complained about having too much work (despite having a long publishing record, teaching terms abroad, serving as President of NCA, and many other accomplishments), too many graduate students (despite having directed over 65 successful dissertations and sitting on countless other committees), too little time (even though he volunteered his time to mentor as a Big Brother and had a family) or an office that always needed cleaning and organizing. I am reminded of how he insisted on holding my dissertation defense, even though he had heart surgery just days prior. I am reminded of his gracious reaction to acknowledgements in my dissertation and how he seemed to feel like I understood him and his role as a teacher. I am reminded of how immediately after his release from the Mayo Clinic earlier this year he insisted on and submitted a letter of recommendation for a position that I now hold. And, I am forever reminded of how there had to have been so many other times in which he was so generous to me and I was not keen enough, too selfish, or too young to notice.

For those who didn't know him, the generous spirit that he was so known for is something that educators idealize, but most of the time falter in practice. As tributes to Bruce fill his Facebook and "Celebration Wall" on the funeral home's webpage, as obituary posts blow up the Crtnet listserve, as our speechwriters and makers attempt to wrestle with the generic conventions of the obituary and eulogy, and as our field comes to terms with this immense loss, let us remember Bruce as a person, a scholar, and a teacher who firmly believed that our role as educators was to provide the space for our students to grow, the faith and confidence that they will, and the commitment that rhetorical theory and criticism were tools that could help anyone on that lifelong journey toward learning. The deep and expansive void that the numerous tributes to Bruce—many made public and so many, many others chosen to stay personal and private—lay testament to, shows how his legacy shaped so many scholars and teachers in the field of communication studies. His legacy cannot be reduced to groundbreaking research (even though he pioneered important connections between media, political communication, and rhetoric), nor can his legacy be reduced to the tremendous service to our field (despite having a savvy sense and strategy at negotiating between people and institutions).
No—his legacy to our field is felt on such a personal level because he was so steadfast in diversifying our field, finding ways to make room for more voices to speak, and assuring that whatever our previous educational/ideological background, whatever writing, speaking, reading abilities we had, whatever other academics thought, or whatever we wanted for our own post-graduate futures, that each of us could be teachable and included in this historically exclusive institution. When I doubt to what extent our work as academics can be political and whether academics can democratize learning rather than promote elitism, I think of long lines of students waiting outside of Bruce's office and of him making time for me regardless of how many other students were closer to completing their dissertation, were smarter or more prepared for graduate study, or had research interests closer to his own work. He gave his all to his students and colleagues and he conveyed that in every interaction.

It would be too easy for me to say that it is because of Bruce that I am here and have accomplished what I have. To me, Bruce's legacy is radically political in ways that his written words will never be. This is how Bruce E. Gronbeck lives on in his work—through us all.

Erin Sahlstein Parcell
Bruce Gronbeck, was an important role model for me. I'm so sad he's passed on. I'm comforted that he was in Iowa City being honored. What an amazing scholar, but I was always much more impressed by his character.

Trevor Parry-Giles
Just learned of the passing of Bruce Gronbeck--a wonderful man. Thoughts and prayers are with his family and his colleagues and friends in Iowa and across the nation.

Kyra Pearson:
Still so stunned by Bruce’s passing. I loved his mind, his million dollar smile, his boisterous laugh, but most of all his heart. His encouragement during that first year of grad school and beyond always lifted me up. A few years ago, I had the honor of presenting Bruce with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Critical and Cultural Studies Division. I will miss our beloved Bruce, whose achievements—and warmth—touched so many lives. Maybe somewhere, he and Sam Becker are playing tennis together…

Kendall Phillips
Deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Bruce Gronbeck. A true giant of the field of rhetorical studies and one of the most gentle and supportive people I ever had the good fortune to meet.

James Pobst:
Bruce, I loved your academic spirit. You will be truly missed by new students and old.

Erin Rand
I'm reeling from the news of Bruce Gronbeck's passing. For so many of us he defines what it means to be an Iowa grad, and he was an unsurpassed role model for both personal and professional kindness and generosity. I will always remember his completely random and hilarious question about clowns at my dissertation defense--a good reminder to not take myself
too seriously. His loss is devastating and he will be terribly missed, but will live on for
generations in the countless lives he touched.

**Mary Rohlfing:**
"Did I tell you this already or was it just a class that looked like you?" This guy wrote the best
job recommendation letters of anyone I ever met. In a place that felt cold, windy, and far from
anywhere, Bruce's warmth kept me and many others in Iowa. I loved you, Bruce. To the
Generalists!

**Roy Schwartzman:**
We have suffered a loss too deep for tears. Last night, the field of Communication Studies lost a
giant: Bruce Gronbeck, my dear mentor and a true role model. Next year will be exactly 30 years
since our first encounter at the University of Iowa. Many of us fortunate enough to have him as a
teacher fondly remember his familiar response to the naively grandiose proclamations we grad
students made in our quest to flaunt what little knowledge we had yet acquired. He would pause,
ponder, and then slowly intone: "Well, yes...[pregnant pause]...and no." And that was Bruce's
gift: gently--yea, lovingly--shepherding us through the unexpected complexities and nuances of
ideas that somehow coalesced into a PhD. Michael Calvin McGee suggested I register for an
Independent Study with Bruce. I asked, "Independent Study in what?" McGee leaned toward me,
hushing his normally booming voice while looking me in the eye. "Anything. He is at his best
not in front of a classroom, but across the table." I did that Independent Study on the arcane topic
of Rhetoric & Epistemology (Descartes, Arnauld, etc.). Three hours every week of uninterrupted,
one-on-one Socratic dialogue. Things come full circle. In the History of Rhetorical Theory
course I taught today, the day after his passing, we covered exactly the same content. I kept
seeing Bruce leaning back with his hands clasped behind his head, pants legs riding up far past
his sagging socks, breaking into a subtle smile whenever he detected an incisive remark.
Writing my dissertation from afar, I mailed each chapter to my committee. Bruce, who wasn't
even my committee chair (that was another first-rate thinker, John Lyne), would return each
chapter with copious handwritten comments meticulously critiquing everything. With Bruce it
was never "out of sight, out of mind." Several years after completing my doctorate, I invited him
to keynote the Carolinas Communication Association convention. Not only did he accept, but he
refused even one penny of honorarium. At the dinner table after consuming a home-cooked meal,
he offered hours of fatherly advice about succeeding in the world of academics. I still pass along
the core of that advice: "Wherever you are, make yourself indispensable." Bruce himself was
indeed indispensable. His intellectual progeny fill the field of Communication Studies, a
flowering of the seeds he sowed.

**Jeffrey Sens:**
Old grad school colleagues and I have been reminiscing of Bruce's impact and his genuine
warmth, humor, and understanding. Going to their house for grad student parties and beers on the
deck was my 1st exposure to Iowa's rolling hills!

I never completed my Ph.D, so it was lovely to reconnect with Bruce via Facebook since he
never made me feel embarrassed or lacking. He reached out and offered real celebration of my
new work.
**Mark Sidel:**
Very sad to hear of Bruce Gronbeck's death -- a terrific person and scholar and longtime Obermann buddy....

**Richard Sjolund**
I am deeply saddened by the news that Bruce Gronbeck passed away. He was a great person and a wonderful colleague. My condolences to Wendy and the family. We will all miss Bruce.

**Chris Skyles**
Thank you Bruce Gronbeck for all you taught me....you were a great mentor and, thankfully, an even better friend. RIP...

**John Sloop:**
Bruce Gronbeck's passing has gutted me in a way I did not totally expect. To all of us who are his children: I love you all. Let our work in all ways make him proud.

**Craig Allen Smith**
What a tremendous loss for us all, especially those of you who worked closely with him. His last words to me at a convention were, "I enjoy reading your ideas." What more could a guy ever hope to hear? He was one of a kind.

**Thom Stewart**
Just learned of the passing of another wonderful and dedicated Iowa scholar, Bruce Gronbeck. Saddened by the loss but happy to have known him!

**Karla Stevenson**
My heart is broken. I will miss Bruce Gronbeck for the rest of my life. I thank him for the many gifts he gave me and promise to try to embody the person he thinks I am.

**John Tedesco**
Bruce was a giant, but his kindness and gentleness were a perfect disguise. A true scholar and gentleman.

**Jim Trammel:**
What can you say about a master rhetorician?
Thanks for everything.

**Judith Trent**
A major loss for so many of us and for our discipline.

**Valerie Swartz:**
Bruce took me under his wing the moment I arrived on the Iowa campus to start my Ph.D. He was the quintessential scholar, teacher, mentor and friend. He challenged me in so many ways and nurtured my academic and scholarly growth. His criticisms of my work were often frustrating and downright terrifying but his insistence on high standards made me a better academic, scholar and person. Your spirit will always be with all of us who were so fortunate to
have known you and learned from you. Thank you for always being in my corner. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

**Scott Varda**
Bruce Gronbeck cultivated my interest in rhetorical history, encouraged me to expand my range of scholarship to include a more media-based focus, and let me know it was ok for serious scholars to keep a desk and office that looked like a tornado had just touched down. miss you bruce

**Richard E. Vatz**
It is no exaggeration to say that news of Bruce Gronbeck's passing was crushing. John Bowers' tribute to him was excellent, but if I may add just a few observations:
I was not an intimate friend of Bruce, but we had wonderful conversations over the years and often played tennis at conventions.

He was a colleague's colleague, who could disagree with you on a multitude of issues yet seek out your opinion and find your perspective interesting and unthreatening.
He loved his students, his fellow faculty members, his writing and the NCA ambiance.
It is impossible to do justice to his decency, integrity and unsurpassable joie de vivre, but there was no one whose presence was more welcome and enlightening.
Again, he was exemplary of the best colleague one could have.

**Isaac West:**
There are good people in the world, and then there are the best people in the world. Bruce was in the latter category.

**Paul Westbrook**
I knew Dr. Gronbeck from his involvement at the Hope College seminars, and later when we would meet at conferences. Upon meeting him you would never realize his stature in our discipline. He was the most unassuming, unpretentious man. He was also one of the most generous. He was able to help young scholars find the nugget of truth in their inchoate ideas, and lead them toward productive, exciting scholarship. I am very glad I got to know him.

**Rachel Avon Whidden:**
I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Bruce Gronbeck. My heart goes out to his family. I am comforted by the outpouring of love and the happy memories being shared. These stories are a testament to Bruce's impact on so many of us. You will be missed.
[Also, in response to two pictures: “These were taken at my dissertation defense. Felicity was four months and sat on Chris' lap during the defense. I remember Bruce Gronbeck holding her and telling her, "Your Mama's a doctor now!"”]

**Nathan Wilson:**
The passing of Bruce Gronbeck is a blow to many: his family, his friends, his advisees, his students and the field. I was told when I was accepted to Iowa that he was a "Mensch," and that is always how I found him: "someone to admire and emulate, someone of noble character. The key to being 'a real mensch' is nothing less than character, rectitude, dignity, a sense of what is
right, responsible, decorous." Bruce never had an unkind word for anyone, he was upfront and honest in every endeavor and helped a lot of us through difficult times. What I will always remember about him—the things that make me smile wryly—are expressions of his wit and humor: quick to smile, he could usually make most of us laugh about ourselves, as he punctuated the point by modestly sipping from an empty coffee mug.

Arnold S. Wolfe
I knew Professor Gronbeck in passing and through our mutual admiration of one of his stars, the late Leah Ekdom Vande Berg, who was my grad school advisor. My contribution is an anecdote that I hope will convey Bruce's own particular brand of Midwestern affability, his humor and lack of pretense: At a conference on the East Coast, Bruce revealed to me his Minnesota origins. I asked him if he'd seen the film, FARGO, then in initial release. He replied in the affirmative, & then I risked embarrassing myself by performing my best imitation of what I'm not alone in considering one of the funniest lines in that film, when Frances McDormand says, "Eye see ya got yer friend out dere in da wood chipper." Instead of turning his back on me and walking off forever, leaving a virtual stranger feeling socially incompetent, Bruce instead laughed heartily, placed his hand on my shoulder, & for five full minutes, joined me in "dueling" Fargo character imitations while passers-by gazed at the both of us quizzically and as if we two were beyond all hope of social redemption.

David Zukin
I'll be wearing the Hawkeye hat you gave me for the big game tomorrow. Thank you for accepting me as a friend in your life!