



David Charles McCarty, D. Phil

October 20, 1953 - November 25, 2020

David Charles McCarty, D. Phil, died unexpectedly at home on Wednesday November 25, 2020. He was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1953.

Professor McCarty received his Doctor of Philosophiae from Oxford University, his M.A. in Philosophy from University of Minnesota Twin Cities, and his M.A. and B.A. in Mathematics from Iowa State University.

He was currently a Professor in the Department of Philosophy, Adjunct Professor in both the Department of Computer Science, and Department of History and Philosophy of Science and a Faculty Member in the Intensive Freshman Seminar (IFS) at Indiana University. Prior to coming to Indiana University he was a faculty member at Georgia State University, Florida State University, University of Edinburgh, Ohio State University, and University of Pittsburgh.

Professor McCarty conducted research in the field of foundational mathematics and logic, early analytical philosophy, and the history of mathematics and logic in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. He was internationally recognized for his contributions, reflected by his visiting professorships in Poland, Israel, England, Germany, France, Taiwan, Scotland, and Australia.

Professor McCarty was an expert in his field, this is reflected in his Indiana University Graduate courses: Mathematical Logic, Computability and Gödel's Incompleteness Theorems, Wittgenstein's Tractatus, Foundations of Mathematics, Philosophy of Mathematics, Constructivism in Mathematic, The Later Heidegger, Poetry and Philosophy, Category Theory, Categorical Logic and Set Theory. Undergraduate Courses: Existentialism and Phenomenology, Ancient Philosophy, Classics in Political Philosophy, Classics in Philosophy and Art, Continental Aesthetics in the 20th Century, History of Logic, Set Theory, Intuitionistic Logic, Intermediate Symbolic Logic, Elementary Symbolic Logic, Informal Logic, and The Critical Issue: Philosophy, Film and Music (IFS).

Professor McCarty was awarded a Senior Visiting Fellow (8/19-7/20) by the Sidney M. Edelstein Center for the History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He also received the distinction of Titled Professor: Oscar R. Ewing, Indiana University (2020).

Professor McCarty published over 120 peer-reviewed papers on intuitionism, antirealism,

realizability, potentially infinite sets, denotational semantics, Church's Thesis, Markov's Principle, and the completeness problem for intuitionistic logic. He also served as a referee for many Logic and Philosophy journals.

Professor McCarty's current projects *To an Infinite Power. Mathematical and Philosophical Writings of Paul du Bois-Reymond* published by Oxford University Press is due to be released in 2021, *Intuitionistic Sets and Numbers: Small Set Theory, Heyting Arithmetic, Realizability, Categoricity* (under review). He was also serving on the board of directors for Obiter Research in Champaign, IL.

Professor McCarty curated a vast library that he used for his research projects which included the first logic book he bought in high school. He was exceptionally proud of the accomplishments of his PhD students. He was an avid reader, loved traveling, exploring museums, eating exotic foods, teaching, mentoring students, taking walks in the woods with his grandson, music - especially Erich Wolfgang Kornold - and opera. He was a wonderful husband, step-father and grandpa.

Professor McCarty is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife Cathy Parker, step-daughter Amanda Parker (Jeff Koleba) and grandson Dean, brothers John McCarty (Sheri), Robert McCarty, sister Ann McCarty (Alfons Connley), seven nieces and nephews.

There will be no service at this time. His library will be donated to Wolfson College, Oxford University to continue his legacy.

Comments



“ I knew David in grade school. We went to St Raphael together and I would hang out with him as his house was on my way home. I was sure he would go places in life as he was a true brainiac. I regret not keeping in touch with David to see how he was doing.



John Mazetronic - June 11 at 10:50 PM



“ I only took one class of Dr. McCarty's, but I absolutely loved it. He genuinely cared about his students as learners and as people. His passion for his work was obvious, and it is because of him that I am pursuing a major in philosophy. I had hoped to cross paths with Dr. McCarty again. He was more than just an excellent professor; he was an incredible person as well. He will be dearly missed, and I will carry the memory of him and his kindness with me.

DS - February 03 at 05:26 PM



“ Months late, I just ran into news that David died last fall.

I was a student of his decades ago. An early teaching experience of mine was as a teaching assistant in his logic course. The way he taught the course has shaped every class I have run since time. He was brilliant and clear and personable as a teacher, and I am fortunate to have seen how he ran a class.

Jim Edwards

Jim Edwards - February 01 at 02:02 PM



“ I took multiple logic courses with Professor McCarty. He was a good man and his classes were entertaining and lively. He was kind with his time, as he allowed me to schedule 8 am office hours since I was taking classes during his standard office hours at the time. I had also broken my foot halfway through the semester while taking his set theory course. I remembered him offering to help me carry my belongings into class due to this constraint, and that gesture meant a lot to me at the time. He will be missed.

Chris Cole - December 29, 2020 at 02:40 PM



“ I was shocked and saddened to learn of David's untimely death. I met him on a number of occasions and was always impressed by his erudition and charmed by his wit. He was a major figure in constructive mathematics and philosophy and will be sorely missed. My deepest condolences to his family.

John Lane Bell

John Lane Bell - December 07, 2020 at 12:25 PM



“ Sending deepest sympathy to you Cathy and the rest of the family. We loved seeing the two of you on our trips to the US and your trips to the UK. David was such a great person to have a conversation with.
We remember going with you to Chartwell on your last trip and to Hever Castle with Mum and Dad and Andrea on an earlier holiday.
Bob has fond memories of David taking him to bookshops and having discussions about their shared interests and listening to stories about his youth. His interests were so wide from early American detective stories to Philosophy and Mathematics. We enjoyed him showing us around the university and other old Bloomington buildings, keeping us entertained with fascinating stories.
It has been a pleasure getting to know you both over the years Cathy; David will be greatly missed.



Bob Wordsworth - December 04, 2020 at 03:36 AM



“ David was a good friend and colleague whose untimely death was a shock. I will miss being able to talk to him about art, music, and philosophy, and am saddened by the thought of not being able to enjoy his company in the future. Both my wife Angela and I wish Cathy and the family all of the best in this difficult time. Our thoughts are with you. David will be missed by all who knew him.

Jeffrey Strayer - December 03, 2020 at 03:47 PM



“ Dear Cathy,

David wrote to me on Monday 23th November: "We are friends and I am sure that we will remain friends." I am sure too, we will ...

Friends from Cracow, Poland,

Adam, Peter, Margaret, Ola

Adam - December 03, 2020 at 05:43 AM



“ Professor McCarty was my IFS professor last year. He was such a great professor and soul. I made so many memories in that class. So sad to hear of his passing. Sending warm thoughts and love to his loved ones.

Kris - December 02, 2020 at 09:42 PM



“ It is distressing whenever an esteemed colleague dies, especially when his death comes so unexpectedly. I have very fond memories of my professional association with David. Of special note is his participation in a seminar I supervised for doctoral students in the IUB mathematics education program on the implications of Kant's work in the development of a philosophy of mathematics learning. Knowing that David had a deep understanding of Kant's writings, I invited him to join the seminar to provide us with insights into Kant's work that would likely have gone unnoticed had he not been willing to help us make sense of what we were reading. David not only led several seminar discussions, but he also prepared sets of questions in advance of our meetings to help us focus our attention on particularly salient aspects of what we would be discussing. He did all of this purely as a favor to me! His efforts on my behalf (and on behalf of the seminar participants) were very much appreciated. He was both a friend and a very valued colleague.

Frank Lester, Chancellor's Professor Emeritus, IUB

Frank Lester - December 02, 2020 at 01:37 PM



“ David advised my PhD back in the late nineties. Words alone cannot convey how grateful I am for all I learnt from him as a philosopher and human and for the times we spent together. My experience with him set the bar too high for what an advisor must be. It took me years to understand much of what he told me (and wrote to me) in those dissertation advising sessions twenty years ago, and I am sure there is still a lot that I am yet to understand about logic, mathematics, philosophy, Wittgenstein, thought, music, language, etc. Much of how I still think about those topics is still deeply influenced by his brilliant observations. I was always humbled in his presence.

I have millions of anecdotes each shedding a little light on the complexities of his larger than life persona, from having him as a guest in one of my radio shows to talk about and listen to Corngold, to him cancelling our advising session and instead taking me for drinks when he found out my girlfriend had dumped me, from him giving a talk about the recently found lost referee report that advised the editors of Gödel's incompleteness paper to reject it, to his talks about the intimate relation between impressionism and the foundations of mathematics.

Axel Barceló - December 01, 2020 at 06:41 PM



“ Cathy, Jeff & I fondly remember many evenings enjoying great conversation with you & David, along some Scotch &/or beer. We are keeping you in our thoughts & we will always cherish those evenings with you & David.



Barbara A Madar - December 01, 2020 at 04:47 PM



“ Cathy. Neil and i are both in shock. I never meet David but i loved hearing about all the adventures you and him took all over the world. What memories. Hope to see you soon

Love
Lois and Neil

lois hugentober - December 01, 2020 at 01:17 PM



“ I'm very sorry to hear of David's passing. I was a Ph.D. student of his in the 90s, and he was an incredibly gifted and inspirational teacher. Though he expected a great deal from his students, he shared his lessons with humor and wit.

I carry a little of him inside of me with every class I teach.

My condolences to your family.

Chip Bolyard

Charles Bolyard - December 01, 2020 at 01:16 PM



“ David was a dear friend and a great logician and philosopher. The day before I learned about his untimely death I had accidentally run into a nice picture that he had sent me after a conference dedicated to Hector-Neri Castaneda in Urbino, Italy in the Summer of 2011. I just posted this picture. David is there with some of the other participants. In this conference David offered a wonderful lecture commenting on a paper on the nature of arithmetics by Castaneda.
Francesco Orilia

Francesco Orilia - December 01, 2020 at 01:00 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Francesco Orilia - December 01, 2020 at 12:47 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David Charles McCarty, D. Phil.



December 01, 2020 at 07:44 AM



“ Deepest sympathy to Cathy and the rest of the family. My spouse and I have had many visits and trips with David. He was always quite entertaining. The way I want to remember him the best is as a grampa sitting on my front porch swing with my spouse, Bill, watching his grandson and our grandson playing in the yard. I don't believe he ever thought he would become a grampa and here he was, with all of his achievements, soaking up the moment. This visit and the one where we sat around the fire pit in the back yard, watching the stars come out, are my favorite memories. We had great times and great fun and we lift a glass in salute to him.
Love and prayers
Karen and Bill Boulanger

Karen A Boulanger - November 30, 2020 at 08:46 PM



“ Cathy, our deepest sympathy to you and the family. I worked in the Department of Philosophy for years and I remember David very well. I worked closely with him during Graduate Application season. I remember most his stories. He had a wonderful gift of storytelling; He would have been a delightful and requested Bard in medieval times. I will miss so much not only his tales but also his kindness in always taking the office staff to lunch along with his wife Cathy. He was an interesting man with a remarkable sense of wit and of wisdom.

My condolences,

--Marge Clark

Marge Clark - November 30, 2020 at 03:43 PM