



Edoardo A. Lebano

January 17, 1934 - November 28, 2020

Edoardo A. Lebano, 86, of Bloomington, passed away Saturday, November 28, 2020 at his home.

A Professor Emeritus of Italian at Indiana University and a naturalized American citizen since 1961, Dr Lebano was born in Palmanova (Udine), Italy on January 17, 1934. After his marriage to Mary Vangeli of Washington, D.C., in 1967 he came to America where he earned his PH.D. in Romance Languages at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. HE taught Italian at a Foreign Service Institute, Department of State in Washington D.C, the University of Virginia, The University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, and at Indiana University from 1971 to 2000, the year of his retirement. He also served for nine consecutive summers as director of the Italian School of Middlebury College, Vermont. He was elected to two terms as president of the American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI). He is the author of numerous scholarly publications in the field of language instruction, Renaissance Literature, and Italian - American History. Additionally, he has conducted national surveys of the teaching of Italian in the United States, published both in this country and in Italy. Professor Lebano is a member of several professional associations, as well as NIAF. He was lectured widely in Italy and the United States. He has been the recipient of several teaching awards, and in 1988 President Francesco Cossiga of Italy has conferred upon him the title of Cavalier della Repubblica Italiana for Cultural Merit. Mary, his wife of fifty years, died in 2007. Two sons, Tito Nicola and Mario Antonio, survive, as well as two grandchildren, Nicolas and Alessandra, and two great grandchildren, Caleb and Claire. He is survived by Lucy Guerlac, who has been his devoted and loving companion for many years.

A Celebration of life service will be held at a later date, when we can all gather together safely.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com

Cemetery

Valhalla Memory Gardens

310 North Johnson Ave.

Bloomington, IN, 47401

Comments



“ After I wrote my tribute, I recalled another memory that attests to Professor Lebano's wonderful character. After I finished my Masters program in Florence, I returned to Middlebury for my graduation ceremony. My parents accompanied me and Professor Lebano was the one to present us with our diplomas at the ceremony. Instead of the traditional congratulatory handshake, Prof. Lebano took each graduate by the shoulders and gave us all a kiss on both cheeks, "Italian style". My parents were so amused by this, and were as charmed by him as his students already were!

Susan Dooley - March 03 at 08:38 PM



“ I came to IU as a freshman in 1983 and began my studies as an Italian major. I have such wonderful memories of Professor Lebano; he was my professor for many classes and my advisor as well. He was warm, enthusiastic for his subject and his students, and always had a twinkle in his eye. I still have my textbook which he wrote, "Buon Giorno a Tutti!". At his suggestion, I went to Middlebury for the summer after my junior year where he was director, and then went on to get my Masters in Florence after I graduated from IU with the Middlebury Program where I also studied with his niece, Elisabetta Vallania. Prof. Lebano and I exchanged Christmas cards for the last 35 years since I graduated, and he would share news of his life in Bloomington. I will miss those exchanges greatly and will always treasure the memories of my wonderful and caring professor at Indiana University. I will also happily contribute to the scholarship fund in his honor and to help carry on Professor Lebano's life's work. My prayers for God's comfort go out to all of his family and loved ones. He will be greatly missed.

Susan Dooley - March 03 at 11:11 AM



“ I was in the North of Mali training in the desert and was sitting outside at night and a colleague noted, " My god, look at the stars and the moon; that moon almost does something special. ". At that point I translated this to him a verse that Lebano taught to us, " "La luna non è che il complemento della terra, il suo rovescio speculare, il luogo dove s'aduna tutto ciò che sulla terra si perde." My colleague looked at me and said, " where did you learn that? I smiled and said, " I had this unbelievable professor that used to get up on the desk and bring our class to life by bringing Orlando Furioso's words into our hearts. It was odd that I had remembered that quote that day and time, but what will remain with me forever is the person that taught them to me. In life you meet very little people with the grace, class and love for life like Prof. Lebano. I will miss him dearly and thought of him as not just an educator, but truly unique person. A person with no political agenda, but a person that opened a door to something new to your mind and ultimately your heart.

While I was studying at Harvard's Business School, one of our classes asked us to write a letter to someone that helped you and then send it to them. I ended up calling Professor Lebano and reading it to him. In short, I told him that is was he that made me pursue my passion and it was him that I wanted to thank for helping me in life. He was quiet and said to me, " No Frank. It is me that is lucky, because you in the end followed your heart-- and many people never listen to their heart". I cried and told him I loved him dearly. RIP ZIO EDOARDO!!

FTG

Frank G - January 02 at 10:08 PM



“ Dear Lebano Family,

I am sincerely sorry for your loss.

I was a beginning Italian student at IU in the late seventies. I will never forget my first day of Italian class. Professor Lebano burst into the room speaking very rapid Italian and moving around the room like a professional performer. I was delighted, intrigued, and completely intimidated by him. A couple of years later, I went to Bologna for the summer - 1978 --while he was directing the program. He was such a wonderful teacher. He inspired and encouraged everyone. His passion and energy were infectious. He had more confidence in me that I had in myself.

Coincidentally, he has been on my mind for several weeks. I pulled out my Italian books again and started to review my lessons. Today I searched for him hoping to send him an email or a letter and I find this page.

My heart goes out to you all. He was such a force for positivity and the enjoyment of life

I am grateful to have to chance to tell you how he inspired me to love Italian, to love learning Italian, and encouraged this lifelong interest in Italian culture.

Mille grazie, Professore!
Juliana Van Horn

juliana van horn - December 24, 2020 at 04:59 PM



“ I was a grad student at IU when Edoardo arrived from UW-Milwaukee. His exuberance and warmth immediately made him very popular with both undergraduate and grad students. Before long Edoardo was as much a friend as he was my professor, so much so that when he and Mary were going to be out of town for a few days he asked my wife and me to stay in their home to care for Nick and Mario, which we gladly did. As it turned out, when I completed the PhD in 1972 I was hired by UW-Milwaukee, where I discovered that Edoardo had been just as popular and respected here as he was at IU. His contributions to the profession as a whole were, of course, numerous and influential, but I will always remember him as a friend and mentor. My deepest sympathy, Larry Baldassaro

Larry Baldassaro - December 15, 2020 at 11:57 AM



“ To Lucy and the Family and Friends of Edoardo, We knew Edoardo from the time that he was teaching at UW-Milwaukee and would see him frequently at AATI conferences, both here and abroad. He was always so full of life and exuberant in his celebration of all things Italian. He was a great friend, whom we will miss greatly. We are adding two photos of Edoardo and Lucy, taken 1) at the banquet at the 2010 AATI meeting in Lecce and 2) at the outdoor banquet in Bologna for the 50th anniversary celebration of the founding of the study-abroad program there (which Edoardo directed twice in 1973-74 and 1978-79). Our condolences to Lucy and Edoardo's family and friends. Chris and Marge Kleinhenz



Chris and Marge Kleinhenz - December 13, 2020 at 01:20 PM



“ Thank you, Chris and Marge. Happy memories of Lecce and Bologna. I appreciate the pictures so very much.

Lucy Guerlac - December 21, 2020 at 09:06 AM



“ Dear Chris and Marge, thank you for posting these memories of Lecce and Bologna. These were joyous times together, and it makes me happy in the middle of deep mourning to see the happiness we shared with each other and with you. Lucy

Lucy Guerlac - December 21, 2020 at 10:00 PM



“ Dear Lucy and family/friends of Edoardo. He was one of the most wonderful people I have ever had the privilege to meet. His warm, gracious, and generous manner were catching - you couldn't but look at him and smile! Edoardo will be (already is) greatly missed. Condolences to all.



Kriste Lindberg - December 09, 2020 at 07:24 PM



“ Dearest Kriste, thank you for this picture of the welcoming Italophile host, which about took my breath away when I saw it. It's so comforting to see the love I felt shared with so many wonderful friends over the past thirteen years. And we never will forget his famous surprise 80th birthday party da te! Love, Lucy

Lucy Guerlac - December 21, 2020 at 10:06 PM



“ Dearest Lucy and Edoardo’s family, Edoardo was filled with joy and he gave of that beautiful fontana so freely to others. He was discerning, generous and infectious with his concerns and his delights. He was a treasure. My deepest condolences go to you all because the world is dimmer without him.

Margaret Clements - December 07, 2020 at 08:46 PM



“ It was a privilege to have met a great person like Don Edoardo, with a heart full of goodness, nobility and devotion. I will really miss their great coffees and conversations and their sincere smiles. Thank you God for allowing me to meet him in these 4 years and learn so many good things about him. my condolences to his beloved Lucy and her family.
A special hug to Cesarino his beloved cat
A presto Don Eduardo.

Paola Melendez - December 06, 2020 at 05:48 PM



“ Grazie, cara Paola.

Lucy Guerlac - December 21, 2020 at 09:31 AM



“ Thank you, dear Paola, I am so happy you became of friend of Edoardo’s. He loved you a lot, and missed you in recent months. Love, Lucy

Lucy Guerlac - December 21, 2020 at 09:55 PM



“ Edoardo was an exceptional person that positively touched so many lives. We are very grateful to have known him and treasure the time that we had with him. Be it through art, academics, adjusting to life in America or making the perfect cappuccino he shared his knowledge with passion and we consider ourselves lucky to have been able to have him so close in our lives for so many years. Susan, Stefano and Marco

Susan Snyder - December 06, 2020 at 01:32 PM



“ Having recently arrived in US and enrolled at UWM, just after spending 6 months in Italy, and just before fall semester started, I was working at UWM Library when this friendly Italian gentleman struck a conversation with me while I was checking out his books. When he left I said, in a perfect Italian, CIAO ! A few days later my prof comes into the first Italian class. Surprise, it was the same nice gentleman I had CIAO-ed a few days earlier ! Not skipping a beat, after he taught a few basic Italian greetings, he said that you reserve Ciao for friends, acquaintances, etc, but surely not for your professors (this was last century !). I blushed, and then... majored in Italian ! So, this casual Ciao on a sunny afternoon resulted in my professional career, in a family of friends and in an eternal simpatia and friendship with Edoardo. His humor, zest for life, appreciation for Italy's contributions to world culture, and mostly, his love for his family and students will always stay with me. As difficult as it is, I need to once again say CIAO to Edoardo, in hope he knew that he would leave a mark on all people who came in touch with him. My condolences to his family and to Lucy.

Julie Donat, first generation of Italian majors at UWM under Edoardo's stewardship (1969)

Julie A Donat - December 05, 2020 at 04:28 PM



“ Julie, I find an address for you in Washington, DC. Is that where you are? I would love to talk with you. This was a beautiful remembrance, and I know he has spoken of you. Lucy

Lucy Guerlac - December 21, 2020 at 09:51 PM



“ To the family of Edoardo Lebano : I met you father/grandfather 14 years ago in the neighborhood he came out smiling and effused over my new puppy. Going on and on about the beauty my new puppy was. He asked her name and I said "Bella" and he kissed his fingertips and released it into the air and said "Aw an Italian name". Since that day whenever he has seen me out with me dogs I've received a great big smile and a few words. I will miss him, and his wonderful smile.



Jill Moberg - December 04, 2020 at 11:37 AM



“ Dear Lucy and members of the Lebano family, I'd like to send you my sincere condolences. It's hard to lose such a wonderful person. Edoardo always supported me during graduate school at IU. He retired before my arrival, but over the course of my six years in Bloomington we became close friends. We watched a lot of Italian films together for Prof. Vitti's classes and also at the IU Cinema. I have many fond memories of dinners at his house and talking about various aspects of Italian culture. He took a lot of graduate students under his wing and shared sage advice about getting started in the profession. Like Edoardo, I consider myself a collector. He loved showing me his collection of books, movies, art, and letters. One of my favorite memories of Edoardo is that he would bring Italian candies to campus, toss them to the students he knew, and then crack a joke. I used to see him so regularly that I didn't always get a candy. I'll attach one of my favorite photos of a night when filmmaker Charles Burnett presented his masterpiece Killer of Sheep at the IU Cinema. I sat by Edoardo, Lucy, and Antonio Vitti that night and we talked to the director afterwards. Ci manchi, Edoardo! Un abbraccio forte



Edward Bowen - December 03, 2020 at 09:42 PM



“ Dear Edward, a wonderful night. Thank you for sharing this beautiful picture of four absolutely terrific men. And thank you for your memories of times spent together. He loved you a lot. Lucy

Lucy Guerlac - December 04, 2020 at 10:57 PM



“ Dear Lebano Family, please accept my deepest sympathies. He was my beloved professor and friend- university of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Supported my admission into the Marquette law school. We always remained in contact. Coraggio! May Beatrice, St. Lucia, Mary watch over him also.

Blaise DiPronio - December 03, 2020 at 03:13 PM



“ Dear Nick, I am so very sorry to see that your father had passed away. He was so sweet and so very kind. Such a good man. My condolences to you all.
Elisa Van Leeuwen Duncan

Elisa M. Duncan - December 02, 2020 at 08:45 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about Mr Lebano. I was a pharmacist at the store he frequented for several years. He was the nicest customer, always a pleasure to see.

Lane Vargas - December 02, 2020 at 05:10 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear these sad news. I met Edoardo in 1997 when I started as a Graduate student at the Italian department at IU. I took a course about Boccaccio with him that year. Since then, our relationship that started from Professor to student, evolved into a friendship which continued even after I left IU and went to Princeton to teach Italian as a lecturer. He invited me to his house a few times and we went out for coffee to chat several times. always good advise from Edoardo. Thanks to Edoardo, I also taught a summer semester at Middlebury, and I really needed some help at that time!

Now I am in Bologna as Resident Director of the IU Bologna program and I have to be thankful for my years in Bloomington, of which Edoardo was a very important part. I am glad I saw him in 2016 when we celebrated the 50th anniversary and I think that was the last time we met. Such a warm and interesting soul, so full of life and enthusiasm. Even though we were living in two separate continents, I am going to miss Edoardo so much.

Lucy, perhaps you don't remember me, but I remember you.
Please accept my deepest condolences.

Andrea Ricci
(Bologna, Italy, December 2, 2020)

ANDREA RICCI - December 02, 2020 at 10:04 AM



“ Thank you, Andrea, I certainly do. Edoardo always spoke very highly of you and was fond of you. We certainly enjoyed that wonderful celebration in Bologna, an exhilarating reunion of old friends, students and colleagues. Sending you my best.

Lucy Guerlac - December 03, 2020 at 08:24 PM



“ Professor Lebano was always so kind and cheerful when he came into the Department of French and Italian office in Ballantine. And after retirement, he was the source of many delicious lasagnas at FRIT parties! A fine gentleman who will be greatly missed.

Isabel Piedmont-Smith

Isabel Piedmont-Smith - December 02, 2020 at 09:54 AM



“ Edoardo was my teacher for wild and fabulous Italian cooking classes -- first with IU, and then private group classes in his home. Many friends joined in, and many others who shared became friends. I have photographs of a couple of those celebrations! I learned so much and enjoyed so much -- it is impossible to express how much I loved those feasts; Italian food and the joy of preparation of food; and the joy of sharing those repasts. What a host! His life was a blessing to all of us! Si! Bravo, Edoardo and grazie mille!
My sincere condolences are with Prof.Lebano's family. Sarah (Robinson) Bruner

Sarah K Bruner - December 02, 2020 at 08:25 AM



“ Meat & Cheese Sympathy Gift Crate was purchased for the family of Edoardo A. Lebano.



December 01, 2020 at 11:07 PM



“ I Have You In My Heart Plush Blanket was purchased for the family of Edoardo A. Lebano.



December 01, 2020 at 10:59 PM