



Sharon Paine Stephens Brehm

April 18, 1945 - March 30, 2018

Sharon Paine Stephens Brehm died Friday, March 30, 2018 at home in Bloomington, Indiana. Sharon was born in Roanoke, Virginia on April 18, 1945. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in psychology from Duke University. She followed with a Master's Degree from Harvard University and then returned to Duke to earn a PhD in clinical psychology.

Sharon's first faculty appointment was at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. After a year, she moved to the University of Kansas, where she served on the psychology faculty for 15 years. In 1990, Sharon moved to the State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton to take a position as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Sharon was appointed Provost at Ohio University in 1996 and moved to Indiana University (IU) Bloomington in 2001 to serve as Chancellor – the first woman to hold this position. After stepping down from her role as Chancellor, Sharon joined the IU psychology faculty, becoming Professor Emeritus in 2013. During Sharon's time as an IU faculty member, she was active in teaching and national service—including as President of the American Psychological Association.

Sharon was a writer of especially high regard. She published numerous books, chapters, and professional articles, including two textbooks. She was a Fulbright Scholar at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales and a visiting scholar at universities in Germany and Italy. Sharon's empirical research concerned psychological reactance, empathy, and self-focus.

Sharon is survived by a sister, Brooke Stephens (husband, Jon Barton), Roanoke, Virginia; niece, Mary Barton, Arlington, Virginia; nephew, Adam Barton, Washington, D.C.; a half-sister, Paige Stephens Warner Gauvreau and family, Schenectady, New York; cousin, Jane Phillips (husband, Jim), Venice, Florida; and other extended family members; and friends and former colleagues at Indiana University Bloomington, including Jim and Roberta Sherman.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents, John Wallis Stephens and Jane Phenix Stephens; maternal grandparents, Robert Pittman Phenix and Mary Derr Phenix; and by her former husband, Jack W. Brehm.

You are invited to share a memory or an online condolence for Sharon at allencares.com

Comments



“ As a writing teacher who explains the APA Format in my classes, I felt so sorry to know Sharon Brehm a female president of the Association is dead. I knew about her by looking for information to use with students. We will remember her every time the class is conducted. My blessings to her family and colleagues.

Ileana Canetti - March 25 at 10:56 AM



“ I just learned of Sharon's passing. I am a Duke alum (Class of '73), and Sharon, still a grad student, was my brilliant instructor. She was one of the reasons I pursued a career as a psychologist (PhD, U Maryland, 1977). I followed her illustrious career with pleasure and gratitude for how she shaped my life. Her courage in sharing her life in recent years showed how she continued to provide inspiration for those coming after her. I send you my deepest condolences.

Carolyn C Gotay - December 12, 2018 at 03:43 PM



“ Over forty years of friendship. Countless memories. You and Jack were pivotal. I am endlessly grateful and will never forget - smiling to and celebrating the good times.

Rex Wright

Rex Wright - April 10, 2018 at 01:16 PM



“ I'm so saddened by this news. I had the pleasure of serving as Sharon's assistant in her role as Provost at Ohio University. We developed a wonderful friendship as well. I will miss her. Condolences to the family. My best, Alexis Cline.

Alexis Cline - April 09, 2018 at 12:12 PM



“ I had the honor of serving as Dean of Arts & Sciences under Chancellor Brehm. She was a compassionate leader who cared deeply about students. I learned a lot about grace under fire from her. Hers was a life purposefully lived.

Kumble Subbaswamy
Amherst, MA

Kumble Subbaswamy - April 07, 2018 at 12:05 PM