



Peter Boudreau

May 29, 1937 - September 7, 2013

ADRIAN – Peter J. Boudreau, 76, of Adrian, passed away Saturday, September 7, 2013, at his home.

Born May 29, 1937, in Escanaba, Michigan, he was the son of John and Jane (LaPine) Boudreau. Peter graduated from Adrian High School in 1955 and went on to receive a Bachelor's Degree from Adrian College and a Master's Degree from the University of Tennessee.

On August 19, 1961, Peter married Marcia Cunningham in Adrian and they recently celebrated 52 years of marriage.

Peter shared his passion for math with students at Adrian High School, where he taught for 30 years and Adrian College where he was a professor for 19 years. He was a member of the Michigan Council of Mathematics Teachers and the National Council of Mathematics Teachers. Peter was also a member of the First United Methodist Church of Adrian.

In addition to his wife, Peter is survived by their daughters, Amy (Scott) Mackey of Marquette, MI and Heather (Steve) Remsing of Midland, MI; six grandchildren: Jared, Sean, Connor, Sarah, Ashley and Jason; and his siblings: James (Irene) Boudreau of Fletcher, NC; William (Donna) Boudreau of Plymouth, MI; and Ciley (Tom) Pairolero of Gladstone, MI.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter in infancy, Ellen Boudreau.

Memorial services will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 12, 2013, at Wagley Funeral Home with Rev. Gary Dawes officiating. Peter's family will receive friends at the funeral home on Wednesday from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Contributions in memory of Peter may be made to the First United Methodist Church, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, or Hospice of Lenawee. Please share condolences and memories at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Peter Boudreau*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Mr. Boudreau was one of the most influential teachers in my life. He me taught that sometimes life gets in the way of school, and that is okay. He taught me that a walk in the woods can help when you are stuck on a problem. A peanut butter sandwich can also help, but it is most effective if you use the type of peanut butter that you have to stir. He also taught a wonderful, rigorous Geometry class that put me on the path to a major in Mathematics.*

I am now a high school teacher. In my mind, Mr. Boudreau is still the gold-standard for teaching advanced students. Every day, I strive to match his ability to be his fun, honest self in the classroom while maintaining very high standards. I consider myself very lucky to have been a student of Mr. Boudreau.

*David Caine
AHS Class of 1992*

David Caine - September 15, 2013 at 08:57 PM

AP

“ It's really difficult to put into words just how special Uncle Pete was to me. While growing up, it was always wonderful to share our interests of hiking, Switzerland, and tennis. I remember thinking that playing tennis against an "old man" was going to be easy, but he walked away with the victory.

In more recent years, however, his impact has been even more substantial and meaningful. Upon starting my teaching career, it was wonderful to engage with my uncle in conversations about discipline, math, and the greatness of teaching. As he shared his wisdom and resources with me, it was always impressive the dedication he showed toward his students and the quality of the education he provided. I have no doubt that he was an exceptional teacher. I have a feeling the lessons he shared with me will become even more realized in the future years. I feel blessed to have been able to listen to his stories and learn from his experience.

During this year's family reunion, it was wonderfully touching to see the impact he has had on us all. I am glad his gentle and passionate approach to life will continue on in our lives. My prayers to Auntie Marcy and all his family and friends.

Your impact will forever live on, Uncle Pete.

Aaron

Aaron Pairolero - September 12, 2013 at 09:28 PM



“ *Heather, Steve & family - we are saddened for your loss, and wish you comfort during this difficult time. I'll always remember the Miata and how we weren't supposed to touch it! Heather - your dad was an amazing man and he will be missed.*

Dr. Dan & Michelle Spencer & family

Dan Spencer - September 12, 2013 at 11:02 AM

ME

“ *Mr. Boudreau was an amazing teacher I will never forget my time with him in AP Geometry. It is because of him that I show my Algebra students Donald Duck in Mathmagic Land. The love he had for math rubbed off on all his students. Even though I didn't like Geometry, I loved his class. The memory of the "Tree of Inspiration" always brings a smile to my face. My deepest sympathies to his family. He was truly a great man.*

*Mercedes M. Espinoza
AHS Class of 1992*

Mercedes - September 11, 2013 at 02:47 PM

DC

“ I was fortunate enough in my years at AHS to experience the wonder that was a Mr. Boudreau math class--not once, not twice, but three times! It was the third time though where I learned the most, when I hit my mathematical wall. Calculus did me in, in a big way. I struggled day after day with those mind boggling, abstract concepts. My previous years of understanding and enjoying math were distant memories at best!

I so vividly remember the care, sincerity, and thoughtfulness with which Mr. Boudreau helped me through my agonizing decision to drop calculus. Part of me just wanted to stay in class, so as not to let him down. But the right decision was made, as I happily transferred into Great Books to end my senior year on a higher note.

I hope Mr Boudreau knew how much he positively impacted so many students along the way. His many creative lessons have not been forgotten. I still use my math skills in my career as a nurse; yet, today I could not prove a theorem nor do a proof if my life depended on it! More importantly though, I try to utilize the life skills learned from his great example, namely, to be a good listener, to genuinely care for others, to be humble, to think, and to have a passion for whatever you may choose to do in life. He was one of the good guys!

Peace.

Diane Cary Curley AHS Class of 1976

Diane Cary Curley - September 10, 2013 at 10:26 PM

NP

“ While I never had my Uncle Pete as a teacher, I was undoubtedly one of his devoted students. From a very young age I shared several interests, in particular math and nature, which would evoke a strong bond and stir up the teacher in him. His genuine excitement and passion were contagious and had a significant influence in my pursuit of engineering.

I am fortunate to have countless fond memories of my time spent with him. From rides in the Miata, to debating whether LED headlights were going to disrupt the automotive industry (he was nailed it with his prediction), to his gift of my first graphing calculator, the moments were always lively and thoroughly enjoyable. However, there is one experience that seems to sum up my memories best – Uncle Pete joined my dad, brother and I on a backpacking adventure to Isle Royale. The hiking, scenery, and camaraderie were spectacular, but it was his lesson about Fibonacci sequences that I remember most. He approached the topic by relating it to material I recently covered in school. Then he quickly taught me the history and algebraic formula for the sequence. Without a second of hesitation he pointed to the ferns at the edge of the campsite and described how the geometry of a fern head can be described with the Fibonacci sequence as it grows and unfolds. His love for teaching, math, and nature coalesced effortlessly in that brief moment. I instantly craved more learning.

My heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends Pete touched during his life – especially Aunt Marcie. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Thank you, Uncle Pete.

Nick Pairolero

Nick Pairolero - September 10, 2013 at 10:06 PM

MF

“ There are a precious few teachers during your academic career that truly make a profound difference - Mr. Boudreau was such a teacher. I also struggle to use the word "teacher" to describe him. I think "educator" is a much better description based on my experiences in his Geometry and Senior Math classes at Adrian High School. He brought an energy and passion to his teaching that I had not found before nor since during my studies. He forced you to think, not just memorize. He challenged everyone to be better than they thought they could be. His quirks kept the class engaged and entertained. He made math interesting! Who could forget the showing of "Donald Duck in Mathmagicland"??? And Mr. Boudreau's beaming face as he watched it?!?

When I see the movie "Mr. Holland's Opus" I am reminded of Mr. Boudreau. Think of the thousands of lives he touched during his classes. The number of students like myself who went on to pursue engineering and other mathematics related degrees. We are the "proof" that your efforts made a difference.

So thank you Mr. Boudreau (28 years late) for being a unique exceptional educator. You will be missed and remembered fondly.

I would also like to thank the Boudreau family for sharing him with us and express my deepest condolences on his passing.

Sincerely,

Mike Fisher
Class fo 1985

Mike Fisher - September 10, 2013 at 05:11 PM

JP

“ Like many others, I had the honour of having Mr. Boudreau as my high school Geometry teacher. Geometry was not (and still isn't) my strong suit but Mr. Boudreau never gave up on me. He never threw the towel in with me and he always made class fun and interesting. Taking a course from Mr. Boudreau was much more than learning the facts about angles and cosines, he taught us about life. He'd point outside or even take us on a little field rip to visit a beautiful tree in the front school yard he named, "the tree of inspiration".

This spring my grandmother passed away and I had the chance to visit with Mr. Boudreau after not seeing him for several years. He remembered me and our class. I'm sure he had thousands of students over the years. It was so sweet of him to take the time to not only remember my grandmother and family but to remember me as well.

Mr. Boudreau, you will be greatly missed by all who had the wonderful opportunity to meet and get to know you.

Mrs. Boudreau, you and your family are in my thoughts.

- Jeanne Benz Profenna – AHS Class of 1995

Jeanne Profenna - September 10, 2013 at 01:10 PM

LP

“ *To Pete's Family,
Our deepest sympathy to you all during this time the great loss of
your husband, dad, brother and grandfather. May God grant you all
the needed strength to help you through time. I know Pete will be
missed by all those who's lives he has touched over the years. May
the good Lord hold you in his loving arms as he is holding your Dear
Pete now.*

*Love and Prayers,
Frank and Lucia Pairolero*

Lucia Pairolero - September 10, 2013 at 08:48 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the
family of Peter Boudreau.*



September 10, 2013 at 07:35 AM

BN

“ My sincerest condolences go out to the family of Mr. Boudreau. I am just one of the many people impacted by his teaching. My fondest memory of him is the first day of class when he asked us all to give our calculators a name. I can remember thinking, "Is this guy for real?" He was serious and I named my calculator Tonto. I still have that calculator. I think of him often and the very unique way he taught his class. How he got me excited about math, I have no idea, but he did and I even helped younger students as an aide in his class. He is one of the many people who inspired me to become a teacher. I wish I had taken the opportunity to visit him and tell him my thoughts. Goodbye, Mr. Boudreau. Make sure that when you meet St. Peter to have him name his calculator.

Sincerely,
Barry Nofzinger
Class of '84

Barry Nofzinger - September 09, 2013 at 10:00 PM

“ Few teachers have impacted my life as much as Mr. Boudreau did. And I'm sure my feelings are echoed by thousands of students he similarly influenced.

In 1982, I took Mr. Boudreau's geometry class. For many young minds, geometry is the "brussel sprouts and broccoli" of the mathematical menu -- no matter how it's prepared, it just doesn't go down easily.

But Mr. Boudreau enthusiastically embraced just that challenge. Because he knew that by teaching you geometry, he was training you how to actually think. For geometry doesn't lend itself to rote memorization -- it requires imagination, critical thinking, and a willingness to wrestle a problem to the ground.

Determined to develop "thinkers," Mr. Boudreau every day entered the classroom full of hope, optimism, and a "yes we can" attitude that was contagious. The first three rows of his classroom were the splash-zone of chalk dust from his exuberant writing of geometric proofs on the blackboard.

When we'd get unfocused in class or would hit a particularly challenging part of the lesson, Mr. Boudreau would pause us all and direct our attention outside to a mid-sized maple tree, one he nicknamed "the tree of inspiration."

After receiving a B minus on a report card, Mr. Boudreau sat me down and explained that poor grade reflected my unwillingness to dig in intellectually. He said that if I rededicated myself to learning the subject and focused each night for the next 5 months (!) that he knew I'd move my grade to an A. I accepted Mr. Boudreau's challenge, fueled in large part by his unwavering belief in me. And it worked out just like he said it would.

So this thank you note is 31 years overdue: Mr. Boudreau, thank you. Thank you for your sheer unbridled joy at educating students.

For your willingness to challenge our expectations of ourselves. For inspiring countless numbers of students. And for teaching us how to actually think.

You will be missed, but will always live in our hearts and minds.

*Doug Kelly
Class of 1983*

Doug Kelly - September 09, 2013 at 09:29 PM

BR

“ *I had the privilege of having Pete as an instructor for Algebra II and then Functions (preCalc) during the late 1960's. At the time I was planning on pursuing a career in chemistry, so I viewed mathematics as a developmental discipline and as a necessary tool in further studies. I considered Mr. Boudreau a kind man, who was deeply interested in the success of every one of his students. Pete was particularly gifted in knowing when to persist in a specific approach to a concept, and if the light bulb would not illuminate, when to switch to an alternate way of understanding. He saw a grace, precision, and beauty in mathematics that I could not see, but his absolute joy in an elegant solution made me wish I shared his passion.*

It is one of life's ironies that I spent a portion of my career as a math teacher in a middle school. Much of what went on in my classroom could be traced back, both directly and indirectly, to Pete's influence. It may be that the best of what educators pass along through each academic generation is the way we manage to live on forever.

Bruce L. Ruesink AHS class of 1969

Bruce L. Ruesink - September 09, 2013 at 09:03 PM

PR

“ *Marcie, I am so sorry to hear of Pete's passing. I always enjoyed hearing his philosophy on various subjects. You both are good people. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Pat Reau*

Pat Reau - September 09, 2013 at 06:37 PM

JY

“ *This man inspired me back during my high school year of 66/67. He saw something in me that others didn't notice and he pushed me to excel. Sincere condolences to his family and his friends, may he rest in peace.*

Jeff Yielding - September 09, 2013 at 05:08 PM

JH

“ *I send my deepest sympathies to Pete's family. I taught Math at Adrian High School during Pete's last years there. He gave many helpful hints about teaching Geometry. He was an excellent teacher and well respected by his peers.*
Jeff Holbrook

Jeff Holbrook - September 09, 2013 at 04:51 PM

MD

“ *Had Mr. Boudreau for 10th grade and I can honestly say he was a great teacher for me.*

michael dice - September 09, 2013 at 04:32 PM



“ Dear Aunt Marcie,

I just wanted to let you know I am thinking of you and your family at this time. I was so sorry to hear of Uncle Pete's passing, but I know he is at peace and no longer in pain, if that helps at all.

I am so glad I was able to see him with mom the one time we came over, as I do not remember ever meeting Uncle Pete before then.

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this very hard time.

Love,

Laura Walker

Laura Walker - September 08, 2013 at 08:16 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Peter Boudreau.*



September 08, 2013 at 08:12 PM