



John Saxton Acker

September 2, 2011

Professor Emeritus of Humanities John Saxton Acker died September 2, 2011. He was seventy years old. Born in Flagstaff, he was a member of the Flagstaff pioneer family who settled the Apache Maid Ranch. Dr. Acker left Flagstaff to study painting at the Universita Per Straniere in Perugia and the Accademia in Torino, Italy. He returned to Flagstaff in 1960. Dr. Acker taught courses in Humanities and Art History at Northern Arizona University. He had a great love of Southeast Asian, European, and Native American art and culture. Over his many years at NAU, hundreds of students benefited from his knowledge and kindness. He is survived by his sisters Charlotte Acker of Clarkdale and Alice Joshevama and family of Oraibi. There will be no memorial service. To honor his memory, the family requests that donations be made to the John Saxton Acker Memorial Scholarship in the College of Arts and Letters through the NAU Foundation, Box 4094, Flagstaff, AZ 86011. An online guestbook is available to sign at www.westcottfuneralhome.com

To plant Memorial Trees in memory of John Saxton Acker, please click here to visit our Sympathy Store.

Tribute Wall

JB

“ John was indeed a man of \infinite wit\ and we miss him deeply. He won many awards for his teaching, the admiration of students and colleagues, and the confidence of his friends.

Joseph Boles - June 20, 2022 at 02:29 PM

DA

“ Dr. Acker was a teacher (in every sense of the word) and a friend. I came to know him through my mom, then took a class from him (many years ago). I still remember his passion. It was infectious. Later, when I worked at NAU, I worked with Dr. Acker to help build one of his online courses. It was a joy to work with him again, and to have him remember so much about me. He is missed.

Dawn M. Armfield - June 20, 2022 at 02:29 PM

RA

“ Tremendous loss, I learned so much from John, a dear person and wonderful educator. Thank you for your gift of knowledge to your friends and students.

Ruthie Armfield - June 20, 2022 at 02:29 PM

JM

“ Our deepest sympathy to John's Family. We enjoyed his company on many occasions at our home after OLLIE Classes. His smile and warmth will be missed.

JD and Karen Maddy - June 20, 2022 at 02:29 PM

LP

“ John was a wonderful teacher. I took a class last year and was amazed at his knowledge, humor, and kind manner. I will miss him.
Lois Pearson

Lois Pearson - June 20, 2022 at 02:29 PM

SA

“ I have many fond memories as a student in John's class. He made me want to be a better student and inspired me to be a better teacher.

Shadow Armfield - June 20, 2022 at 02:29 PM

LS

“ I always hoped to see John again after he retired from NAU. I enjoyed his intelligent and well-read conversation. He is a friend that will always be missed.

Laura Sujo-Montes - June 20, 2022 at 02:29 PM

JA

“ Dr. Acker will be sorely missed. I loved the many classes I took with him as my teacher.

Jennifer Armfield - June 20, 2022 at 02:29 PM

EM

“ I did not know too much about John but I will always remember the morning walks and chats we shared with little Libby.

Eleanor Mead - June 20, 2022 at 02:29 PM

SR

“ *sarai sempre nei nostri cuori e nei nostri pensieri ti ricorderemo sempre con affetto Silvia e Roberto*

silvia e roberto - June 20, 2022 at 02:29 PM

NR

“ *My world has always been richer because John Saxton Acker was there. He and his sister Charlotte have been my friends since we first met as children in 1945. I find it hard to believe that all a person is disappears when he dies. Jack's erudition, kindness, solid ethical code and great sense of humor made him an indelible and unforgettable man. My world changed when he departed. I miss him, and am grateful for the time we had him in our midst. And grateful that he was my friend.*

Norma Russell - June 20, 2022 at 02:29 PM

DP

“ *John was chair of the OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning) group of Cottonwood while I was Asst. Director based at the Yavapai College campus. John did such a thoughtful job in this role and accomplished many new activities and offerings for the group. He was a wealth of knowledge on cultural and Native American aspects. I was glad I had a chance to work with him, and sad that we are no longer able to benefit from his intellectual thinking and experience.*

Diane Phelps - June 20, 2022 at 02:29 PM