



Gregory Mark Tropea
Sept. 10, 1950--April 23, 2010

Greg was born in Utica, New York, where he lived with his family before leaving for Moravian College. He spent his junior year abroad at Philipps Universitat in Marburg, Germany. He completed his B.A. in German at Moravian, and then an M.A. in Linguistic Theory and an M.A. in Religion, and a PhD in Religion and Cultural Symbol Systems all from Syracuse University

In 1974 Greg married Ko-Ko Yen, and their daughter, Gina, was born two years later.

Tropea taught German and English at the Chinese Cultural University in Taipei before teaching at California State University, Chico in 1986 as a Visiting Assistant Professor in Religious Studies. He subsequently taught as a lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, where he served for many years as coordinator of the Logic and Critical Thinking program. Tropea innovated use of Internet components and assessment of student learning years before these became common elements in the University curriculum. He retired and was granted emeritus status 2010.

Greg Tropea was a dedicated teacher, esteemed by his students and colleagues for the verve of his engagement in teaching and for

his innovation in pedagogical strategies. He published articles and book chapters on Chinese philosophy, educational technology, and post-colonial thought. He presented papers at national and international conferences on ecology, Utopian studies, postmodern philosophy, the I Ching, philosophical counseling, and the writings of Martin Heidegger. He wrote educational software, music, and hundreds of song lyrics. Tropea served for many years as an officer in the local chapter and in the statewide leadership of the California Faculty Association. He advocated strenuously for the rights and security of temporary faculty in the CSU, with direct outcomes in the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and also in actions by the state Legislature to ensure that contingent faculty are guaranteed state labor law rights. He recounted the progress of the CFA during his years of service in an essay published in 2010.

Tropea sat on the Board of Directors for Chico Natural Foods, The Wall Street Center for the Arts and also served on the Chico Arts Commission for a number of years. He believed strongly in the importance of the arts in civic culture. He founded Humboldt Studios in Chico, CA as a locus for excellent food, musical performance, intellectual gatherings, and a recording studio for local musicians. It was at the Humboldt Studios that Greg maintained his practice in philosophical counseling.

Greg Tropea was an avid outdoorsman and a regular at Burning Man.