



## Robert James Theodoratus

August 22, 2019

Robert James Theodoratus, son of Harry James Theodoratus and Ethel Irene House, died 22 August, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Kay Uribe-Theodoratus, his daughters, Sarah and Mia, and his son, Demetri, plus his siblings Alice, George, Dorothea and several nieces.

Bob came to Fort Collins in 1966 to teach anthropology at Colorado State University and became the founder of the Anthropology Department. He was active in building the social science library holdings. His most prominent academic achievement was the editing of *Immigrant Communities and Ethnic Minorities in the United States and Canada* for AMS press of NY.

Theodoratus liked to compare his own ancestry to the growth of America. His mother's family had roots back to the early 1700s, when ancestors emigrated from Yorkshire, England. His Greek father came to this country just before WWI. There were even family rumors of Menominee Indian ancestors so his ancestry reflected all phases of American settlement.

No memorial services are planned at this time. Donations can be made in his name to the Larimer County Food Bank.

# Tribute Wall



“ Robert James Theodoratus

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ Although I never met Dr Robert Theodoratus, I know of him through his work “A Greek Community in America: Tacoma, Washington” published by the Sacramento Anthropological Society. I was introduced to this work through Savvas Apostolides a friend of Dr Theodoratus and now resident of Australia. Savvas and I are part of the several hundred descendants of immigrants from Sianna living in Australia and having not only strong links with Greece but also those “Siannittes” in the United States. Reading his work takes us on a journey of our own immigrant history in Australia, although perhaps, a generation or two later. We can identify with the aspirations, attitudes, values and events of those who came before us and understand our own place in Australia and relationships with those who remain in Sianna and Greece.

*I regret that I never met Dr Theodoratus in my visits to the United States but I do thank him for the impact his work has had on my own thinking as a descendant of immigrants. I would like to think that at some point his work will be read, whether in Greek or English, by those who remained in Greece, so they too may understand what it meant to emigrate in the first half of the 20th Century.*

*Our sincere condolences to his family and trust they take great pride in the influence he has had in Australia as well as the United States.*

*George De George*

*Dandenong*

*Victoria*

*Australia*

George De George - September 18, 2019 at 02:13 AM

ND

“ Dear Kay and family,

*I would like to add myself to the list of students who have been guided and encouraged by Dr. Theodoratus. He was my undergraduate advisor. As such, he embodied such a wonderful range of interests and knowledge that one could not help but be inspired by his example. He was part of my thesis committee and again helped shepherd me through that difficult time. What a kind, good man. He will be missed by many.*

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**Norma van Doren** - September 09, 2019 at 07:59 PM



“ Dear Kay and family,

*Sonia and I have such wonderful memories of living across the street from you on Remington when we were newcomers to FC and the CSU. We are so grateful on how you welcomed us into this neighborhood and introduced us to some of your university friends.*

*Our heartfelt condolences to you and your family.*

*Howard and Sonia Nornes*

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**Howard Nornes** - September 02, 2019 at 07:30 PM

“ There are a few people in a person's life who play a pivotal role in shaping their life's path. Dr. Theodoratus was one of them for me. As an undergraduate psychology major, I took one of his Anthropology courses. I loved it! He convinced me to change my major to Anthropology. That was the beginning of a long road with Dr. Theodoratus at my side. He gave a job in the work-study program working in the Anthropology office (1960's). He supervised me through my Masters, gave me a teaching assistance post and after I graduated recommended that the department hire me to teach Anthropology 101 (1970's). His faith in my abilities buoyed me throughout my academic and professional career. The goals of my family did not include higher education, so having Dr. Theodoratus' encouragement in my youth gave me strength to carry on. His support enabled me to get a teach job in a Montreal college and complete my Ph.D. at McGill University years later. (1980's) He was also an enthusiastic mentor for other students who established their careers thanks to his dedication to encouraging students. He was always kind and generous with his time. His wealth of knowledge on a huge array of topics enabled him to truly assist the budding scholar and to be an important resource to anyone doing research.

*Dr. Theodoratus was more than an academic mentor to me - he was a good friend - always interested in my pursuits. "Bob" and Kay (I always found it difficult to call him "Bob" - I held him in such high esteem) welcomed us in their home numerous times and visited us in Montreal twice. We shared the latest developments in anthropology, travel stories, personal histories, fiction writing, the trials and joys of raising children and long discussions about food.*

*We will miss him, but we, along with his family, friends and former students, have a wealth of memories to cherish.*

*Our Sincere Condolences,  
Carolyn (Lewis) and Abdellatif Dellah*

BH

“ *What very sad news and great loss to humanity Bob was my mentor, teacher, and friend, who molded me into the person that I am today. I am very grateful to have learned from him, and especially honored to have been his student.*

*As his student, I remember his skillful way of teaching--in his "own language." Once I learned this language, I was able to learn to write and communicate in most any situation! What I remember as a grad student was each morning, I would find a "joke" in my mailbox from him. I wallpapered my office with all of his jokes; and I still have them. And, the many "recommended" books he had me read that gave me the tools to teach, as he did; and now a library at home to match at least a quarter of his basement!*

*Barb Hawthorne*

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**barbara hawthorne** - August 29, 2019 at 04:49 PM

TK

“ Dear Kay and Family of Dr. Bob Theodoratus,

*We were so deeply saddened to hear of Bob's passing. Tim was a graduate student of his at CSU from 1972-1974 and an anthropological colleague for more than four decades. "Theo" was a true scholar and a true friend. In thinking of him, these words from the bible come to mind: "There were giants in the earth in those days. . . ." Bob was such a giant and it was our incredibly great fortune to have known him and learned from him. Our world is less bright for the loss of him.*

*With our sympathy and many "Theo" memories,*

*Tim and Rosalinda Kloberdanz  
Fargo, North Dakota*

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**Tim and Rosi Kloberdanz** - August 28, 2019 at 10:01 AM

LC

“ *Bob was a fine colleague in all respects. His encyclopedic memory, his command of a wide variety of topics, and his wonderful companionship on the "CSU Intellectuals" study-tour of India in 1979-1980 will live not just in my memory but in the memories of his countless colleagues and friends. Our hearts and minds go out to his family. Bob will be missed.*

*Blessings on his family and close friends.*

*Loren Crabtree and Monica Christen*

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**Loren Crabtree** - August 27, 2019 at 12:16 PM

CS

“ We were so sorry to read about Bob. We will miss his encyclopedic knowledge of things interesting and arcane about human beings and different cultures. You always felt he took such delight in his stories and tales. He also was a dedicated worker for Phi Beta Kappa, which instills love of learning. Finally, he was such a decent, kindly, and gentle person, a person who will be missed..

*Charles and Pat Smith*

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**Charles and Pat Smith** - August 26, 2019 at 05:05 PM

GM

“ Dear Family of Dr BobTheodoratus,

*I would like to offer my heart felt condolences for the loss of your loved one.*

*Bob Theodoratis was one of my favorite professors at CSU. I took two anthropology classes from him and later, he served on my orals board when I received my Master of Music degree.*

*He was so excited about his subject that he lit the flame of interest in his students! I was a non-traditional student, returning for degrees after raising children. Dr Theodoratus took time to help me, along with other older students, to feel comfortable in classes full of very young people, offering references for further reading on any topic that might interest us.*

*He often came to concerts that I sang in at the music department and was happy to support me by being on my orals board, asking the best questions of all.*

*I have wonderful memories of this dear man. How fitting that donations in his memory should be sent to the Food Bank! He loved teaching his class on the Anthropology of Food, a great course! I will always remember him for his wit, his intelligence and his sincere interest in his students and friends.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ginger Martin*

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**Ginger Martin** - August 25, 2019 at 06:34 PM

JH

“ Jeanette Harris sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert James Theodoratus



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**Jeanette Harris** - August 25, 2019 at 03:21 PM

DS

“ Professor Theodoratus was one of my favorites at CSU in the 1980's. He was funny, serious, knowledgeable, and thorough in class. As an advisor he was patient and kind. It was a privilege to have known him. He knew absolutely everything about vampires and encouraged my fascination with shamanism. He was wonderful. I wish his family all the happy memories they find through the years.

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**Dee Spaulding** - August 25, 2019 at 01:45 PM

DO

“ I am a neighbor from Dudley Way. I met Bob when I was out walking and he was tending plants in the front yard. Since I love to garden we started a chat that led to a tour of the back yard. Wow! I was so impressed by the plant variety. I especially was stunned by the Scarlet Pimpernel, as I had looked for it in nurseries and never could find it.

*I never met his wife, Kay. May her heart heal.*

*If I see folks at the house again I'll stop and chat.*

*A kind and lovely soul will be missed.*

*Donna*

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**Donna** - August 25, 2019 at 01:01 PM