



David Allan Shuler

December 27, 1956 - October 28, 2017

Our loving husband, father, and grandfather passed away peacefully at his home following a short, but valiant, battle with cancer.

Dave was born on December 27, 1956, to Sterling Hal and Carolyn Davis Shuler in Provo, Utah. Dave was the fourth of six children and grew up in a loving home on the “Goosenest Ranch” in what is now the city of Elk Ridge, Utah. Dave would often reflect on his many fond memories of growing up on the farm and treasured his simple farm roots. As a lifelong member of the LDS church Dave served a mission to the Milan, Italy Mission. Upon returning home he met and married Terri Hamilton on May 25, 1979. Together they had five children. They later divorced. On Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2016, he married Ashley Barker Tolman.

Dave graduated from BYU with a degree in Earth Science and a master’s degree in Anthropology. Dave’s passion for serving others extended into his life’s vocation. Upon graduating from BYU he worked for the Church Educational System where he taught seminary and institute. Dave taught in Princeton, New Jersey, for over three years before going on to establish the CES program in India. After leaving CES, Dave went to work for BYU supervising students as they prepared for international internships and field studies. Through his programs he has touched the lives of thousands of people throughout the world. Dave truly loved teaching and mentoring

students. Even after being diagnosed with his illness, and as recently as three weeks ago, Dave was still attempting to teach his new “happiness course” to inmates at the Utah State Prison through Salt Lake Community College. As a lifelong student himself, Dave continually sought knowledge and understanding. He loved learning about other cultures and has traveled extensively throughout the world on his quest to better understand his fellow man.

Dave is survived by his loving wife Ashley Shuler of Salt Lake City, his children Joseph (AmberLee) Shuler, Jacob (Cassandra) Shuler, Joelle (Brandon) Rasmussen, Jessica Shuler (Clay Olsen), and Julia Shuler; his siblings Karl (Sharon) Shuler, Wendy (Lee) Pope, Jay (Kate) Shuler, Brad (Melissa) Shuler, and Sarah Shuler; seven grandchildren Deryck, Jaivri, Alyssia, Brianna, Kyla, Lucas and Nora. Dave was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services will be held Friday, November 3, 2017, at 11:00 AM at the LDS chapel at 951 E 100 S in Salt Lake City. Family and friends may call Thursday, November 2 at the chapel from 6 PM to 8 PM or Friday from 9:30-10:30 prior to the service at the chapel.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to the doctors and staff at the Huntsman Cancer Institute. In lieu of flowers the family has asked that a donation be made to an international NGO / charity in Dave’s name.

“I don’t die...He who is merged with the omnipresent is never gone” ~ Guru Nanak

Tribute Wall



“ *David Allan Shuler*

October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *My name is Pilar Runyan. He probably won't remember me if he saw me in the street. But I will never forget him. I met David one afternoon at byu. He was my daughter Laura teacher. My daughter invited me to come to her class because I was visiting from Arizona. When I enter the room immediately he got up and served a glass of milk and popcorn. He was showing the student "the mission" movie. But what I will never forget is what he did for me and my daughter. When she decides to go to India for the last study abroad group going to India, I was so nervous. Laura was just diagnosed with auto immune deficiency. After she left I was so worry and I e mail him a strong e mail about safety etc. I was not very patient, but his answer was so calm and full of optimism and faith. He called instead of writing to make sure a worry mother was feeling peace about her daughter in India. India became my daughter most changing and blessed experience. He truly changed her life and mine that day. I will never forget his kindness.*

pilar runyan - November 03, 2017 at 07:09 PM



“ *I remember Dave as such a warm person, whose life experiences seemed only to make him stronger. He seemed at ease with himself and others. His sudden departure leaves an unfinished sentence.*
~Uncle Eddie

edward savage - November 02, 2017 at 05:40 PM

LS

“ *Dave was one of the few men who seemed truly interested in others and actually listened to what they had to say!
It was obvious just looking at Dave and Ashley how happy and contented they were together.
Much love and many prayers,
Auntie Linda*

linda savage - November 02, 2017 at 05:32 PM

LS

“ *The last time I saw and spoke with Dave was when we both worked at the Kennedy Center. He came by the Travel office and stopped by my office to say "hi" to me. Dave told me he was at his lowest point and found that so odd because he was researching "happiness." He soon left the university, and after a number of years, his death is the next thing I learned of him. He was far too young, but I have no doubt he has much to do in his new environs. Dave was an inspiration in his sincere interest in and support of students. My heart goes out to his loved ones who will miss him so intensely.*

Lee Simons

Lee Simons - November 02, 2017 at 03:17 PM

HI

“ Dave was one of my professors at BYU. He taught part of the cultural preparation class I was in while getting ready to go to Romania. I remember a time in which each group of students was supposed to make a presentation about some cultural aspect of the country we were going to. We chose to do a folk dance. It was a hot mess, and even that hot mess was really hard to do! But Dave joined us, and got all the other students in the class on their feet as well. He transformed it from 10 girls making idiots of themselves to a group of people laughing and having fun. Coming together. My condolences to his wife and family. He was a remarkable man.

Heather Ipson - November 02, 2017 at 10:49 AM

EL

“ Ashley, our deepest condolences for your tragic loss. I never met Dave but he sounds like an amazing individual! How heartbreaking to have had your time together cut so short. Please know you are in our hearts and prayers.
Elena Clark family

Elena - November 01, 2017 at 11:33 PM

JW

“ My favorite thing about Dave was that he rarely doubted or discouraged others. He built students up to try and stand on their own to feet—somehow he knew we would learn more that way. Deep condolences to Ashley and the rest of the family.

Jared W - November 01, 2017 at 08:06 AM

JW

And he taught us how to spell... *two

Jared W - November 01, 2017 at 08:17 AM



“ *The best person best mentor and great human being I ever seen In my life*

Harshdeep Singh - November 01, 2017 at 01:43 AM

CH

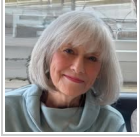
“ *Dave was a few years younger than I was, but the thing I remember most about him, is he always had a smile on this face, just like this photo. I never saw anyone, other than a happy, friendly & loving person. He was an example to me, even being younger than I. I am a better person, for having known Dave. How happy I am, his family will reunite with him again, one day.*

Craig Haskell - October 31, 2017 at 07:00 PM

TS

“ *Dave changed my life. I cannot express all my heart feels for this great soul. Dave is a champion of the underdog, a seeker of teacher bound by the weight and glory of his call. My best memory of Dave was sipping Rooiboos tea in the Kennedy Center while contemplating the true meaning of life. We dove deep into waters of contemplation and experienced a time warp of a surreal and transcendent nature. Many of my major crossroads were connected to pieces of truth that Dave illuminated and corroborated for me. I love you, Dave, and promise to pay forward the good you've shared with me as a noble mentor and authentic friend. With gratitude,*
Tiffany Zenith Ivins Spence

Tiffany Ivins Spence - October 31, 2017 at 06:33 PM



“ Loving thoughts and support to our dear Ashley. We are so sad for your loss and hope you know that we wish we could do something to help ease your sorrow. Please know that we are here for you if there is anything at all that we can do for you. Love to you always,
Wright Family - D. and Doug

D Ann Wright - October 31, 2017 at 04:48 PM

IB

“ Dave was a great teacher. I took his anthropology of religion class earlier this year. He had a wonderful way of bridging people together whether Muslim or Sikh. He started off the semester by saying “no one in this class is going to say that their religion is true and another one is false”. I thought that was very well said. He encouraged us to open our minds and be accepting of other religions. He taught us religious terms in their language of origin so that words would not get lost or loose meaning in their translation. He was sensitive to all other cultures and religions always making sure to accurately represent them to the best of his abilities. I’ve learned so much from his teachings, and I have used what he taught us in almost every class after sacred traditions. The world lost a very good person. We need more people like him. My sincere condolences to the family.

Isabella Michelle Bartok - October 31, 2017 at 03:42 PM

LS

“ I didn't know Dave well, but I was able to spend a little time with him at Dave and Ashley's home for family get-togethers. Dave was always kind and attentive. He loved to show me around the home and garden he and Ashley were creating. Ashley, my heart aches for you. You are always in my prayers. With lots of love, Lisa Shurtliff

Lisa Shurtliff - October 31, 2017 at 03:26 PM

LI

“ *Dave enjoyed food as much as I did! I didn't realize what a terrific cook he was until he made us his signature Italian Ragu sauce! One of the best I ever had and I grew up with Italian food!! I will miss you Dave, not just for the Italian food, but for all you did to make my beautiful daughter happy!! Love, Liliane xxxooo*

P.S. Remember to teach the Pappalardo Family, they don't speak English!!

Liliane - October 31, 2017 at 12:57 PM

LS

*Dave was one of the few men who seemed truly interested in others and actually listened to what they had to say!
It was obvious just looking at Dave and Ashley how happy and contented they were together.*

*Much love,
Auntie Linda*

linda savage - November 01, 2017 at 08:43 PM

ES

I'll always remember Dave as a warm person whose life experiences seemed to only make him stronger.

He seemed so at ease with himself and those around him.

His sudden departure seems to leave a gap.

~Uncle Eddie

edward savage - November 01, 2017 at 08:47 PM

AL

“ We love Dave, we found such joy in his pleasant conversations and gentle smiles. I especially love how happy he made my dear Ashley. He will always be remember and loved in the out home.



Amelia Langford - October 31, 2017 at 12:12 PM



“ I loved the passion and dedication David Shuler took to his work with Field Studies and Internships through the David M. Kennedy Center. He was so committed to his students and serving our global community. Thank you for your counsel and example, Dave. It's heartbreaking to hear of this loss to ocular melanoma. Personally, something that our family also has dealt with.

My sincerest condolences to his family and loved ones.

Lisa Ralph Leake

Lisa Leake - October 31, 2017 at 11:45 AM

AA

*What a great man he was! He was so passionate about fostering international development correctly. I worked with Dave for nine years at the Kennedy Center and I was often trying to figure out ways to make his field work ideas fit into the accounting policies at BYU. He always took the time to involve me in the discussion. I could listen to his stories and philosophising for hours! He just had a great take on the important things of life. He always had important, life-changing work to do. He will be dearly missed.*Allen Arnoldsen

Allen M Arnoldsen - November 01, 2017 at 05:12 PM