



Dr. Elaine Kolker Horwitz

November 19, 1950 - February 16, 2022

Dr. Elaine Kolker Horwitz passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on the evening of February 16th, 2022, after a nearly three-year battle with glioblastoma. She was 71. She has resided in Austin, TX since 1980, where she worked as a Tenured Full Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at The University of Texas at Austin and Director of the Graduate Program in Foreign Language Education.

Born in Washington, D.C., Elaine Kolker grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland. She took an early interest in languages, known in middle school for translating the teacher's instructions to her confused classmates, and, in high school for her high scores in language aptitude and her vast knowledge of current world events. She was a first-generation college student at the University of Maryland, College Park earning a B.A. with high honors in French with a teacher certification. She was eager to get to work as a teacher and taught French, Spanish, and English in nearby public schools in Prince George's County. She met Michael Horwitz at a College Park Hillel event followed by a date at "The Ubiquitous Bagel". This preceded a long-distance courtship while Elaine studied abroad in Aix-en-Provence and then their wedding in Silver Spring on October 17th, 1971. Prompted by her husband's pursuit of a graduate degree, Elaine decided she 'could do that too', and joined Michael at the University of Illinois, completing a Ph.D. in Second Language Learning and Teaching as a Title VII Bilingual Education Fellow.

After living briefly in Las Vegas, NV and then Buffalo, NY, Dr. Horwitz began her career at the University of Texas at Austin. She joined the faculty in 1980, teaching courses and conducting research in foreign language learning and second language acquisition. She pioneered the field of foreign language learning anxiety and created the 'Foreign Language Classroom Anxiety Scale' and the 'Beliefs about Language Learning Inventory'. Her studies have resulted in seven books, 26 book chapters, and over 70 peer-reviewed publications, receiving more than 26,000 academic citations. During her tenure at the University, she supervised over 70 Doctoral dissertations and 60 Master's theses. Her work has been recognized with numerous awards including a Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Education at the University of Illinois and the Region 3 TexTESOLer of the year in 2013. The enduring impact of her teaching also includes mentorship for countless students around the world. Her tenure at the University lasted nearly 40 years until she stepped down from teaching in 2019 following her cancer diagnosis, becoming a Professor Emeritus in 2021. Not only was Elaine's brilliant, beloved life cut short by a malignant brain tumor, but the tumor was located in the brain's 'language area'. Her inability to express herself at her previous laureate-level of language precision has been an immense tragedy.

Outside of teaching and research, Elaine was a passionate professional football fan, having grown up supporting the Washington Redskins with her father, Morris Kolker. They were at RFK stadium in 1966 when Washington beat the New York Giants 72-41 in the highest combined score in an NFL game. Her terrestrial interests were complimented by her enjoyment of all things Star Trek, as she had likely seen every episode of the series and read many of the books. A favorite episode was when Data kept winning the casino games in 'Star Trek The Next Generation'. She enjoyed cooking a variety of items ranging from spaghetti sauce, to chicken curry in an apple sauce base, oatmeal cake, to "vaguely Chinese meatballs."

Of all of her roles, the one she would say that she was most proud of was that of mother to Deborah Judith Kolker Horwitz born in 1982 and Jeremy Aaron Kolker Horwitz born in 1989. Deborah resides in Memphis, TN, working as an Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies and a Dermatology Physician Assistant. Jeremy resides in Berkeley, CA, working as a Physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. She was pre-deceased by her husband in 2010 and is survived by her children, brother Allan Kolker, and grandchildren, Meirah Eve Horwitz Goldberg and Isaac Reiss Horwitz Goldberg.

Elaine cared deeply for those that society wasn't always so kind to, and her work allowed her to travel the globe and look out for those that were persecuted or threatened by political or governmental circumstances. We hope that her life and words will continue to live on in all who she has touched.

Funeral services will be held Sunday at 11 am at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. A live stream of the service will appear on the Austin Natural Funerals Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/AustinNaturalFunerals>, shortly before 11 am. A Facebook account is not required in order to watch. If a pop-up window appears asking you to log in click "not now" and the live stream will be available for you to watch. If the "not now" button does not appear, scroll down on the page and it will come up for you to select. There will be an outdoor gathering at Elaine's residence following the service.

Donations in her honor can be directed to the following Organizations:

University of Illinois, College of Education

<http://give.education.illinois.edu> Write 'Elaine Horwitz Fund' in 'Other' field

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Anti-Defamation League

American Civil Liberties Union

Southern Poverty Law Center

Cemetery Details

Austin Memorial Park

2800 Hancock Dr
Austin, TX 78731

Previous Events

Funeral Service

FEB 20. 11:00 AM.

Austin Memorial Park Cemetery

Tribute Wall

AX

“ I wish to pay tribute to the late Professor Elaine Horwitz, whose pioneering work on foreign language anxiety (Horwitz, Horwitz, & Cope, 1986) has profoundly shaped the field of language education. Her development of the Foreign Language Classroom Anxiety Scale (FLCAS) remains a landmark contribution, guiding generations of scholars in understanding the affective dimensions of language learning. In my current doctoral research, I have chosen to adapt the FLCAS to this new linguistic and cultural context. By doing so, I aim to carry forward Professor Horwitz’s legacy, ensuring that her insights continue to illuminate how learners experience and navigate language anxiety in diverse educational settings. Her work endures as both an inspiration and a foundation for my study, and I undertake this research with gratitude and respect for her lasting impact.

ANITHA XAVIOR - September 06, 2025 at 10:23 AM

FR

“ I am a user of Wikipedia.it and .en who just published an article about Foreign Language Anxiety (FLA) on Wikipedia.it. Of course it's free, so that everybody here in Italy will be able to use it and learn from it. I quoted Horwitz's works about FLA and I found her FLA Scale extremely useful (I really want to use it with my FL students). I owe a lot to her research.

Francesco - December 27, 2024 at 06:14 AM

SP

“ I often think of Dr. Horwitz and I hear her voice telling me how to properly pronounce various French words. I was privileged to be a student of her during her brief time at Buffalo State College and I went on to be a French and Spanish teacher. She was an excellent, inspiring teacher who introduced me to the Chanson de Roland which, oddly enough, became one of my favorite pieces of literature!

Sherri Piazza - November 26, 2024 at 10:20 AM

LP

“ Something in a book I am reading triggered a memory of Dr Horowitz and I typed her name (not for the first time mind you) into the internet search bar. I am saddened to see her obituary top the list of hits. While it appears her time in Buffalo was a mere blip in her notable life, it was my good fortune to have passed through there at the same time. Elaine was my student teaching seminar professor at Buff State and an amazing instructor. Her knowledge of and passion for foreign language and learning, and for passing on that torch, along with her compassion for students and her often unorthodox ways of teaching made her an amazing teacher and mentor. I went on to teach French and Spanish for 36 years armed with and leaning on so many lessons she taught me, in particular to be "eclectic" in my approach to teaching (I remember having to look up the word...) taking what worked for me of any particular philosophy or movement at the time and leaving the rest behind. May she rest in peace and may her memory be a blessing to all who knew her. It certainly has been for me.

Liz Brooks Papesca - July 21, 2024 at 04:26 AM

AU

“ Dr. Horwitz-you would be proud. I am directing my first dissertation and have the ability to do so thanks to the guidance you and many others at UT provided. Your support has helped me become a member of your 1% group :-)

Amy Hornby Uribe - February 09, 2024 at 12:09 PM



“ Dr. Elaine Kolker Horwitz

October 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM

LA

“ She was a very gorgeous person. Deep condolences Elaine. She'll be missed.



lasti - August 05, 2022 at 10:23 AM

JF

“ I just learned of Elaine's death from our alumni magazine. We were in the Title VII doctoral program together at U. of I. Elaine was a really smart and very kind classmate. And we shared political commonalities. So sorry to hear this. R.I.P. Elaine.

Joan Friedenberg - July 11, 2022 at 08:36 PM



“ Elaine was an outstanding researcher and a wonderful person. She helped me with my PhD project back in the day. She was an insightful and humane mentor, so generous and kind-hearted. It's hard to believe she's gone. She will be missed.

Pascual Pérez Paredes - February 23, 2022 at 04:26 AM

BP

“ It has been over 30 years since I took classes in Foreign Language Studies. Dr Horwitz was a special teacher to me. Not only did she empathize with her students, but she also was a thoughtful adviser to me and other graduate students. It has been about 14 years since we last talked, but I immediately wished i was back in the graduate program taking a class from her. My condolences to her family.

Bertrand Piboin

Bertrand Piboin - February 22, 2022 at 10:33 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Dr. Elaine Kolker Horwitz.



February 22, 2022 at 09:30 PM

DA

“ Dear Elaine,

You were an example for us all. I will try to follow always...

My condolences to her family. Elaine was wonderful and we were all lucky to know her...

Danyal

Danyal - February 22, 2022 at 04:24 AM

DK

“ It is so hard to say goodbye to a dear friend, and yet that time has come. We have spent many occasions over the years talking, laughing, crying, venting, joking—I will treasure those moments forever. Although we seemed so different in a lot of ways, I think we found in each other a kindred spirit: language lover, interest in teaching and research, travel, Asian food, devotion to family. But most of all, I was delighted to find we shared our love of football (although I didn't have a bookie), a tendency sometimes to not do or say what other people expected, an irreverence for certain people and their beliefs, while also sharing a firm trust and respect for others and their opinions. I remember the honor of being invited to important family events, and how we would talk at length after Mike passed of her memories of life with him. My life has been so much richer with her deep friendship and support, and I am forever grateful to have had her there with me. Deborah and Jeremy, you know she loved you and thought of you all the time, even after you went off to live your own lives. May she rest in peace.

Dale Koike - February 21, 2022 at 09:53 PM

LU

“ I had the honor of knowing Elaine at UT. She was quick witted and always enjoyed talking about her grand children. When Meirah was born she told me to just remember "mira" in Spanish. We loved talking about our grandchildren. I miss Elaine and wish that I would have spent more time with her. Life gets busy and it's easy to forget to visit those special to you. You will always be in my memory Elaine, you are one of a kind, Hugs to you dear friend until we meet again. Lucy



Lucy - February 21, 2022 at 01:43 PM

PE

“ Elaine was an inspiration to her colleagues and students, a terrific mentor, a great friend, and -- above all -- and extraordinary person. The last time I saw her was for a walk in the woods outside Ripton, VT after a wonderful workshop she gave for faculty at Middlebury Language Schools in summer 2018. One of her most amazing human qualities was Elaine's ability to connect to everybody. I once picked Elaine up at the airport. As we were waiting at the carousel for her bag, she pointed to other passengers, nodded over to them, smiled, and said: "Per, do you see this guy with the cap over there. He is a construction worker specializing in HVAC, but his real passion is sailing, and he is building a boat according to historical plans... And this women over there, she is a dentist in DC. She is originally from Denver, but hates skiing, and her daughter is a senior at Vassar..." and so on, same thing about at least four other people in the baggage pickup area. I asked Elaine: "Do you have any supernatural gifts (besides those intellectual that we colleagues are all aware of)?" She said: "Well, probably not, but, you know, I love to talk to people -- and people love to talk to me. This always happens when I am traveling." The fact that she is one of the most accomplished scholar in the field (who has published the most quoted article in the entire history of the *Modern Language Journal*) is certainly one thing, but her genuine in interest in her fellow human beings is really what I will never forget about Elaine. My deep condolences to the family.

Per - February 21, 2022 at 11:49 AM

CM

“ I entered UT Austin the summer of 1990, the greenest of green graduate students, with just a hunch that I wanted to become an ESL instructor. Dr. Horwitz was my Second Language Acquisition professor my first semester in a large classroom filled with K-12 teachers working on their certification. It was my entry into the world of language acquisition, methods, research, and the concept of anxiety in language learning. Anxiety is such a familiar term to us now but was quite novel to me at the time. Watching Dr. Horwitz teach, flowing effortlessly from lecturing into answering any question and interacting with all of us with humor eased me into a new world. After graduating, I came back to Austin in 1994 to work at ESL Services at UT. While only tangentially connected from that point on, Dr. Horwitz continued to positively influence my work through her grad students who came to work with us and kept us up-to-date on the research in the field. We are all connected. My deep condolences to her family and friends.

Christine McCourt - February 21, 2022 at 10:31 AM

MF

“ The Horwitz and Fox families have been friends for almost 40 years —thank you to Congregation Agudas Achim for bringing us together. I was amazed that every time we talked and I asked Elaine how she was doing, she would say “I’m fine—how are you?” I never heard her complain—so positive, even during her illness.
Rest In Peace, Elaine
Take care of each other, Deborah, Jason, Jeremy and Shirelle and of course, the children.
Love,
Mrs. Fox

Marcia Fox - February 20, 2022 at 11:51 PM

JH

“ Many colleagues talked about Dr. Horwitz’s humor style and rare honesty. To me, I miss how she cared about students’ well-beings and agency most. Her mentorship helped me form my teaching philosophy and affected my life in many ways. Thank you for being such a kind and generous mentor to us. You’ll be forever missed.



Jennifer Hsiao - February 20, 2022 at 05:48 PM

JL

“ Elaine and I were professional colleagues and friends for close to ten years before I became her student in the early 1990s. I will always be grateful to her for taking a chance on me--an unorthodox, late-in-life doctoral student with limited time to do my coursework and take my comprehensive exams. I took my first course in second language acquisition research and theory with Elaine, and got her expert guidance on my dissertation, which she co-directed. I am just one of many doctoral students whose professional lives were shaped by her teaching and her scholarship. I extend my deep condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues. May her memory be a blessing.

Judith Liskin-Gasparro - February 20, 2022 at 04:45 PM

SG

“ Elaine was the 1st person I spoke to about pursuing my doctoral studies. She encouraged and inspired me to apply. I also took a class with her as a graduate student. There were students in our class from different countries and I distinctly remember Elaine taking the time to mention to one student how sorry she was for what was happening in their country at the moment. In class, I was impressed by her love for language education and her knowledge of the field. I used her textbook for one of my classes and the last time I connected with her was to let her know I was enjoying her textbook for course I was teaching at my last institution. That same semester (Spring 2019), I finished teaching her course at UT - - it was surreal and an honor. There is no way I was able to fill such large shoes but at the same time part of my own passion for the field of language education was inspired by Elaine. Until next time, Elaine. Adios y salud.

Suzanne Garcia-Mateus - February 20, 2022 at 02:10 PM

AZ

“ My deepest condolences to the family. I worked with Elaine for a few years as her graduate coordinator. I admired how she made FLE a community, a family, something that I have never experienced in any of my other jobs. She was my friend and a mentor and always took the time to say hello. Such a wonderful human being that I was blessed to know.

Alicia Zapata - February 20, 2022 at 01:38 PM

LA

May she rest in Love!

lasti - August 05, 2022 at 10:33 AM

DP

“ Thank you Sarah Whitehead for reminding me that upon her retirement people contributed many memories and good wishes for Elaine, the video is here: <https://www.tribute.co/elaine-horwitz/>

Deb Palmer - February 20, 2022 at 01:25 PM

TD

Thank you so much for sharing this. It's beautiful!

Teresa Dillard - February 20, 2022 at 10:43 PM

MP

“ I am deeply saddened by the news. Dr. Horwitz was a great mentor, a true inspiration, and a caring teacher to me. She has brought many positive changes to her students' lives, and she has opened doors for me to take a new journey as a researcher and a language teacher. Being her graduate advisee for 7 years, I had nothing but great memories. I will never forget her beautiful smiles every time I walked into her office for advice. She tried to help me in every possible way so I could continue my graduate studies. I took the great joy in taking her classes that were always full of laughter. There is no teacher like Dr. Horwitz who was knowledgeable, professional, humorous, compassionate, and caring! She will be greatly missed and loved forever by her students, and her passing will never take away the legacy she left with us. While heaven received another angel, she will live in my heart as a role model forever. My heartfelt condolences go out to her family.

Minjung Park - February 20, 2022 at 01:16 PM

DP

“ I was grateful to be Elaine's colleague at UT for 11 years, and to work with her on many student committees, sit with her in many meetings, and send most of my students to take her courses. Elaine was always generous and kind, whip smart, with a quirky sense of humor. She worked extremely hard, cared deeply about her students, and led an interdisciplinary program, Foreign Language Education, for many years that drew faculty from across the university and gave us countless leaders in the field of second language research and world language education.

First and foremost Elaine was dedicated to her family, especially her children. In my first few years as a tenure track professor at UT, recently married with one and then two small children, I often felt very alone, as there were no other female junior faculty with children in the department. Elaine and I would go out to lunch from time to time. She once looked me straight in the eye and said, "I am the 1%" -- she explained that female full professors with children and intact marriages, just barely exist. "Make sure you prioritize your family, your relationship, and above all be kind to yourself," she would urge me. "If I can make it, so can you." It was a message I needed to hear then, and I will be forever grateful to her.

Deb Palmer, Boulder, CO

Deb Palmer - February 20, 2022 at 01:10 PM

WS

“ I'll join in expressing my gratitude for Elaine's joy, humor, brilliance, and dedication to her students and her field. We all benefited so much from her generosity and all of her gifts. Her contributions to the field of Foreign Language Acquisition are incalculable both as a researcher and as someone who truly cared about her students and fostered relationships across different languages, cultures, and academic fields. No matter who a person was, she treated all of us like human beings who mattered, and she was enthusiastic about our growth and learning. My heartfelt condolences to Jeremy and Deborah, Allan, Meirah, and Isaac. May her memory be a blessing for all of you.

Will Slade - February 20, 2022 at 10:37 AM

XH

“ Elaine was one of the best colleagues I have had at UT Austin. She was my mentor for my promotion. Both of us received our PhD from UIUC and we both loved watching football. We had lunches together on and off campus often. She truly cared about my well-being. She was funny and supportive. I still cannot believe that she is gone. I will miss her forever.

Xiaofen Hamilton - February 20, 2022 at 10:34 AM



“ *I was very saddened to hear about Dr. Horwitz. I was thinking about her and FLE several days before the news and thinking about how we should have another gathering sometime soon.*

I joined FLE in 2011 to complete my study in foreign language education. Dr. Horwitz's second language learning class was very eye-opening and built a solid foundation for me. She also kindly gave me warm advice when I had some issues with my supervisor at that time. Without her, I am not here today as I would be.

I will always remember Dr. Horwitz in my heart. May she rest in peace.



Kana Abe - February 20, 2022 at 10:18 AM

KS

“ *Elaine and I were first cousins, both growing up in Maryland. We were not particularly close as kids, but fortunately we found each other as adults. My work sometimes brought me to Austin, and I'd visit Elaine for a few days each time. We found that we had plenty in common, including the propensity to tell and laugh at each other's stories. Yes, Elaine was funny! When she was well, we tried on cowboy boots and laughed at ourselves. And when she got sick, we still found stories to tell, even if we had heard them before. I loved her story about how she and Mike got together...a classic. I know they are together now.*

karen schirmer - February 20, 2022 at 10:10 AM

EP

“ There are no words to express my gratitude and love for Elaine. If I’ve had any success as an academic, that success started with her. May her memory be eternal.

Eleni Pappamihiel - February 20, 2022 at 09:20 AM

HL

“ Dr. Horwitz has been an inspiration for me since I joined the PhD program in FLE at UT Austin in 2008. Her classes were fun and rewarding and she was always full of witty, funny, and thought-provoking remarks. Everyone around her loved her deeply. She visited UPenn in the summer of 2019 and I took the train to meet her. We ate Sushi for dinner and she loved it. Here is the photo of us after the dinner. On our way to her hotel room, she complemented a guy on his floral shirt in the elevator and everyone laughed very hard. As always, where there is Dr. Horwitz, there is laughter. Dr. Horwitz is will be so missed!



Han Luo - February 20, 2022 at 09:12 AM

MI

“ I am so inspired reading about Elaine's life and these beautiful tributes to her. I only met her briefly, but even in that one night, she offered wise and encouraging counsel to me in the way that others have described here. Her life was rich and meaningful, and it's heartbreaking that it was taken from her so soon and in such a tragic way. The depth of your loss must be profound. I hope you all can find comfort in your loved ones, family, and friends. Sending you all my love.

Mindy - February 20, 2022 at 09:00 AM

RB

“ I first met Elaine Horwitz while I was on a visit to Austin about 6 years ago. This occurred, I seem to recall, at Agudas Achim synagogue. She heard there was a rabbi visiting from London, and figured out that this rabbi was someone she had already heard about through her colleague and friend, Professor Jill Marshall - indeed likewise my friend. On another visit to Austin, in early 2019, it was Jill who told me Elaine was ill - and we went to see her at St David's Hospital. While we were there with her, Elaine asked me to say a prayer - for the sick, for healing and health - either something traditional, or just composed there and then, in Hebrew and English - she wasn't too specific. Though I maybe have little skill doing this sort of thing on the spot, somehow, it happened, the words were there. It was a good and memorable experience for all three of us.

I was next in Austin a year later, January 2020. Jill and I again visited Elaine - this time in her house, such a pleasure to be able to do that - and we went out for a Chinese meal at a restaurant nearby. She seemed well; we had a happy time together; we talked of this and that; we enjoyed our meal. That was two years ago. I have not been in Austin since then. Yet I returned two days ago - and, of course from Jill, I received this sad news.

Our friendship was brief and it was limited. But I am grateful and glad that I was allowed to get to know Elaine and benefit from her acquaintance. May her memory be as a blessing always to those who loved her and knew her.

Rabbi James Baaden

Rabbi James Baaden - February 20, 2022 at 08:37 AM

JL

“ *It was my great pleasure and honor to have Elaine as my teacher at UT. She was thoughtful, caring, and professional. Whenever I needed help with an event, I knew I could always count on Elaine. I will cherish the memories I have of Elaine. It’s hard to forget Elaine. She gave lots of her students so much to remember. She is gone from our sight, but never from our hearts. Rest in peace.*




Juhee Lee - February 20, 2022 at 08:24 AM

MT

“ *Simply put, Dr. Elaine K. Horwitz was one of the finest human beings I have ever known. It was the honor of a lifetime to be her student, colleague, and friend. My heartfelt condolences to her family and friends. Rest In Peace, Elaine.*
-- Michael Tallon

Michael Tallon - February 20, 2022 at 03:17 AM


Christine
Yang

“ *Dr. Horwitz is like a mother of mine and I am deeply saddened by the news. She is not only a mentor but a role model for me. Thank you so much, Dr. Horwitz. You will always live in us and I am sure that you are in a better place now.*

(We took the photo when she traveled to Taiwan for a conference keynote speech in 2004. My senior associates and I took her to Sun Moon Lake on a two-day trip.)



Christine Yang - February 20, 2022 at 02:51 AM

JS

“ *I am deeply saddened by the news but I am sure that she will rest in peace and continue to live in all of us.*

Without her I would not have been where I am today. She was the one who gave me an opportunity for a Ph.D study. She was also the one who made it possible to finish my study when I could not afford it. She showed me what it means a distinguished scholar, caring mentor, and inspiring advisor. She supported me and all of her students even when she was fighting with illness. I remember that I once asked for a recommendation letter without knowing her situation. She could not type a letter but made sure that she talked to the search committee about me via phone. This is what she showed to her students. She endlessly supported and cared about her students even when she was going through difficult times.

I am so grateful for her and she will be deeply missed by all of us who experienced her love, compassion, kindness, and support.

Jayoung Song - February 19, 2022 at 10:08 PM

SP

“ Yes, such a great loss! I first met Elaine when our daughters befriended each other in early grade school. Over the years Deborah spend many sleepovers at our home, or Royale was at the Horwitz's home. The girls friendship has been maintained through all these years and continues to grow, even with them both now married and each with two children. I am so proud of Deborah, her accomplishments, and her young family. My deepest heart felt sympathy to Deborah, Jeremy, the entire Horwitz and Kolker families!

Serene Pence - February 19, 2022 at 09:08 PM

LP

“ It was my absolute pleasure and honor to care and love for her in these last few months. My love her Elaine grew so big and fast. I will always keep her with me. Our small talks, her laughs , and her favorite phrase “it is what it is” oh how I dearly miss mom [Elaine]. Our walks and our time watching her fav shows like jeopardy and Frankie and grace are a couple. I know in my heart she knew how much she meant to me. My beloved stepmom. I love you my strong warrior and I’m for sure you teaching all the angles and doing what you knew best. Love Lucia Perez



Lucia Perez - February 19, 2022 at 08:05 PM

OK

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Orlando Kelm - February 19, 2022 at 07:39 PM

OK

“ Sometimes I wonder If I ever served on a Doctoral dissertation in FLE in which Elaine was also not part of the committee. In life there are some things that always give comfort, confidence, and a personal touch. That's how I felt every time I met with Elaine. Amazing professional and even a sweeter human being. Meus pêsames to all her family to all who mourn with me at this time.

Orlando Kelm - February 19, 2022 at 07:37 PM

DH

“ We must add that Elaine's generosity and deep compassion extended to many family members, including her husband's elderly mother. Elaine made it possible for her mother-in-law to live with dignity, during the last years of her life.

Elaine was a wonderful sister-in-law in so many ways!

Desdra Horwitz and David Lewin

Desdra Horwitz - February 19, 2022 at 06:14 PM

AP

“ My long-term memory of Elaine over several decades is as part of a family of the most special cousins I've ever had. Events that go back six decades to wonderful times in Silver Spring Maryland and include her parents generation, her brother Alan, and now her children's generation and grandchildren. More recently, my wife Judy and I had a wonderful time with her on our trip to Austin about four years ago. And finally, my more recent memory was her phone call to tell me she could not attend my daughters wedding because of her cancer diagnosis. She apologized again and again. Who but Elaine would think to apologize to me when something so terrible was happening to her. That's who she was. Our love and deep sympathy to her family. Love, Art and Judy Prager.

Art Prager - February 19, 2022 at 03:04 PM

“ It is hard to think of enough words to say as I remember Elaine. Without her, I would not have been where I am today. My life has been blessed by her, and has been better thanks to her. She showed me what it means to be a distinguished scholar, an inspiring educator, and a warm, kind, human being with a loving heart and a generous spirit.

She believed in me and gave me an opportunity for a PhD study when others did not, when I was just a name on an application made from Syria, my home country. And from the minute I set foot in Austin, she invested in me, embraced me, made it possible for me to continue my studies when I could not afford graduate studies in the United States.

During the PhD program, it was clear that I was learning from the best. She helped me better understand the second language learner and second language learning. She helped me grow in knowledge and scholarship while simultaneously giving me a reassuring hand, nurturing me with her knowledge and expertise, and enlightening my path with her vision. She gave me so much of her time and energy. She listened to me, supported me with her uplifting smiles and soothing words at the times that I needed them the most, and warmed my heart with her love and concern even during times that were difficult for her.

Her love and support did not stop when I graduated. In fact, they grew deeper. She tirelessly continued to guide me, support me, and mentor me. She read my manuscripts even during busy semester times.

I am so grateful for her, and she will continue to live in all of us who have been inspired by her and made better people by her knowledge, mentorship, kindness, warmth, empathy, compassion, genuineness, strength, and integrity.

JS

I am deeply saddened by the news but I am sure that she will rest in peace and continue to live in all of us.

Without her I would not have been where I am today. She was the one who gave me an opportunity for a Ph.D study. She was also the one who made it possible to finish my study when I could not afford it. She showed me what it means a distinguished scholar, caring mentor, and inspiring advisor. She supported me and all of her students even when she was fighting with illness. I remember that I once asked for a recommendation letter without knowing her situation. She could not type a letter but made sure that she talked to the search committee about me via phone. This is what she showed to her students. She endlessly supported and cared about her students even when she was going through difficult times.

I am so grateful for her and she will be deeply missed by all of us who experienced her love, compassion, kindness, and support.

Jayoung Song - February 19, 2022 at 10:07 PM

MP

“ *I will always remember Elaine for her compassion. After I was accepted into FLE program, I asked to defer for a year because my father died. I got a standard letter which said I could begin the following year. At the bottom, there was a handwritten note of condolences from Dr. Horwitz. It was such a kind gesture, but made me feel like moving from teaching in Arizona to a doc program might not be so bad after all. She also gave confidence to continue. We had a conversation my first semester where I told her I was lost and how was it that I had been a classroom teacher for so long and yet, I did not know anything my ed profs were talking about. She said, "You do know it. You just don't know what to call it." She and Enrique Trueba (que descansa en paz tambien) kept me in grad school that first year.*

Mary Petron - February 19, 2022 at 08:15 AM

MG

“ *Dr. Elaine K. Horwitz was the best supervisor ever. She opened the door of academia for me. She gave birth to my second life. My gratitude to her is endless. I feel so sorry that i did not fully express my thanks to her when she was alive because i thought she would be always with us. I will remember her for the rest of my life.*

Min Gui - February 19, 2022 at 07:41 AM

MA

“ *I was introduced to Elaine at a language conference in Portland a few years ago, and without hesitation she struck up a very long conversation about her research, her teaching career, her family...really, a whole host of things that she didn't seem to mind telling a total stranger. I cannot express how saddened I am that I won't have a chance to have such a long conversation with her again.*

Matt Apple - February 19, 2022 at 06:44 AM

YC

“ *No word can express my sorrow over losing Dr. Elaine K. Horwitz, a beloved mentor and role model in my life. She will be in my heart forever.*

Yuh-show Cheng - February 19, 2022 at 05:38 AM

JD

“ *Elaine was an inspiration to generations of researchers and teachers combining a delightful sense of humour, compassion, professionalism and creativity. She will be missed.*

Jean-Marc Dewaele - February 19, 2022 at 03:07 AM

CM

“ *Dr. Horwitz was my professor in the Foreign Language Education program at UT Austin. She inspired me to pursue a PhD and become a professor. I will always remember her smile and humor, as well as her ability to help her students reach their potential. Thank you, Professor.*

Carlos Martínez-Cano - February 18, 2022 at 09:34 PM



“ *Elaine was a dear friend, a treasured colleague, and so fun and witty. She made such contributions to her field and to our department. What a loss! I will miss her.*

Jo Worthy - February 18, 2022 at 08:17 PM