



Dr Barbara E. Truman

May 2, 1962 - July 17, 2021

Dr. Barbara E. Truman, age 59, passed away peacefully at home on July 17th, 2021 with family by her side, due to Ovarian Cancer.

Barbara Sisson was born May 2, 1962 in Park Ridge, IL and as a child lived in Princeton, Indiana until her family moved to central Florida in 1972. Barbara graduated from Lyman High School in 1980 and married Anthony Truman who enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1982. The couple lived on Guam and at Mountain Home AFB until Barbara returned to central Florida in 1990 to return to college. Barbara was a voracious reader and became a single parent scholar, skipping a year of study through CLEP and earning a HUD Section 8 Operation Bootstrap housing scholarship from Orange County to attend the University of Central Florida in 1992. She was inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society in 1994. At UCF, Barbara became a pioneer of learning technologies who helped create student organizations and was a founding leader of UCF's online learning enterprise where she helped architect instructional and information systems to help UCF grow with quality. In 2001, Barbara's doctoral studies were thwarted when she was diagnosed with stage IV Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, which limited her physical involvement. As a cancer survivor, her research passion for community development and transdisciplinary research led her to become a pioneer into social virtual worlds where she was able to collaborate across distance. In 2013, she completed a doctorate in Computer Science Emerging Media and

in 2019 received the Thinkerer Lifetime Achievement Award from the Virtual Worlds Best Practices in Education Consortium. Barbara was a graduate faculty member in UCF's School of Modeling Simulation and Training and worked at the Institute for Simulation and Training on various projects involving innovative technologies for healthcare, cybersecurity, and the Navy's transformative training initiative.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents Darwin Lee Sisson and Grace Katherine Collins Sisson of Casselberry, FL and sisters Sidna M. Bufkin Stewart of Lumberton, TX and Kathy R. Bufkin Paine of Carmi, IL.

Barbara is survived by her children and grandchildren Jaclyn, Aaron, David, Sarah, Becca, Bethanie, Bella, and Gabrielle Truman of Orlando, FL. Sisters Diane Martini of Casselberry, FL, Patricia Patton of Deltona, FL and Darlene Funk of McKinney, TX.

Celebration of Life services will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, Barbara's desire was for donations to be made to the UCF foundation towards scholarship funds. More information to come on how to give.

Tribute Wall

MI

“ Having to work for Dr. Truman was an amazing experience. She was a great leader that inspired, challenged, and supported her team's. When I had the pleasure of working with her was at CD&WS (yes before they took the ampersand out) she was always pushing boundaries, trying new models, and always researching the best ways to create online learning opportunities for students that were ahead of their time. She built a such a strong foundation for online learning at UCF that it's impact impact has lasted to this day. Her team and people building skills were some of the best I've seen throughout my career. She was one of those people that could see the potential in people and would find the perfect ways to help them grow. She led a very diverse team with grace and tact, always coming up with perfect ways to bring all the great thought leaders together to develop amazing systems and support. She also knew how to deal with Joel with tact and professionalism, helping to build and grow her teams. An inspiration to me throughout my career. Thanks to the positive impact she's had on thousands of people, she will not be forgotten. Barbara, I hope you're throwing your wildest and craziest Halloween parties ever with the people you love. RIP and thank you for your wisdom, help, and support.

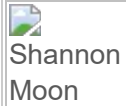
Mike - September 03, 2021 at 11:04 PM

Joyce
Bettencou

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Joyce Bettencourt - August 03, 2021 at 11:41 AM



“ *Barbara was an amazing inspiration to me. When I took a break from the CTU Doctoral program and was considering quitting, her fortitude through the program and her graduation inspired me to keep going. I still remember the last time we got together a couple of years ago at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge for dinner and how we talked late into the night about all kinds of subjects. I was lucky to know Barbara, and wish I could have spent more time with her. An awesome lady!* ”



Shannon Moon - July 23, 2021 at 07:23 PM



“ *Gwen Gwasi lit a candle in memory of Dr Barbara E. Truman* ”



Gwen Gwasi - July 22, 2021 at 01:34 AM



“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album* ”



Toni Scribner - July 22, 2021 at 01:06 AM

TS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Toni Scribner - July 22, 2021 at 01:04 AM

HD

“ *Barbara was a dear colleague. We often moved in the same research circles and I've shared the news of her passing with the more than 11,000 members of the Instructional Designers in Education group in Facebook (at this writing, there are 70 emojis of sadness and comfort and 10 comments) and my own network on LinkedIn (over 1,000 views) and Twitter. Many of us that worked with her in virtual worlds are saddened and feel her loss deeply. Personally, Barbara gave me a gift that I'm not sure if I'll ever understand the true value of: she put me forward in her place as a writer in a book chapter. From that effort, I've been able to dig deeper into my research interests and start using my writing to change the world. She did that. She saw potential in me when I didn't see it. I'll forever be grateful.*

May her family take comfort in the fact that Barbara was well known, loved, and respected in her vocation. For a woman leading in technology in the 1990 - 2020s, this is no small feat.

I love how others are including our virtual names too because our relationships there (in virtual) are equally as real to us as any other relationship.

*Missing her so much,
Heather Dodds (aka hobbs Constantine)*

Heather Dodds - July 21, 2021 at 02:35 PM

DF

“ Barbara was a great lady with vision and drive. Her work made a tremendous impact on education and the use of virtual worlds for training. She always had such a delightful spirit which I will always cherish. I am thankful for the opportunity to meet her at the Game Tech conference in Orlando when I was co-presenting with her close friend Lyr Lobo. May others take inspiration from her work and approach virtual worlds with the same wonder and amazement that she did! We will miss you Barbara! My heart goes out to her family and friends.

Sincerely,

David Fliesen (aka Joey Aboma and SunTzu in virtual)

David Fliesen - July 20, 2021 at 08:21 PM

AT

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Barbara's passing. She was a wonderful person to work with. I very much appreciated my meeting up with her in her lab in Orlando. My condolences to her family and friends at this sad time. Prof.. Austin Tate, Edinburgh University, Scotland..

Austin Tate - July 20, 2021 at 03:22 PM

 Jeff Smoot

“ Wow, this is hard. Barbara was a great person. Even though I had not spoken to her in a while she was always great and helpful to me. She always had a fantastic attitude, always helpful with great direction. She was definitely a subject matter expert in her field. RIH my friend...much Love...Condolences and Blessings to her family...

Jeff Smoot - July 19, 2021 at 10:21 PM

RA

I met Barbie when I was in 3rd grade, she lived behind me growing up. She became my childhood best friend. Her family was my family. My sisters and brother loved her like a sister. We always had the best of times growing up, playing Barbie dolls, learning to put make up on, watching American band stand on Saturdays, camping out in my yard, building a fort, high school being on Drill team together and clubs, being her maid of honor when she got married. So many fun times. I never met anyone like her. She was so beautiful inside and out, so funny, very smart. I will miss her so much. I'm thankful God put her in my life. She was truly my Angel growing up. I love all her sisters, they are all special too. My Brother , sisters and my parents loved her, she was like my sister. Oh, how I love you, Barbie sission Truman, you will forever be a part of me, in my heart and soul forever. The most beautiful smile I have ever seen, just like a Angel. Rest in peace my Dear friend, xoxoxo

Robin Ashby - July 19, 2021 at 11:09 PM



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Lyr Lobo - July 19, 2021 at 08:11 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Virtual Worlds



Lyr Lobo - July 19, 2021 at 08:05 PM



“ SORRY FOR YOUR LOSE .

Terry Hurst - July 19, 2021 at 08:02 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Lyr Lobo - July 19, 2021 at 07:15 PM



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A Community Funeral Home & Sunset Cremations - July 19, 2021 at 01:34 PM