

In Memorium: Philip Yannella

The Temple University Family lost a long-term friend and colleague, Philip Yannella, on March 30, 2017. Phil was a Professor of English, former President of TAUP and former Associate Dean at Ambler. The following is a remembrance by Art Hochner, President of TAUP.

I want to note with sadness the recent death of former TAUP President Phil Yannella, Professor of English in CLA. Phil was very important to our union. He became president in 1983, following the retrenchment crisis of 1982, when Temple put more than 50 tenured faculty on notice that they were being laid off. He served for four years, during which time we changed our Constitution to have the officers directly elected by the membership, threatened a strike in 1984 over stalled contract negotiations, and went on a three-week strike in 1986. After the strike was over, Phil initiated the process of examining whether we should remain affiliated with AAUP. Members voted overwhelmingly to jointly affiliate with AFT in 1987, just after Phil stepped down from the presidency.

Phil was very important to me, as well. We worked very closely together in 1986 after I was first elected to the Executive Committee and volunteered to coordinate strike preparation efforts. After that conflict was over, Phil strongly encouraged me to run for president in the next election, which I did successfully the next year.

Phil was a courageous leader, a talented and eloquent speaker, and someone who inspired a dedicated group of members to work through our union to criticize and correct Temple's skewed priorities for the university, the faculty, and our students. He is fondly remembered by us for those qualities, as he is by others for his scholarship, teaching, service to Temple, and his other activities.

Phil wanted faculty, librarians, and academic professionals to be united in a strong union that fights for our Temple. We honor his memory by continuing his work.

Collegially,
Art Hochner
President

Here is his obituary, published on Philly.com, April 3, 2017:

YANNELLA, PHILIP RICHARD

Beloved partner, adored father and grandfather, admired teacher and colleague, of Philadelphia, passed away on March 30, 2017 at the age of 77. He leaves behind his life partner, Sook Kim; five children, Philip N. Yannella (April Trissel), Amy Yannella Boone (Michael), Casey Maxwell (Scott), Richard Yannella (Maria Korostelev), and Benjamin Yannella; and four grandchildren, Zoe Boone, Oak Boone, Lucy Yannella, and Philip J. Yannella. Dr. Yannella lived a life characterized by passion and love. As a professor of English and American Studies at Temple University, he was both a widely published scholar and recipient of the Great Teacher award. Students and colleagues knew him for his breadth of knowledge, uncompromisingly high standards, and the sense of humor that punctuated his lectures. A devoted outdoorsman, Philip loved fly fishing and felt deeply alive in the wilderness of Vermont, the Finger Lakes, and, most recently, Graystones Preserve, where he would bring his family every summer to fly fish, laugh, and enjoy time together on a porch overlooking the waterfalls. His partner and his family are blessed by a lifetime of great memories and family dinners, and the passion for life that Philip gave to each of them. Family would like to invite others to celebrate Philip's life and legacy at the JOHN F. GIVNISH FUNERAL HOME, 10975 Academy Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19154, on Wednesday April 5, at 9 A.M. A Memorial Service will begin at 10 A.M



Philip Yannella