



Source: Santa Cruz Sentinel

Donald Rothman

September 14, 1945 - November 29, 2012

Resident of Santa Cruz

Don Rothman died peacefully in his sleep at the age of 67. He was a man who inhabited his own life intensely and enriched the lives of everyone who knew him: members of his family, his students, his colleagues and his friends. Don grew up in Brooklyn, was an undergraduate at the [University of Michigan](#), a graduate student at UC Berkeley and a teacher, writer and administrator at UC Santa Cruz. His first job was at Laney College, where his passionate commitment to the teaching of writing began. He joined the Oakes College faculty in 1973 and, in 1977, he established The Central California Writing Project (CCWP), a nationally affiliated literacy education think-tank for kindergarten-university teachers, which he directed for twenty-seven years. At Oakes College and at CCWP, Don demonstrated that the teaching of writing is a personal, social and political activity, which is as central to the practice of democracy as it is to the construction of identity. In his thirty-four years at the university, Don served on many Academic Senate and Oakes College committees and was twice the Acting Provost of Oakes College. He used his retirement in 2007 as an opportunity to extend the scope of his activities and to find new ways of expressing his pleasure in being, seeing, and connecting. He served as a member and Vice-President of the Shakespeare Santa Cruz Advisory Board and was a constant presence on campus, where he advised students and helped them with their writing. He was much sought after as a lecturer and has given memorable speeches in core courses and at graduation ceremonies. Most recently, he has worked passionately with Dreamweavers, an organization that supports undocumented students at UCSC. In these years, he developed his skill as a photographer and brought his passions for writing and photography together in his book, *One Way of Seeing: Photographs and Essays During a Time of Reflection* 2010. Every day, Don walked from his house on Walnut Street to Lulu Carpenter's and back, turning strangers he met into friends. Don's wife,

Diana, was his beloved companion in all the adventures and complexities of his life. His children, Dov and Naomi, his grandchildren Claudia and Paloma, and his daughter-in-law, Anne, were a continual source of interest and delight. The space that he leaves empty is huge but it is tiny compared to all of the spaces that he filled. A memorial will be held at UCSC at a later date. In lieu of flowers, remembrances of Don may be sent to the Dreamer's Fund or Shakespeare Santa Cruz at UCSC University Relations, Attn: Kathy Rouhier, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz Ca. 95064. Make checks payable to UCSC Foundation and note to which fund you are contributing. If you would like to light a candle and share your condolences with Don's family please visit www.pacificgardenschapel.com

Don Rothman

April 01, 2011

Source:

<http://oakes.ucsc.edu/news-events/profiles/fellows-profile-donrothman.html>



Don Rothman joined the Oakes College (then College Seven) faculty in 1973, hired to teach writing and coordinate the writing tutoring program. Both of these quickly became models for the rest of the campus at a time when UCSC was poised (with some prodding) to improve instruction for all students by paying greater attention to the needs of under-represented undergraduates. In 1977 he founded a literacy education think-tank for k-university teachers, The Central California Writing Project (CCWP), which he happily directed for 27 years. Before retiring in 2007 after 34 years of teaching writing and the Oakes Core Course, Don dedicated his work to exploring the

promise of writing to enhance democracy, especially in the area of non-violent persuasion. CCWP summer institutes for teachers held at Oakes brought education activists together to think imaginatively and courageously about how to teach writing to change the world. Many of Don's publications address this subject, including a long interview in Higher Education Exchange published by the Kettering Foundation. He is fond of saying, "We write to avoid the humiliation of silence in the face of cruelty and injustice."

Don served on many Academic Senate and Oakes College committees, including the Committee on Planning and Budget, and was Acting Provost of Oakes twice. He is currently Vice-President of the Shakespeare Santa Cruz Advisory Board.

Since retiring, Don continued to give lectures on campus, speak at college commencements, and teach in the MARC/MBRS Program, helping students to write their personal statements for graduate school. In 2011 he combined his passions for writing and photography, publishing *One Way of Seeing: Photographs and Essays During a Time of Reflection 2010*.

2012 Nov 29

Dear Colleagues,

I am very sorry to tell you that Don Rothman, longtime writing and Oakes instructor, died last night of a heart attack. Regional History was to begin doing an oral history with him on Monday, so we feel his loss very keenly, and this lost opportunity to honor the accomplishments of an extraordinary teacher, writer, and photographer. One of the last things he said the night he died was that he was looking forward to doing his oral history.

There was a beautiful write-up about Don on the Oakes website just a few days ago:

<http://oakes.ucsc.edu/news-events/profiles/fellows-profile-donrothman.html>

Don had a lovely website too:

<http://www.donrothman.com/>

In sadness,

Irene Reti (University Library, Regional History Project)

from Paul Niebanck:

Stan,

...and a beautiful person.

We sang side by side in the Cabrillo community chorus. We sustained "Teacher on a Hill" in our own coupled ways... I knew him as a neighbor, colleague, friend...

Thank you for keeping me in the loop.

Paul