



## Mr. John Thomas Bartle

October 25, 1961 - June 10, 2022

UTICA – John Thomas Bartle, age 60, passed away unexpectedly at home on Friday, June 10, 2022.

John was born in St. Paul, Nebraska, on October 25, 1961, to the late Edward F. “Bud” Bartle and the late Alice M. (Christensen) Bartle. He was raised and educated in St. Paul-area schools, and he was fortunate to study abroad in Denmark during his junior year of high school. John received his BA from Rutgers University and his MA and PhD in Slavic Languages and Literatures from Indiana University.

John’s academic career at Hamilton College began in 1989. He rose to the rank of Associate Professor of German and Russian Languages and Literatures and served many years as the Chair of his department and of English for Speakers of Other Languages. John was a member of the American Council for Teachers of Russian, the American Association for Teachers of Slavic and Eastern European Languages, and the American Council for Teachers of Foreign Languages. He served as the book review editor for the Slavic and East European Journal from 2000 to 2018.

During his tenure at Hamilton, John became interested in the refugee population in Utica, NY. He served as the co-director of Hamilton College’s Refugee Project and worked on the short films “Genesee Lights” and “The Newcomers.”

John was proud to live in Utica and to be an active member of the community. He often volunteered with Olmstead City of Greater Utica, and he served on

the boards of Midtown Utica Community Center, the Utica Public Library, and Dollars for Scholars.

To know John was to love him. His energy, enthusiasm, and curiosity for the things and people who interested him were palpable and memorable. His good humor and giving nature were legend.

John is survived by his wife, Alison Doughtie; his daughter, Emma Bartle; and his son, Mason Bartle, and fiancé, Erica Andriamaherimanana; his sister and brother-in-law, Margaret and Terry Wittler; and his brothers and their partners, Robert and Barbara Bartle, and Eli Bartle and Rick Boehm. John leaves behind many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, aunts, and uncles. He will be remembered by his in-laws, Gavin Doughtie, and Kristina Helwing; and his mother-in-law, Andrea Doughtie.

The family will honor John's life privately. A Memorial Service will be held at a later time. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Midtown Utica Community Center online at <https://www.midtownutica.org>, The Center (formerly Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees) online at <https://www.thecenterutica.org/donate>, the Utica Public Library online at <https://www.uticapubliclibrary.org/>, the American Heart Association online at <https://www.heart.org/donate>, and/or the PAN Foundation online at <https://www.panfoundation.org/donate>.

# Tribute Wall

“ I write in shock and grief over the loss of such a warm, encouraging, and charismatic force for good! At Hamilton, Professor Bartle stoked many students’ interest in foreign languages and cultures. For two years, I was lucky enough to be a pupil in his Russian language courses. Russian language and literature were one facet of his many passions, and his impact went far beyond that realm, even to the students he mentored in these subjects. He was always easy-going, jovial, and great fun to talk with- often animating and emphasizing things with excited gestures and a laugh. In these conversations his passion for helping people, especially in the Utica community, always shone through. A highlight of my Hamilton experience was when Professor Bartle opened his home to our class and invited us for a dinner of homemade borscht, so delicious that it had even the most skeptical students going back for seconds! When the time came for me to study abroad, he was happy for me even though it would disrupt my Russian tutelage. As my professor, perhaps he would have preferred I spend the year abroad in Russia, but personally he could not have been more supportive about my choice to go to Copenhagen. Denmark, you see, held a very special place in his heart and he has happy to share his love for the country and language with me. The few emails and exchanges we had on campus in Danish simply delighted him! He always spoke so fondly of his time there as a high school student and of the lifelong friends he had made. I quickly became similarly enamored of Denmark. It has been 16 years since I first arrived in Copenhagen. After maintaining close contact with my host family and friends and countless visits over the years, I’ve just moved back and started a job at Statens Naturhistoriske Museum. I was looking forward to reconnecting with Professor Bartle once I got settled in, telling him about my new life, exchanging stories, learning when his next visit to Denmark was planned and perhaps hearing that laugh! I regret that it is now too late, but I wish his family and friends to take comfort in hearing what a big impact he had on all of the people he encountered, helped and mentored. He had a gift in being able to effortlessly connect and engage with people. You could feel that he really cared because he genuinely did. His support, mischievous

*smile and infectious enthusiasm will continue to inspire me!*

*Chelsea Graham (Ira) Hamilton '08*

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**Chelsea Graham** - August 29, 2022 at 05:55 AM

AL

“*Professor Bartle is one of my favourite people that I met at Hamilton. I loved how he taught his classes and how he treated students. He shared his passion for Russian studies so generously, and I feel very lucky to have known him and to carry that passion with me today.*



*Thank you, Professor Bartle, for teaching with all the joy and kindness that you did. I only wish I could be thanking you in person and sharing with you all the ways in which your course content brought me happiness even after I left Hamilton's campus. I will never forget an educator like you.*

*Abby Leitschuh, Hamilton '17*

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**A. Leitschuh** - August 26, 2022 at 09:16 PM

RO

“ I just learned of Professor Bartle's passing today -- what tragic news. I enjoyed his 18th Century Russian Lit course "Madness, Murder, and Mayhem" immensely and 25+ years later think often of the works we covered. My favorite memory from that class was the final project I developed with two other students: we stayed up all night planning an "experience" to capture the Madness, etc., which included leading the other students (and John) across campus blindfolded and into a fraternity basement to watch depraved scenes from the books performed under strange lights and and eerie voiceovers. John rolled with it without hesitation (we asked his permission first of course) and even asked me for a copy of the cassette tape we had played with the voiceovers. I always appreciated his encouragement of such a fun experience (for the creators anyway...) and unorthodox exploration of the books/authors he selected. RIP Professor and thank you.

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**Rocky** - August 25, 2022 at 05:40 PM

ME

“ I am better at expressing my emotions through music, so I have written a song titled 'Song for John'



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**Michael Engvold** - July 23, 2022 at 10:35 AM

EB

Your song is very comforting. Thank you. Eli Bartle, John's bother.

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**Eli Bartle** - August 08, 2022 at 03:22 AM

ME

“ Dear John, I'll miss you and your good spirit and company. ❤️

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**Michael Engvold** - July 23, 2022 at 09:32 AM

KI

“ In the summer of 78, a young man started his year as Exchange student attending 1G at Køge Gymnasium. We all immediately “fell in love” with John. His great personality, warmth and wit - and big laugh.

*During that year, we formed a special bond and when John left he had made a big and lasting impression on us all. In the many years after we kept in touch and every 5 years we had a class reunion in Denmark. And the same question came up every time we were to meet - will John be there? And yes, of course John came, and we all met with hugs, smiles and laughter.*

*This year John did not come. We were all in shock when we realised that John had passed away shortly before he was to travel to Denmark for the class reunion. We decided, however, to go on with the reunion and to gather to honor and remember John.*

*We met but the smiles and laughter were silent and the hugs full of sadness.*

*We stood in the summer evening holding hands and had a moment of silence remembering and honoring John. While we were holding hands a blackbird suddenly sang for us.*

*John, we are sure you were there with us in that sad, sad moment.*

*Rest in peace old friend - there will always only be one John in our heart.*

*Love from your friends in 3C*

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kirsten - July 23, 2022 at 09:04 AM

KI

“ *Kæreste John.*

*God rejse - vi ses på den anden side !*

♥ *Kirsten*

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**Kirsten** - July 23, 2022 at 07:30 AM

MA

“ *To Alison, Emma, Mason, and Erica — I first met John when we spent a semester together in Leningrad as incoming Indiana University grad students, and we were good friends during our years here in Bloomington. I left Slavics to become a midwife, and never got out of Indiana, but have such good memories of John’s warmth, his twinkly eyes, and his overwhelming good will towards humanity. It’s not surprising in the least to learn he was drawn into work with refugees. I have somewhere a picture of us together with our friend Sarah Payton in Leningrad — I’ll try to find it —where we had fun times wandering the streets, drinking around the table with our new Russian friends, and almost getting caught on the wrong side of the drawbridges when it was late and we were supposed to be back at the dorm. Back in Bloomington, one time when my husband Jerzy and I came down with terrible cases of influenza, it was John who showed up with soup as we began to recover. I remember his excitement at getting the job at Hamilton. And I love knowing that he went on to have a family, and I trust that all of his beautiful qualities live on in you. I am so, so sorry for your loss; he was a beautiful man. My deepest condolences, Mary Helen Ayres*

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**Mary Helen Ayres** - July 06, 2022 at 04:21 PM

DH

“ I was shocked and sorry to learn about John. John's Russian Language course was the very first class that I attended at Hamilton back in the fall of 2000. At the time I was nervous and unsure of whether I was in the right school, but John's cheerfulness, good humor and excitement for students immediately made me feel at home. Like many others here, I was lucky enough to be invited into his home for homemade borscht and other Russian fare. John was always warm and generous, and you could tell that he really cared about the people around him. I'm so sorry to hear of his loss. I hope that his family can find a measure of peace at this time.

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**David Hartman** - July 06, 2022 at 10:00 AM

BF

“ Dear Alison,

*Yvonne and I were so caught off guard by the news of John's death. We have such warm memories of John, his smile, his laugh, his goofy sense of humor. (Actually "goofy" doesn't quite get there, but Curt already used "zany".) I echo others who said they cannot think of him without a smile coming to my face. I honestly can't recall many individual stories from our time together in the Slavic Department, but I have nothing but the glimpses of him in the halls of Ballantine, in coffee shops, at parties all glow strongly of kindness, gentleness, mischievousness and affection.*

*We haven't seen John or you since we visited you over 15 years ago, but I am sure that he continued to age well, like a good wine. Unlike a good wine I don't see how he could have mellowed any more, as there are few people as chill as John, and I sure hope he didn't mature. That could have dampened his capacity for joy.*

*Not too long ago, either at work or in some social setting, we encountered a Hamilton graduate who knew the famous and beloved Professor Bartle. I don't remember the specifics, but I made a mental note to reach out to John and tell him. I am deeply sorry I did not. A lesson to us all to take the opportunities and reminders the universe gives us to reach out to those whose friendships and memories we cherish, to tell them that we are thinking of them. We will be thinking of you, Mason and Emma in the coming weeks. May you all be embraced by the love of friends and community that you all, and especially John, have fostered over the years. May you continue to find joy in his memory.*

*Bob Flynn & Yvonne Wittmann, Bloomington, IN*

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**Bob Flynn** - July 04, 2022 at 05:36 PM

JK

“ Dear Alison,

*I only saw John a couple of times after he left for his teaching job at Hamilton, but I knew him better when he was a grad student at IU. It was then that I knew you as well. I want to tell you how sorry I am for your loss. John was a person who made you glad to be alive. His laughter and joy of life was infectious and made you want to smile, to love, and to live. Like for many people that knew John, it is a memory of him that continues to make me smile.*

*My best wishes to you and your children, Jerzy Kolodziej*

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**Jerzy Kolodziej** - July 04, 2022 at 01:09 PM

SB

“ John always made me feel like smiling, every time I saw him, from February 1988 until the most recent time a few years ago; even thinking of him makes me smile. His was (is) a warmth few can match.

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**Steve Blackwell** - July 03, 2022 at 01:43 PM

SM

“ I am sad to learn that John Bartle has been lost too soon. I enjoyed participating in 2000 as an interested traveler on a college trip to Moscow, St. Petersburg and regional environs that was organized, managed and presented by John and other faculty colleagues for Hamilton students. John was a colleague I respected. I saw him only rarely on campus, but he was always kind.

*Sue Ann Miller, Professor of Biology Emerita*

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**Sue Ann Miller** - July 01, 2022 at 02:50 PM

GR

“ I was very fortunate to get to know Professor Bartle this year. His immense passion for teaching was one of many things that made his class so enjoyable. The excitement with which he delivered every single one of his lectures was so contagious that as a student you lose track of time and can only wish the class was a bit longer. As I reminisce about our conversations outside of the classroom, I remember him as compassionate, kind-hearted, and understanding. There was never a day when he would not ask me about how my family is doing, and he would always offer support. Similar to his lectures, I wished I knew Professor Bartle longer than I already have. He was not just a remarkable Professor but also a remarkable person. Grisha Hatavets, Hamilton '25

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**Grisha** - June 29, 2022 at 09:51 AM

ML

“ Dear Alison, Mason, and Emma--  
I'm so sorry to hear the news of my dear friend John's passing. I was a housemate of John's in Bloomington, IN, when we were both graduate students in the Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures. John was a constant source of support to me during our graduate student days. He was a cherished friend. I will never forget him.  
Michael Long, Baylor University, Waco, TX

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**Michael Long** - June 28, 2022 at 10:41 PM

PC

“ Dear Alison and children, although I had never met John, reading these condolence notes it is apparent he is a incredibly respected and loved man. I always loved how you and your mom kept our heritage close to heart and it obvious that John did as well. My deepest sympathies go out to you and your entire family. with love,  
Peter

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**Peter chalverus** - June 23, 2022 at 09:42 AM

NW

“ Alison - So very sorry for your loss!



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**Nancy Will** - June 21, 2022 at 09:45 AM



“ I’m still reeling from the news of John’s untimely passing. He was one of my closest friends in graduate school at IU, and one of my housemates at the (in)famous “Oblomovka” (an IU-owned property at 801 E 10th St. in Bloomington that we rented together in the late 80s with a number of other graduate students in Slavic). John was an incredibly warm, kind, thoughtful, loyal, and deeply principled person, a passionate teacher and scholar, with an endearingly zany sense of humor. He touched so many lives in a positive way, and gave back so much to the people of Utica. I am deeply grateful for having known him, and regret that our meetings since graduate school were so few and far between (mostly at the occasional AATSEEL annual meeting). My thoughts go out to Alison, Emma and Mason, and everyone else who knew and loved him.

*In this photo John, Charlie Byrd and I are standing in front of our former digs (“Oblomovka”) during our reunion in Bloomington in February 2015 to celebrate Vadim Liapunov’s 80th birthday.*



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**Curt Woolhiser** - June 20, 2022 at 09:54 PM



Ole  
Ivanoff

“ Dear All. Please receive my sincere condolences. I met John in "Gymnasium" (High school) when he was in Denmark. We had such great conversations about big and small matters. He had such a bright mind and integrity, and he brought laughter and great humor with him.

Once he stayed a couple of days with me and we toured a bit in summer country to see old places again. I'm glad we did see him to our reunions. I will surely miss him as will we all from the class of '84.

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**Ole Ivanoff** - June 20, 2022 at 11:48 AM



SW

“ My sincere condolences to John's whole family. I have such good memories of his Russian classes at Hamilton - Russian is such a challenging language but Professor Bartle managed to break it down into understandable lessons and help even the most novice students. He was the quintessential Hamilton professor - going above and beyond for his students and of course inviting us to his house for an end-of-year dinner. His passion and humor made every lesson a joy. I'm sure he will be truly missed by everyone who knew him.

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**Sarah Winne** - June 20, 2022 at 04:58 AM

AF

“ A smile, a hug, a laugh, a caring word, and innumerable acts of kindness, both large and small, all aimed at making life better for his family, his friends, his students, his colleagues, and all who struggled within and sought to begin anew within his beloved community. John made the world a better place and all of us who were fortunate enough to know him will miss him dearly.

Our condolences,  
Todd and Maureen Franklin

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**A. Todd Franklin** - June 16, 2022 at 10:03 PM

NS

“ As I read these wonderful messages I feel so proud to have called John my friend - since grade school :) We had some of the best times in our small town St. Paul and I will treasure those memories. John was absolutely one of the best humans and I always enjoyed his visits back home. I am so very sorry for your loss. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers. RIP my dear friend John.

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**Nancy Vik Shindle** - June 16, 2022 at 08:28 PM

JP

“ I am gutted to read this news. John was brand new to Hamilton when I had him as my Russian professor...he was so fun and well liked! I remember he had us over to his home for a Russian dinner at the end of the school year. I continued on to graduate school at IU after Hamilton. While I was there, it was evident that his former professors held him in high esteem - no surprise! I recall bumping into him unexpectedly at the IU library at one point, and we enjoyed a friendly conversation, as if no time had passed. It is only now, in retrospect, that I realize how young he was when I had him as a professor, but already so inspiring to his students. Such a loss and far too soon! My deepest condolences go out to his family and extensive network of friends and colleagues.

*Jen Flint Panetta, Hamilton '92*

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**Jen Flint Panetta** - June 16, 2022 at 04:29 PM

AM

“ I am so saddened to hear this news. I only took one class with Professor Bartle, and that was over 25 years ago, but I've never forgotten how interesting he made the class and how kind he was. My condolences to his friends and family. He will be missed on the Hill.

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**Anne Marcoline** - June 16, 2022 at 03:11 PM

TH

“ I'm so shocked and saddened to hear this news about Professor Bartle. I was one of the students who helped him land at Hamilton, so to speak. My senior year, a few of us who were most involved with the Russian department were asked to vet the candidates applying for an open teaching position in the department. We did so over a series of lunches, and John was an easy, instant pick. I still remember how genuine, funny, and interesting he was, such that no one wanted to leave the lunch to go to class. He was our unanimous choice, and I was so glad to see that he was the one hired, and has obviously brought wonderful gifts to Hamilton in these ensuing years. My deep condolences to all who loved him.

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**Tasha Huebner** - June 16, 2022 at 02:34 PM

TE

Such sad news. John's warmth and kindness touched so many of us. Our thoughts are with you, Alison, and your family.

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**Tim Elgren** - June 22, 2022 at 03:14 PM

AE

“ During my time on the Hill I was fortunate enough to take several classes with Professor Bartle. His enthusiasm and passion made every class enjoyable. He was a warm presence and helped to make the Hill feel like home. My deepest condolences to his family and friends. May he Rest In Peace.

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**Amy Elinski** - June 16, 2022 at 01:30 PM

ER

“ Professor Bartle was a wonderful and supportive mentor to me during my time at Hamilton. His warmth, kindness, and passion were one of a kind. I will never forget him and the immense influence he had on my life. Sending my love to the family--campus will not be the same without him.

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**Evan Robinson** - June 16, 2022 at 01:03 PM

AN

“ I only had the pleasure of taking one class with Professor Bartle, but he was one of the kindest, most engaging professors I've ever had. The ways in which he impacted his students and his community are immeasurable. He will be greatly missed.

Anna - June 16, 2022 at 12:56 PM

AM

“ An immense loss to the community, a warm embrace to the whole family.



Amour - June 16, 2022 at 12:47 PM

JI

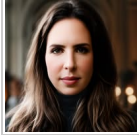
“ I am so very sorry to hear of your loss. John was always so utterly kind and genuine. It's so hard to lose someone suddenly (my father died suddenly last fall). You all will be in my thoughts.

Jenny Irons - June 16, 2022 at 10:33 AM

KH

“ Although I only had Professor Bartle for one year of Russian at Hamilton, his class was by far one of my favorites and most memorable. He was a character, a force, and had an unmatched charisma that I still carry with me today as I teach my own high school Spanish classes. He will always be remembered. Sending love to his family during this tough time.

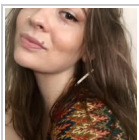
Katya Hottenstein - June 15, 2022 at 09:43 PM



“ It is so hard to believe that John is no longer with us. I remember being so nervous the first time I was going to meet the East Coast family, however, I did not have an opportunity to stay nervous for long. John Bartle, (lovingly referred to by his family as John Bartle) sat next to me at the first family dinner of the weekend and proceeded to ask me a series of disarming and unrelenting questions, John Bartle used my own trick against me! During the COVID lockdown-prompted Zoom family happy hours (of which there were many), I was amused by John Bartle's inability to sit still and his transitions from various screens--starting on his own and then suddenly appearing in the living room with his family only to reappear in a different room moments later. The enthusiasm he had for building a campfire remains unparalleled, he seemed so fully engaged with every aspect of life. I think, however, the thing that I will miss most is observing how he interacted with his children. John Bartle was so proud of Mason and Emma, the earnest way he would ask them about their interests and desires for the future gave the impression that watching his children grow into their own was his greatest source of joy. John Bartle, you will be profoundly missed by all of us who were lucky enough to know you.

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**Kristina Helwing** - June 15, 2022 at 07:29 PM



“ Professor Bartle was my academic advisor during the beginning of my undergraduate career at Hamilton College. We shared a love for Russian language and culture which he encouraged me to explore. His classes were among some of my favorites I ever took. He was deeply funny, kind, and brilliant. I was moved by his devotion to his Utica community and the refugees that make the area so special. He'll be missed and is currently being remembered fondly by his former students at Hamilton.

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**Maggie Whalen** - June 15, 2022 at 05:22 PM

BG

“ Carl and I are so very sad to hear about John. We loved our fellow Utican - his passion for Utica and its people, his wonderful laugh, his way of reaching friends and students, his traditional t-shirt garb, his zest for life. And we are sending our heartfelt condolences to Alison, Mason and Emma, whom he loved and was so proud of. A huge loss for us all.

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**Barbara Gold** - June 15, 2022 at 05:19 PM

DP

“ I was very sad to hear the news of John's unexpected death. He was so young and vital!  
John was a wonderful, delightful colleague with a style and élan all his own. He brought so much that was special to Hamilton and to his students. And his energy overflowed into his adopted home of Utica. As a fellow Utican, I was always so impressed by his unfailing belief in the City and its enormous potential -- and even more by his willingness to get really involved to help make that potential a reality. What a wonderful legacy he leaves for so many!

*Deborah Pokinski*

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**Deborah Pokinski** - June 15, 2022 at 03:07 PM

CM

“ Although I never met John in person, I knew him through his work at SEEJ and considered him a very warm and kind colleague in Slavic. I recently had occasion to exchange emails with him and was reminded of his wonderfulness. His passing is a great loss. I extend my deep condolences to his family and close friends.

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**Colleen McQuillen** - June 15, 2022 at 12:35 PM

MR

“ *The last few times I met up with John involved memorial services or jubilee celebrations for our teachers, which he invariably helped organize. He has joined them far too early. He should have had many more years enjoying his wonderful family. Alison, Mason, Emma--we're thinking of you.*

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**Michael, Elizabeth & Rachael** - June 15, 2022 at 10:33 AM

MF

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Michael Finke** - June 15, 2022 at 08:54 AM

AD

“ *Very sorry. John was one of our best students at Indiana and throughout his career he was always a warm colleague and friend. Like so many others, I was often the beneficiary of his thoughtful and helpful editing of SEEJ reviews. He will be greatly missed in the field, and in his community, where he has done so much.*

*Andrew Durkin*

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**Andrew Durkin** - June 15, 2022 at 08:47 AM



“ We are so fortunate to have met John. Last year, we had a great with the Bartle family at the lake house. We are heartbroken to see John leaving us so soon, his memory and kindness will always be remembered. So sorry Alison, Emma and Mason. Rigel, Carina, Tony and Tiana Solis (Erica's aunt).



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**Mbola Voninavoko** - June 14, 2022 at 09:40 PM

TL

“ Prof. Bartle always made a fellow Midwesterner feel at home at Hamilton. With his Utica Club t-shirt, warm smile, and hearty laugh, he made learning Russian fun for our small class of friends. I will cherish the memories of swapping stories with him around a table of home-cooked Russian dishes, grabbing a drink with him at local establishments, and his enthusiasm for blue collar living.

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**Truman Landowski** - June 14, 2022 at 06:42 PM

MJ

“ He was one of my favorite people—not just at Hamilton, but of all time. I’m so sad. Alison, Mason, Emma: words are inadequate I know. But they are all I can offer. I’ll be thinking of you all. I can’t really believe it. Hugs to you all  
Marianne Janack

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**marianne janack** - June 14, 2022 at 05:21 PM

VB

“ John was my best student in a senior literature class at St. Paul. It was my first year back to teaching after staying home with my kids until they entered junior high. John was insightful, asked great questions, and made teaching a joy. We found the answers to lots of questions together. I have many fond memories of John and am sad that he is gone. My condolences to the family. Vicky Breiner

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**Vicky Breiner** - June 14, 2022 at 04:47 PM

TS

“ I loved collaborating with John on both book reviews for SEEJ and a regional Russian language olympiada in which both Hamilton and UAAlbany were participating institutions. He was incredibly generous, patient, collegial, attentive, and sensitive. I just scrolled through my email correspondence with him and was reminded of all these qualities, especially the great tact with which he approached book reviewing in particular. Reviews should be discriminating and analytical, they should demonstrate critical thinking in order to be useful to the field, but they should not inflict needless bruises on your colleagues. He asked me to reconsider one formulation in a very difficult review of mine along these very lines, and he was totally right about that. I was looking forward to finally sending him a very late review that I owed him. He had granted me extension after extension during a health crisis in my family. "No worries on the review. Hang onto the volume, and let's see how things go over the coming months." I view his untimely departure as a great blow to both Hamilton and our field. My sincerest condolences to John's family, friends, and colleagues. --Tim Sergay, tsergay@albany.edu

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**Tim Sergay** - June 14, 2022 at 04:28 PM

BS

“ I was fortunate enough to know Professor Bartle during my four years at Hamilton. Professor Bartle was my thesis advisor, and we kept in touch over the years after I graduated. He was a mentor to me, and a role model. Although he taught me Russian, we often spoke Danish together on campus and after, through emails. He wrote me a lovely letter of recommendation so I could continue my education in Denmark. I travelled from Copenhagen to go to reunion this past weekend and was supposed to have coffee with him on Friday. I was so much looking forward to catching up in person, for the first time since graduation - 6 years. I enjoyed following updates about his life and family, Alison, Mason, and Emma. I was looking forward to sharing updates of my own, too. Professor Bartle was more than a Professor. He cared about his students and the community. I remember when he invited all of the students from the Russian department to his house in Utica my freshman year for a Christmas celebration, Russian-style. He introduced me to Project SHINE, volunteering at the refugee center in Utica during my time at Hamilton. When I was going through a rough patch with stress, he was one of the few people who noticed and offered support. He cared where it mattered and laughed at the rest. He was always such a bubbly and lively person. Truly so full of life. So easy to talk to. That is how I'll always remember him. I wish I had the chance to talk with him one last time. My heart goes out to Alison, Emma, Mason, and all of the many communities Professor Bartle was a part of. He will be deeply missed.

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**Bella Schoning** - June 14, 2022 at 02:02 PM

DC

“ Oh my, I'm so sorry to hear about John -- such a wonderful guy, so thoughtful, so consistently kind and warm, and such a wonderful teacher and addition to the Hamilton College community. Oh, no.... He will be deeply missed. A life well lived. Dan Chambliss

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**Dan Chambliss** - June 14, 2022 at 01:51 PM

IM

“ As the Editor of SEEJ 2013-2018, I was fortunate enough to have Dr. John Bartle as the journal's Review Editor. It was wonderful to work together with John -- he had collected a unique "database," i.e., all the professional contacts he had developed and friends he had made thanks to his warm personality and professional merits. He always wanted to and did find the right reviewer for the right book and the review section of the journal was always highly informative and exciting to read. We met once personally at a conference lunch and John told Associate Editor Dr. Helen Halva and me on that occasion that he wanted to engage more deeply in the Refugee Project he was already involved in. I am glad he had some years to realize his deep commitment to this cause and will also always be grateful for his outstanding contribution to *The Slavic and East European Journal*. Spasibo, kollega!  
With deep sympathy for your and your family's loss!  
Irene Masing-Delic, former Editor of SEEJ

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Irene Masing-Delic - June 14, 2022 at 01:13 PM

PW

“ Many memories of Bud. The only guy I knew who could break an aluminum bat.

*Until Valhalla my friend...*

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Phil Wojtalewicz - June 14, 2022 at 11:25 AM

KS

“ Dear Alison, Mason and Emma  
I am so so sorry for your loss. I was deeply  
blessed to have known John. Watching the  
children grow into amazing young adults.  
Alison..... John was such a kind man. I  
remember all the times he and my dad (MR. Tom) would talk in the  
hallway of Jr. Junction. Again sending my deepest sympathy to you  
and Mason and Emma.



*Kristin Sittig*

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**Kristin Sittig** - June 14, 2022 at 09:34 AM

BR

“ Thank you Professor Bartle for letting me help you work on your  
project. It was during that time that I got to get to know you and just  
how committed you were to your work. You were a wonderful  
professor and friend. My sincerest condolences to the family.

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**Baillie Riggs** - June 14, 2022 at 09:11 AM



“ Thank you for everything, professor Bartle.

*The funny stories about Hamilton College in the 90s.  
The Russian snacks you bought for our "cultural day"  
Your baggy and funny T-shirts.  
Your loud and passionate greetings in Russian.  
The moments that you laughed  
The moments that you pondered  
Your thought-provoking questions  
Your never-ending passion.*

*I feel very fortunate to take your Russian literature class and get to know you not just as a professor but also a wonderful human being.  
Love*

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**Allen Cao** - June 14, 2022 at 08:43 AM

FB

“To know John was to love him.”

*In 2013, John and his colleague Edith Toegel invited me to help out in Hamilton's German department. I did so for four semesters, ending*

*in 2016. From our first meeting at Domenicos there developed a chemistry which grew over time. I enjoyed chatting with him in his office. For a Hamilton professor, he did some unconventional things, chief among which was his not just talking about Utica's problems from a safe suburban distance but actually living in Utica, on James Street at the edge of Cornhill, and working to improve life in the city. I was elated when he joined the board of the Eugene Paul Nassar Ethnic Heritage Studies Center at Utica College.*

*There is a further bond, which may seem incidental but is meaningful*

*to me: he was born when I was spending the first semester of my Fulbright year from Germany at Hamilton. John touched my life for only*

*a few years, but I feel blessed having known him. My heart goes out to his family.*

*Frank Bergmann, Walter D. Edmonds Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English and German, Utica College*

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**Frank Bergmann** - June 13, 2022 at 11:14 PM

KK

*While I never worked directly with John, his kindness and energy shown through our many encounters. I never saw him on campus without his tee shirt and smile ! I know that students absolutely adored him . Our campus is a diminished place without him .*

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**Katharine Kuharic** - June 14, 2022 at 02:28 AM

KP

*As a long-time book review editor, John was conscientious and kind, respecting both the book's writer and its reviewer, and he always looked to bring the best aspects of both in a polished and timely review. Reviews mean a great deal, especially to young professors, and John did a tremendous amount of good to a lot of people for many years. He also had a rare gift for writing friendly emails, even when something he needed for publication was overdue. A man with a fine mind and a good soul.*

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**Kathleen Parthé** - June 14, 2022 at 11:23 AM

KA

“*Professor Bartle was incredibly honest and found time in him to share with every student. He changed my relationship with my language, and as a result with my family, just by finding me and asking me if I wanted to join the Russian Studies Department as a TA. I spoke with him as frequently as I could after February 24th through his initiative, and he always listened and worked in tandem. He's terrific, and I know that's no secret. Thank you to his family for arranging this digital memorial to him—it's been really lovely to learn just how deeply he's affected other people, too.*

*Катя*

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**Катя** - June 13, 2022 at 10:49 PM

BR

“ Dear Alison, Emma, Mason & Erica, and Family,

*Our deepest condolences to the family. John was a very kind, loving and always full of joy and happiness. I can still vividly picture John having conversation in french with my mother. How kind of him to make my mom comfortable by speaking with her in her language. Furthermore, John with no hesitation you welcome us with open heart and big smile. We are so happy to have known you John and we are going to miss you. May You Rest In Peace.*

*Bakoly & Patrick Randrianarivelo and family*

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**Bakoly & Patrick Randrianarivelo** - June 13, 2022 at 06:24 PM

A'

“ *John was my teacher, thesis advisor, mentor and friend. He was a bighearted, wonderful force for good in this world. I'll miss him.*

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**Alex Humphreys (Hamilton '95)** - June 13, 2022 at 06:04 PM

AL

*I remember in class how he'd start by taking out this enormous pocket watch, setting on the desk in front of him put his hands on the desk and then when teaching get so animated, chortling and talking and move his torso all around, all while his hands stayed perfectly still. Which made him look like a muppet.*

*I remember going to the Mohawk Valley Refugee Center with him stopping for food at one of his Utica eatery faves. (He got a meatball sub.)*

*I remember sharing music with him -- i gave him a mix of mid-90s alternative, he gave me one of the Blues, which was pure gold. i was so excited last year when i finally found a digital version of one of the rarer-to-me songs on it (a collab between Miles Davis and John Lee Hooker). I've listened to that album on repeat since hearing the sad sad news.*

*i remember him yelling to me -- Alyosha! Kak dela?! -- every year for, what, 15, 20 years now? as i ran past the spot he cheered from while i ran the Utica Boilermaker. That's going to be a tough mile to run this year. John, you will be missed.*

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**Alex** - June 13, 2022 at 06:19 PM

SA

“ I will always remember Professor Bartle's love and enthusiasm for the Russian culture and language. As a native Czech speaker when I first entered Professor Bartle's Russian 2 class, he was confused as to why I understood most everything he said. He probably thought I already knew the language and was simply trying to get an "easy A" :). When I explained that I spoke another Slavic language, he became interested, asking me about different words, cultural expressions, and foods. He would often mention the Czech language class he took in college. He even greeted me in my native tongue, writing "Ahoj!" or "Dobry den!" in his emails.

*Professor Bartle genuinely cared about his students. Sitting at Russian table, he would always ask me how I was doing. I remember being invited to his house for the "Russian feast." Professor Bartle worked so hard to make everyone feel welcome. I will certainly miss him wandering around CJ during the semester.*

*Спасибо вам за все,*

*Sara*

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**Sara** - June 13, 2022 at 05:41 PM

JE

“ I am sending love to my dear friend Alison and her children. Alison, the world was a better and kinder place with John in it. He will be missed. Jennifer

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**Jennifer** - June 13, 2022 at 03:47 PM

TC

“ Last summer, Sherie and I took a cross-country motor trip from Seattle to Boston. Along the way, we made it a point to visit friends and renew family ties. A most memorable stop was our great time in Utica, NY.

We were able to enjoy time with John and meet Allison and Mason for the first time. John insisted on taking us on one of his unique guided tours of the city and neighborhoods. Along with sites of Utica, we learned of a lifetime of community activism that John and his family have done.

We were humbled by the contributions and advancements the Bartels had made to the immigrant community. John was a loving and caring individual, the kind that we so badly need in these turbulent and trying times. The Bartle family has experienced a great loss far too soon; I've lost a wonderful cousin and the community a leader and guiding light.

God Bless you John Thomas Bartle for everything - you always be missed.

Sincerely Cousin, Tom Crha & Sherie Crha



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**TOM CRHA** - June 13, 2022 at 02:40 PM

AC

To the Bartle Family,

*Although I never had the pleasure of meeting John, the stories of him and his love for Utica traveled back to me through my parents Tom and Sherie Crha. His mother, Alice Bartle or "Great Aunt Alice" to me is my name-sake. It sounds like specialness runs in the family. Know that John's legacy extends out to those he never physically met. Thinking of you during this time, John will be missed.*

Allison Crha

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Allison Crha - June 14, 2022 at 09:23 AM

DH

“ In 1999, I was new to central New York, new to Hamilton College and new to a private liberal arts college, in general. I would go out of the building where I worked every day and see this guy standing outside on a smoke break. He always had on a t shirt and jeans, so I wasn't sure what he did at the college (the ambiguity was something, I found out later, he gleefully enjoyed). One day I said hi and we got to talking about the Ramones and thus a raucous, laughing friendship began. His love and enthusiasm for everything was contagious, his support and encouragement of everyone admirable. But his deep love for his wife and kids stood above all. Alison, Mason, and Emma - I'm so so sorry. Sending you all much love.

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Dana Hubbard - June 13, 2022 at 02:28 PM

DA

“ Mr. Bartle was a light in the community. He will be dearly missed and his memory will be a legacy at MUCC.

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dah - June 13, 2022 at 02:24 PM



“ *My condolences to the family. I was one of John's students during his early years at Hamilton and he was easily one of my favorite professors. A great instructor and all around nice guy. His passing is a shock and a great loss to the Hamilton community.*

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**Doug Fillmore** - June 13, 2022 at 02:12 PM

JS

“ *Sending wishes for peace to John's family. I worked with John at Hamilton College for many years. We collaborated on The Refugee Project through DHI. I am so very sorry. John will be missed. The good he did in this world continues.*

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**Janet Oppedisano (formerly Simons)** - June 13, 2022 at 02:07 PM

JS

“ *I met John many years ago playing lunchtime basketball at Hamilton. He was such a friendly guy and he was interested in learning about me, and telling me a little about himself. After I stopped playing basketball I would bump into him at one college event or another. He was always genuinely happy to see me, and we would chat for a few minutes before going our separate ways. The world has lost a wonderful person. My deepest condolences go out to his family.*

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**Jim Schreve** - June 13, 2022 at 01:38 PM

AL

“ John had a big heart and touched lives of very many people. Will always remember him as a dear friend.



Alexander Likholyot - June 13, 2022 at 12:58 PM

AW

“ I was in Professor Bartle's Russian language class at Hamilton and he was easily one of the best teachers I've ever had. I hadn't considered myself great at learning languages in high school, so I never expected to love a language class as much as I loved his. Professor Bartle brought this incredible energy and enthusiasm to teaching Russian and it rubbed off on his students. I genuinely looked forward to class each day we had it. I enjoyed each class so much that the period would fly by and I would hardly believe it was over. You could tell Professor Bartle really cared about us and wanted to help us learn and reach our goals. Near the end of the semester, he asked us what we wanted to get out of learning Russian and talked to us about how he could help us achieve this. I'm sad I won't be able to continue learning with him, but I'm grateful to have been able to take his class. I'll miss him and I want to give my deepest condolences to his family.



Alex (Sasha) Wong - June 13, 2022 at 12:33 PM

AW

I also wanted to mention that Professor Bartle's care and concern for us students extended beyond the classroom. Once, I gave a reading on campus and he reached out to ask me how it went. He was always thinking of us and giving us his support.

Alex (Sasha) Wong - June 13, 2022 at 12:40 PM



“ *Irene and I are absolutely devastated, Allison. We loved John. He was a very close friend as well as my housemate back in the early 80s. We used to do everything together. We would play soccer, go to concerts, party and speak French as he was also one of my first French language students at Rutgers. It was nice that I got to meet you, as well as Emma and Mason when you came to visit Rutgers. And it was nice to show my films at Hamilton back in the 90s. I am also glad we got to hang out when he came to Rutgers to give a talk a few years ago. We will make plans to participate in the Memorial Service you will be having. Our hearts go out to you and the kids and we pass on our deepest sympathy and condolences. ❤️❤️*



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**Ag Nigrin** - June 13, 2022 at 11:22 AM

LE

*Allison, Emma, and Mason I am so very sorry. It's such a shock. He was a friend to me immediately meeting him. Working with him in the newcomer program brought so much life and fun to it. He always approached things with kindness, ease, and fun. He helped me when I was worried about my kids, if he saw me awkwardly standing alone in a gathering where I didn't know people, he would come up to me and talk w me and introduce me to others. What always came through was how much he loved you Allison and how much he loved Emma and Mason. My heart and prayers are with you.*

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**Lorraine Eady** - June 13, 2022 at 11:31 AM

EM

*I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet John and share his company from time to time, particularly at the Trivia night get-togethers. He seemed so inquisitive and enthusiastic about everything. I am so very sorry to learn of this untimely loss. My deepest sympathy and condolences go out to those who loved him, at this very difficult time.*

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**Eileen McIntyre** - June 13, 2022 at 12:09 PM

EP

*Hi Allison, Emma, and Mason. I am deeply sorry. John was a great and dearest friend to me and he would always find time to talk. John love helping our community in anyway he could. We volunteer together cleaning up parks and participate together in community events. John is alway delightful and loving. My sincere condolences.*

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**Eh Ka Paw** - June 13, 2022 at 12:16 PM

DM

“ *Our children were his life. Always stopping me in the store to briefly say hello. Never had a bad day to speak of. He loved his wife so. RIP John, go find Bob and sit a spell together for me till We get there too.*

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**Dawn Momanzo** - June 13, 2022 at 11:19 AM

SW

*Dear Alison and John's children: I always enjoyed John's cheerful, warm personality and -- on a serious side--his commitment to developing his students' writing skills. John was a very, very special person who gave so much to the world around him. He truly lives on as a caring role model for all of us. Alison and kids--my deepest condolences.*

*Sharon Williams*

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**Sharon Williams** - June 22, 2022 at 06:29 PM