



## Dr. Thomas Glenn Brown

August 10, 1948 - February 9, 2014

Dr. Thomas Glenn Brown, age 65, went home to be with those who went before him, as he passed away on Sunday, February 9, 2014 in the comfort of his home, surrounded by his devoted family.

Dr. Brown was born in Portsmouth, Virginia on August 10, 1948 to Mary Alice (Rorie) Brown and the late Harold Clifford "Brownie" Brown, Sr. His father was a senior naval officer and he was raised and educated in Norfolk, Virginia, Grand Cane, Louisiana, Hutchinson, Kansas, and Virginia Beach, Virginia. He was graduated from Frank W. Cox High School in Virginia Beach in 1966. He subsequently received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Virginia in 1970, a Master of Arts degree in General Experimental Psychology from Hollins College in 1972, and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Experimental Psychology from the University of Maine at Orono in 1975. He was a member of the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Virginia but was medically discharged from service after he was diagnosed with lymphoma while still an undergraduate. He was also a brother of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and a member of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology.

On January 6, 1979, he married the former Civita Ann Caruso, with whom he shared a union of profound love and mutual commitment for 35 years. They shared their singular and unconditional love with their two daughters, Amy and Megan, whom Thom supported and guided through their own challenges, failures, and successes; never was there a more devoted and proud father

and grandfather. Time with his family and their happiness was his utmost priority. He enjoyed every minute with them, from family dinners to taking his wife and daughters on trips around the world. He had a nightly routine of asking his daughters how their day was and if they got any papers back, questions he continued to ask Megan regularly over dinner, years after she finished school. Thom frequently described himself as “a fortunate man.”

Dr. Brown joined the faculty of Utica College in 1975 as an assistant professor in the psychology department, becoming a full professor in 1984. He served as Chairman of the Division of Behavioral Studies from 1983 to 1988, as Vice-President and Dean of the College from 1988 to 1997 and 1998 to 1999, and as President of the College from 1997 to 1998. In the spring of 1999, he returned to a full-time teaching position as Utica College’s first Distinguished Professor of the College.

Dr. Brown served Utica College with commitment and distinction both as a division chair and as dean, demonstrating exceptional leadership and directing the overhaul of the core curriculum at the college. He was a teacher of uncommon integrity and humility, and was appreciative of the accumulated wisdom of his fellow educators and students. During the course of his career, he authored 35 papers, presentations and grants. His scientific interests included learning and motivation, specifically schedules of reinforcement and their behavioral by-products. His work in higher education centered on faculty development, freshman retention and program review and planning.

He was deeply interested in all facets of history, but particularly the history of rational thought and of the discipline of psychology, twentieth century military history as it related to his father’s naval career, and his family’s genealogical history. At the time of his death, Dr. Brown had recently written a chapter entitled “Schools of Thought: The Influence of Theory” for the forthcoming book, *Pips of Child Life: Early Play Programs in Hospitals*, which was co-edited by his wife Civita and will be published in May. He was a gifted writer who brought his sense of humor to all of his endeavors.

He served on the Board of Trustees for the Utica Zoological Society, the

Board of Directors for the Mohawk Valley Ballet, and the Board of Directors for the Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL), of which he was also president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Dr. Brown was especially proud of his work with RCIL, a civil rights organization offering a wide range of independent living and advocacy services for and with individuals with disabilities. He was also previously a member of the Development Council, the Broadway Theatre League, the Fort Schuyler Club, Munson-Williams Proctor Institute, and the New Hartford Parent-Teacher Association. In 1991, he was named Presidenza Onoraria (Honorary President) of the Centro Studi Casauriensi in Abruzzi, Italy. His hobbies included collecting pins from Hard Rock Cafés around the world; he had visited 83 cafés in 16 countries.

Thom is survived by his wife and life partner, Civita, who was also his colleague at Utica College; his children, Dr. Amy Elizabeth Caruso Brown, a pediatric oncologist, of Denver, Colorado, Megan Glenn Brown, a psychologist, of New Hartford, and Megan's fiancé, Matthew Rocci; his grandson of whom he was in awe, the "Mighty Finn", Finn Thomas Caruso Brown; his mother, Mary Alice, of Virginia Beach, Virginia; and his brother, Harold Clifford Brown, Jr., of Alexandria, Virginia.

Thom was blessed with the love and kinship of his wife's family, whom he truly regarded as his own, including his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Peter and Liz Caruso, and their children, Kelley, Peter III, and Christopher (also his godchild); Peter Jr.'s partner, Stephanie Perry, and their son, Gavin; his nephew and niece, Michael and Gina Killino, and their children, Michael Jr. and Jenalle; and Michael Jr.'s wife, Ginelle, and their children, Landon and Brooke. Also left to remember him are his cousins, Tom and Carolyn Rorie, Ken and Floy Rorie, and Doug and Jeri Rorie, and their families in Texas; Rosemary and Andy Anguish, their children, Andrea and Mark Elsenbeck, Andrew and Tara Anguish, and Jason and Kim Anguish, and their grandchildren, Chloe and Emily Elsenbeck; and Fred and Lucia Frontera, Claren Miserantino, Joann and Mike Motto, John Pietrantuono, Judy and

Olin Roberts, and their families.

Throughout his life, Thom sustained many wonderful and long-lasting relationships, embracing social networking in recent years to reconnect to friends from his childhood and university days and forming new friendships through his popular blog, To Gyre and Gambol ([bluedollarbill.blogspot.com](http://bluedollarbill.blogspot.com)). He was predeceased by his wife's parents, Ida and Peter Caruso; her aunt and uncle, Bea and Bill McAleese; and his sister-in-law, Ann Marie Killino. At the time of Thom's passing, he was aided by the loving support of his brother-in-law, Peter, and future son-in-law, Matthew, who made every attempt to revive him. During his last hospitalizations, Thom and Civita were grateful to Lisa Rocci who "moved mountains" to enable him to return to his home. His family would also like to thank Dr. Michael W. Kelbermann, his cardiologist, whose honesty and sincerity comforted Thom on many occasions, but particularly during a visit just a few days before his death; Dr. James Bramley, his infectious diseases specialist, whose astute clinical reasoning saved Thom's life more than once; and Judith M. Rosinski, his physical therapist, whose kindness and compassion Thom valued for more than 20 years.

Visitation will be held on Friday from 3-6 at the Newman Center located on the campus of Utica College.

Dr. Brown's Memorial Gathering and Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday morning at 9:30 in the Library Concourse at Utica College offered by Rev. Paul Drobin. All are welcome to attend. If entering either from Burrstone Road or Champlin Avenue entrances, signs will be displayed to denote the proper building for services.

The family graciously accepts floral offerings. Memorial donations may be directed to the family to enable them to establish a scholarship fund in Dr. Brown's name. The scholarship will benefit a student at the University of Virginia who, like Dr. Brown, overcomes a serious medical illness during his undergraduate years. Envelopes will be available at the service. Entombment will take place in Christ Our Savior Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery.



# Tribute Wall

JL

“ You will certainly be missed Thom. Thank you for being you. Jackie Trudel-Lane

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jackie trudel lane - February 17, 2014 at 05:41 PM

MB

“ I never met Dr. Brown. I only knew him by following and reading his blog for well over two years. Thom brought joy to my life through his funny, serious, insightful, and captivating posts. He made me smile with the jokes he posted; marvel at the beauty of his poetry; and think about the important issues he raised, especially the subject of disabilities. What I remember most about his posts is that through all the adversity, Thom saw himself as “a most fortunate man.” He was surely a man who saw and embraced the best in life and reveled in its love, its wonder, and its joys. I will miss his inspiration. When I read the post by one of his daughters that he has passed, I felt a loss and had tears in my eyes. Thom touched people he never met. My sincere condolences to Thom’s wife and daughters and the rest of his family. I know you have suffered a great loss. May your faith and good memories bring you strength in the years to come.

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Michael Baum - February 15, 2014 at 03:14 PM

“ While a student at Utica College (1983-88), I met Dr. Brown as I began studying journalism. His interest in how students were faring as we began our 'UC Experience' was evident as he stopped to chat in the halls of Strebel Center and to welcome me to UC. I also grew to know well and admire Dr. Brown during my six-year (1986-92) tenure serving on the Board of Directors at the Resource Center for Independent Living.

As we moved along the same paths at UC and at RCIL, I saw a man whose courage of his convictions shone through every challenge that we encountered in serving people with disabilities and to ensure that RCIL be a steadfast voice within the community for people in need. And he is one of the dozen UC professors who supported my cause to bring safe and easy access for people with disabilities to UC. Rightful changes occurred largely because of the unwavering support and encouragement by Dr. Brown to plod along despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles. The barriers fell! Access achieved.

Dr. Brown harbored that pearl of wisdom which allowed him to innately know that doing nothing during crises of all manner, as well as confront life's inevitable challenges as opposed to looking the other way no matter the result, is no option. His quiet strength provided invaluable decision-making at both RCIL and during his brief interim stint as President of Utica College.

Because I knew Dr. Brown rather well from working alongside him at RCIL, I was elated and not surprised that of all the many worthy candidates being considered to fulfill the leadership role at UC, the Board of Trustees chose him to move the college along until the person with the 'right stuff' could be found to be its new president. Dr. Brown's moral and ethical attributes provided a seamless and successful transition at UC.

To Dr. Brown's wife and daughters and relatives, you are blessed beyond comprehension that such a good and gracious and selfless

*man came your way. His earthly existence is finished, yet he shall live on in spirit with each of you forevermore.*

*Peace,*

*Girard A. Plante  
Newton, MA*

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**Girard A. Plante** - February 15, 2014 at 10:57 AM

FB

“ *My heart and my prayers go out to you Civi for once again having to endure this pain. And to your daughters, Amy and Megan for the loss of a great dad. Thom accomplished a lot in this world. I am glad that you were able to share the 35 years together in love and happiness.*

*With my warmest regards, Fred Bednarczuk*

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**Fred Bednarczuk** - February 15, 2014 at 06:40 AM

EV

“ *Emily Vandemark lit a candle in memory of Dr. Thomas Glenn Brown*



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**Emily Vandemark** - February 14, 2014 at 09:43 PM

BR

“ *My thoughts are with you all. Dr. Brown was a truly memorable professor.*  
*-Brienne Parent*

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**Brienne** - February 14, 2014 at 07:32 PM

KS

“ *Dr. Brown was one of my favorite professors at Utica College. After asking if he had a collection of famous psychologists bobble heads, he decided to bring one of Sigmund Freud in, and in my child-like manner, proceeded to make it bobble and run. He laughed, he always did have a laugh at my child-like manner. I'm going to miss him.*

*I'm so sorry about your loss.*

*Kassie Schaare*

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**Kassie Schaare** - February 14, 2014 at 05:29 PM

GA

“ *Civita,*

*We were so sad to hear of Tom's passing but I'm certain you are aware that he is in a better place and certainly will be watching over you and your family keeping all of you safe.*

*Mary & Gary Mancuso*

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**Gary** - February 14, 2014 at 01:40 PM

GM

“ *It is with great sadness, that I learned of Thom's passing. Please accept my deepest sympathy. Gian Carlo Mangano*

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**Gian Carlo Mangano** - February 14, 2014 at 09:21 AM

PW

“ Dear Civita & family, Jane & I send our deepest condolences to you during your time of sorrow. Thom was always a thoughtful, kind man when ever we or I would run into him at the college. May God give you the peace & strength along with many fond memories to make it through....In Gods love, Jane & Paul Waszkiewicz

paul waszkiewicz - February 14, 2014 at 09:20 AM

LF

“ Dear Civita and family:  
I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Professor Brown. He was a wonderful professor and will be missed by so many. My heart and thoughts go out to you. I send thoughts and prayers that you find peace and healing.

Laurie Fazekas - February 13, 2014 at 01:51 PM

JB

“ Jim And Rhoda Bednar lit a candle in memory of Dr. Thomas Glenn Brown



Jim and Rhoda Bednar - February 13, 2014 at 11:55 AM

JB

To Civita and Families, we are so very sorry to hear about Tom's passing, and with our deepest sympathy, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families. May you all find some peace and comfort in your memories of happier times, and always remember the good times. Thank you for sharing's Tom's distinguished and impressive career and family life. Tom will be missed though never forgotten, May he rest in peace.

Jim, Rhoda, Lisa and Marcus Bednar

Jim and Rhoda Bednar - February 13, 2014 at 11:59 AM

FB

“As one of Thom's associate deans at UC for some years, I came to appreciate his style of leadership. He did not micromanage but trusted those he worked with. Versed in the educational law of the State of NY, he knew how to satisfy Big Brother without compromising his personal or the college's institutional integrity. I do not remember this Virginia Cavalier ever to lose his cool, even when he had reason to be upset. His quiet and thoughtful demeanor was enlivened by a fine sense of humor. He looked for the good in people, and I learned to take his advice to "trust the group."

Given his health problems, he could not have been as successful as he was without the devotion of his wife Civita and his daughters Amy and Megan as well as the support of a wider circle of family, friends, and caregivers. He certainly did not waste his own or other people's time playing bureaucratic games; he saw, he thought, he consulted, he decided. And his word was good; rarely was there need of a paper trail.

*A good man has left us; may the Lord bless him and his family.*

*Frank Bergmann*

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**Frank Bergmann** - February 13, 2014 at 09:37 AM

SS

“Dr. Brown was an incredible professor and showed the same love he gave to his family in the love and devotion he gave to his friends, colleagues, and students. There are no words to show how much he'll be missed. My prayers go out to all members of his family and friends.



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**Sarah Sorge** - February 12, 2014 at 09:16 PM

CA

“ Dear Civita and family,  
My thoughts and prayers to you all. Dr. Brown was an amazing professor. He will be missed.  
Caryn (Faby) Anatriello '01

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Caryn Anatriello - February 12, 2014 at 07:58 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Thomas Glenn Brown.



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February 12, 2014 at 07:31 PM

RF

“ Civita and family, we are so sorry for your loss. We are honored we were able to meet Thom, he was a most gracious man. May you find comfort with the many memories you have with each other and with those who worked with him. May God bless him and your family. The Redmond family



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Redmond Family - February 12, 2014 at 07:16 PM

JM

“ The world has lost a very kind and gentle man. Thom thank you for your many contributions to RCIL and the community we serve. Your many contributions will remain ever present here!

Joann Marshall

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Joann Marshall - February 12, 2014 at 07:23 AM

RA

“ We will miss you Thom. It won't be the same without you, but we will have to get used to it. We are very sad at this time. The Anguishes & Elsenbecks

Rosemary Anguish - February 11, 2014 at 09:21 PM

AG

“ Ann Guidera lit a candle in memory of Dr. Thomas Glenn Brown



Ann Guidera - February 11, 2014 at 07:34 PM

AG

Civita and family,  
So very sorry for your loss - My thoughts and prayers are with you

Ann Guidera - February 11, 2014 at 07:35 PM

SS

“ I graduated from Utica College in '82. Dr Brown was the professor of several classes I took. I always like him, he was a good teacher. I had an early morning summer class with him one year and was so afraid of falling asleep in class but Dr Brown kept the class lively and interesting. My sympathies to his family and friends. He will be missed...Sue Beaudoin Schober

Sue Beaudoin Schober - February 11, 2014 at 06:58 PM

JR

“ I was privileged to know Thom for only a few years at UC, coming in 2006. But what a great friend and inspiration he was to me! A true gentleman and scholar who would personify his daily life at UC with a photo each day of a tree...greatness in a humble symbol. That was Thom.

John Rowe - February 11, 2014 at 06:14 PM

JF

“ Civita and family,  
You are in our thoughts and prayers. We are remembering Thom as a dedicated and distinguished educator who shared the knowledge, love, and passion he had for his field with Utica College students since 1975. We were blessed to have known this kind and gentle man, and to be able to call him our friend.  
Patti and Joe Fariello

Joe and Patti Fariello - February 11, 2014 at 12:36 PM

PF

“ Patti Fariello lit a candle in memory of Dr.  
Thomas Glenn Brown



Patti Fariello - February 11, 2014 at 09:36 AM