



“Every couple has a love story; ours is my favorite.”

By Monika Boyer

I'm not sure I know where to go with this, considering my mindset now, but I wanted others to know about our life together, outside of what people at MCC may know of him. Of course, every couple has a love story; ours is my favorite.

Rick grew up in the small town of Thompson, Iowa. His graduating class had 23 students. To this day, they are a close group of friends. Rick was quite the athlete- he loved to run. He played basketball, baseball, he was even the quarterback of their football team. He also played the saxophone in the band. He spent his summers as manager of the local swimming pool and mowing for the city park. Rick's grandmother, mother, wife, and now son are all teachers.

The two of us met during spring break in 1981. I was at UNI at the time, Rick was studying entomology at Iowa State. Our hometowns are only 14 miles apart but we didn't know that until after we met. Love at first sight? They say it can happen. I was just finishing up my student teaching as Rick was preparing to start Palmer College of Chiropractic. We knew the next few years would be focused on Rick's educational plan, and that he did; getting his Doctorate of Chiropractic Degree in 1984. He had a great gift of knowledge, dedication, and service to others in this field. As for me, I chose a teaching job close by (thus Muscatine) so we would still be near each other. Looking back, we didn't have much money for dates but we had so many good times. Rick's sense of humor got us through, even then!

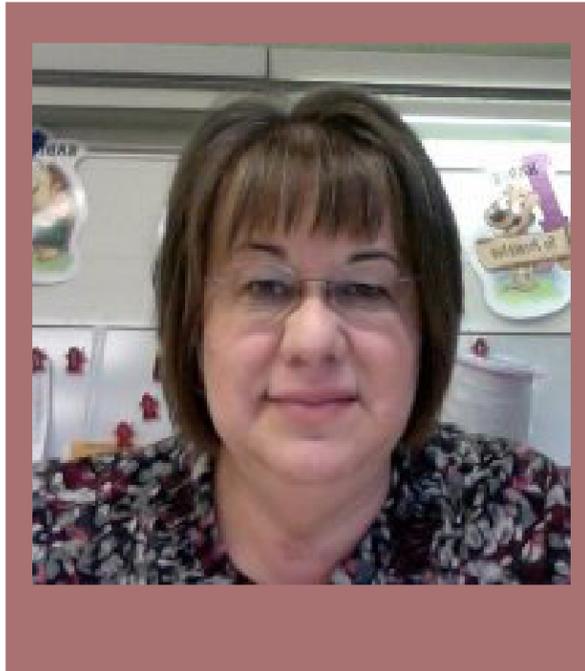
We were married in 1984. You asked about the songs at our wedding- there were five but three of my favorites were The Carpenter's We've Only Just Begun, Anne Murray's May I have this Dance for the Rest of my Life, and John Denver's Annie's song.

One of the things I admire most about Rick was his love for his family. We had two sons and a daughter within the first seven years of our marriage. Simply said, family meant the most to Rick. His spare time was spent with his kids- scouting, fishing, camping, sports, etc. Rick enjoyed traveling the United States with us; even taking us to Mexico, Jamaica, and the Bahamas.

For about 15 years we ran a hobby farm- raising horses, goats, rabbits, ducks, and chickens. Of course, there were the usual house pets of dogs, cats, geckos, sugar gliders, and chinchillas. Rick was so supportive of the endeavors our kids wanted to take. He seldom said “no”, but rather “let's make this work.”

Rick enjoyed working outdoors if the weather was warm- as in 90 degrees or warmer! He liked working with wood, gardening, playing cards with friends, reading, and telling jokes.

I think of some wonderful events from this past summer that Rick took great pride in: starting in a new position at Scott Community College, completing a “party wagon” so we could tailgate at the Iowa State games; our eldest son announcing that



our first grandchild would make an appearance in January 2018; getting to visit our middle son in San Francisco; and our daughter announcing that she was engaged to her best friend.

Now, a little bit about the guy who would come home from MCC (and recently SCC). His dedication and willingness to serve were a part of Rick's demeanor. On most days, he wouldn't even make it in the house door; he had patients waiting to see him in. As those office hours ended, he would come in and greet me. He always made it a point to acknowledge my day, no matter what may have been weighing on his mind. He made me laugh every single day. He was very helpful around the house; cooking, cleaning, laundry, whatever needed done, he would attend to it. About the time to settle down for the evening, he would sit in his chair and open his computer. He taught online classes so he was grading labs, responding to students, or addressing an issue that came up. Rick liked to be a problem solver. He wanted his students to persevere, to be successful. If they had obstacles to overcome, he would encourage and support them throughout the process. He wanted to create programs with rigor where students could be successful as they chose their career path. Many of our evening conversations centered around this. Rick often went to bed at night with issues weighing heavy on his mind and by morning, he would have a plan worked out to address them.

To some, Rick looked like a person who had limitations or a disability to deal with. Rick wouldn't acknowledge that at all. This was another attribute I admired about him. To those of us blessed to truly know him, he was a nurturing man of great ambition, inspiration, and motivation. One of the quotes he often repeated was “You don't always get to do what you want to do, but you do what you have to do. You can have fun while doing that, too.” Rick enjoyed having fun and seeing to it that others were having fun, too. I am blessed to have him in my life.

Students and staff remember

He knew how to get the class' attention by slideshows, board work, and even cracking a joke here and there. He pushed you in class, but was always there to help in class, after class, or to schedule a meeting with you if you had any questions. He was definitely one of my favorite professors at MCC and will be missed.

Abriana Ryan – Former Student

Dr. Boyer was one of my favorite professors. He told the best jokes, was one of the toughest professors I've ever had, pushed me to work my ass off and learn as much as possible and I had so much fun in his Anatomy & Physiology class.

Alexis Sheeder – Former Student

Rick loved life and making the world a better place. It's hard to see that from a student's perspective because of the seriousness of class, but anyone who had him in class knows he was a very caring and intelligent individual.

Brandon Lange – MCC Professor

Boyer always encouraged students to pursue the arts, whether it was choir or theater. You'd see him at plays and concerts supporting the students. He always encouraged them to do their best, and his office was always open if you wanted to stop by and get help with homework or just chat.

Joe Lovell – MCC Student

He was just a really out there kinda guy. He tried to make things interesting and tried to make sure things were understood by the whole class.

Blake Thorson – MCC Student