

1985-09-09

Deforest Strunk, Leading Education of Handicapped, Dies

Office of Public Information

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digital.sandiego.edu/newsreleases>

Digital USD Citation

Office of Public Information, "Deforest Strunk, Leading Education of Handicapped, Dies" (1985). *News Releases*. 3662.
<http://digital.sandiego.edu/newsreleases/3662>

This Press Release is brought to you for free and open access by the USD News at Digital USD. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of Digital USD. For more information, please contact digital@sandiego.edu.

NEWS RELEASE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO



OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

DIRECTOR: SARA FINN, APR

DIRECTOR OF NEWS BUREAU: JOHN L. NUNES

CALENDAR EVENTS: JOAN MURRY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE: (619) 260-4600 EXT. 4296

ADDRESS: RM 276 DESALES HALL, ALCALÁ PARK, SAN DIEGO, CA 92110

DEFOREST STRUNK, LEADING EDUCATOR OF HANDICAPPED, DIES

DeForest L. Strunk, a University of San Diego professor of education, died Sunday, Sept. 8, of natural causes at UCSan Diego Medical Center. He was 57.

Strunk, who taught at the USD School of Education for the past 15 years, was nationally recognized for his work with the handicapped. (See attached)

Strunk was born Sept. 1, 1928 and last resided at 3946 Clairemont Dr. in San Diego.

A Mass will be celebrated at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27, in Founders Chapel on campus.

Funeral services for Strunk were to be scheduled in Jamestown, N.Y., his hometown. Lynn Funeral Home in Jamestown is handling the arrangements.

Strunk is survived by his mother, Mary Ann Beamis, of Jamestown.

In lieu of flowers, she asks that contributions be made to the DeForest Strunk Scholarship Fund at USD.

For more information, please contact School of Education Dean Edward DeRoche at 260-4282.

#

9-9-85



DeForest L. Strunk
Ed.D, Professor of Education
Director of Special Education, School of Education
University of San Diego

Dr. DeForest L. Strunk, friend and advocate of the handicapped and a nationally respected teacher of teachers.

For the past 15 years, Dr. Strunk taught at USD, culminating an impressive teaching career that began in 1952 in Petersburg, Va.

Strunk's work with and for the handicapped made him well known nationally. He was a sought after lecturer at conferences on special education and related issues throughout the United States.

"Special education was his life," said Edward DeRoche, Dean of the USD School of Education. "Dee Strunk always worked 12 to 14-hour days.

"He was very well known in special education because of his state and national work."

Strunk was project evaluator for the U.S. Department of Education Special Education Division, for at least five years. Also, Strunk represented California on the National Council of Exceptional Children.

His list of accomplishments is significant, as attested to by his lengthy 14-page resume.(see attached resume)

As a teacher, he received the highest of praise from his peers. He taught at eight colleges and universities and one high school.

"Many former students who would be in town would make a point of dropping in to visit with him," said Bob Nelson, a USD professor of education who worked with Strunk for 15 years. "Dee will be sorely missed by students and faculty."

Both DeRoche and Nelson pointed out that Strunk, a prolific writer, was instrumental in obtaining federal grants for USD's special education program for at least the past ten years.

In 1976, Carl Cole, a special education teacher in Oregon and a former student of Strunk's wrote to USD President Author Hughes:

"Dr. Strunk and Dr. Nelson are to be complimented on the excellent program they have developed. It is not only current, but well ahead of its time. As a result of my training at USD, I was well prepared for the new requirements for special education. "The university can be proud of its special education department and especially of Dr. Strunk. . ."

And what might be DeForest Strunk's biggest achievement?

"His never-ending enthusiasm and dedication to the handicapped," DeRoche concluded.