George Peters

George will be remembered as a wonderful teacher and mentor, a dedicated scholar, a caring and effective leader, and a dear colleague to all who had the pleasure of working with him.

George Peters received his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in German from Stanford University. He came to Michigan State University in 1989 to chair the Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian and African Languages after spending 19 years at the University of New Mexico, where he was named Teacher of the Year. He also served as Chair of the MSU Department of Theatre for five years and twice as the Resident Director of the Academic Year in Freiburg Program.

George distinguished himself as a scholar of the 19th century German author Heinrich Heine and was finishing his third book on Heine at the time of his death. Graduate and undergraduate students respected George for his excellent teaching, his keen understanding of German culture, his thoughtful feedback and meticulous preparation. The range and volume of his scholarly activity were impressive. His 2003 article, Teaching Deeper German Culture in a Proficiency-Based Curriculum, was awarded Best Article of the Year in the journal Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German. Never one to rest on his laurels, George recently restructured his third-year German culture course as a hybrid course.

George was highly regarded by colleagues in German as a tireless advocate for the German language, having received the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit, First Class, of the Federal Republic of Germany; the Order of Merit of the Republic of Austria; as well as awards from the American Association of Teachers of German and the Goethe Institute.

Lead donor, retired faculty and former associate dean in our college, Pat Paulsell, and her husband, Don, created the George F. Peters Scholarship Fund in Peters' honor and memory. Other primary funders were George's widow Rosie and former interim dean and retired faculty member Pat McConeghy. Former College of Arts and Letters Dean Karin Wurst also contributed to the fund. The scholarship is for students wishing to do the College's yearlong study abroad in Freiburg, Germany, where George taught for many years.
They lived and laughed and loved and left.
– James Joyce, Finnegan’s Wake

in the Department of Theatre and the College of Arts and Letters at MSU.

It is safe to say that George, Greg and Gretel will be dearly missed by all the MSU Department of Theatre.

Greg Reuter

will serve as a powerful legacy for Greg Reuter within the mentor program and the connections it created during his time at MSU. As a professor, Reuter worked intimately inside the department: a musical theatre class, a dance improvisation class, and taught and designed curriculum for Camp Broadway and Broadway Classroom. He was also a senior faculty member for Broadway University, one of the nation’s marquee music theatre collegiate programs. He performed on numerous TV and radio jingles as a session singer, including the original Broadway casts of Aida, Shrek The Musical, Bells Are Ringing and Carmen Ghia, and the 2001 revival of Oklahoma!

A 20-year veteran of the Broadway stage, Greg was in numerous Broadway and Los Angeles casts, including Fosse, Henry V, Richard III, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and Carmen Ghia, and received a Thespi Award from the International Thespian Festival. Most recently, Gretel received the Oscar Brockett Award, the Outstanding Teacher of Theatre in Higher Education Award, and the American Theatre of Higher Education Commission, the Costume Society, and the executive committee of KCACTF Region III where she served as the Costume Design consultant for the principal theaters in the state, as well as theaters in New York. Gretel’s costume designs for Aida, Shrek The Musical, Fosse, Henry V, and Carmen Ghia were selected for various shows and her artwork is in permanent and/or private collections in Michigan, Wisconsin, Chicago, New York City, and Brazil. In 2014, Gretel mounted an exhibit in her “home” Grove Gallery & Studios in East Lansing, titled Twenty Years of Paper, Prints, and Textiles. After she retired from MSU, Gretel became a working artist, focusing on printmaking and fiber arts. Her prints were selected for various shows and her artwork is in permanent and/or private collections in Michigan, Wisconsin, Chicago, New York City, and Brazil.

Greg worked as a backup singer for Liza Minnelli; in 2014. Gretel trained at Western Michigan University (BFA in theatre design with advanced work in graduate study at Michigan State University. She received a certificate of merit from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) Region III in 2001. In 2003, Geist Rutledge’s costume design for the award-winning Summer Circle Theatre at Michigan State University with her husband, former professor and Chair of the Department of Theatre Frank C. Rutledge, who passed away in 2008. Professor Geist Rutledge designed sets and costumes for more than 100 productions and served as design consultant for the principal theaters in the state, as well as theaters in New York. Gretel’s costume designs for Aida, Shrek The Musical, Fosse, Henry V, and Carmen Ghia were selected for various shows and her artwork is in permanent and/or private collections in Michigan, Wisconsin, Chicago, New York City, and Brazil. In 2014, Gretel mounted an exhibit in her “home” Grove Gallery & Studios in East Lansing, titled Twenty Years of Paper, Prints, and Textiles. After she retired from MSU, Gretel became a working artist, focusing on printmaking and fiber arts. Her prints were selected for various shows and her artwork is in permanent and/or private collections in Michigan, Wisconsin, Chicago, New York City, and Brazil.

Gretel Geist Rutledge received her BA in foreign languages from the University of Michigan and her MA in theatre design with advanced work in graduate study at Michigan State University. She is a founding member of the Grove Gallery artists’ co-op. In 2003, Geist Rutledge’s costume design for the award-winning Summer Circle Theatre at Michigan State University with her husband, former professor and Chair of the Department of Theatre Frank C. Rutledge, who passed away in 2008. Professor Geist Rutledge designed sets and costumes for more than 100 productions and served as design consultant for the principal theaters in the state, as well as theaters in New York. Gretel’s costume designs for Aida, Shrek The Musical, Fosse, Henry V, and Carmen Ghia were selected for various shows and her artwork is in permanent and/or private collections in Michigan, Wisconsin, Chicago, New York City, and Brazil. In 2014, Gretel mounted an exhibit in her “home” Grove Gallery & Studios in East Lansing, titled Twenty Years of Paper, Prints, and Textiles. After she retired from MSU, Gretel became a working artist, focusing on printmaking and fiber arts. Her prints were selected for various shows and her artwork is in permanent and/or private collections in Michigan, Wisconsin, Chicago, New York City, and Brazil.

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