

A native of Lake George, New York, **Sharon Anne La Voy** came to the University of Maryland in 1995 as a doctoral student in the College Student Personnel program in the College of Education, after completing both her bachelor's and master's degrees at Stanford University.

Coming to College Park with experience in Student Affairs at Dartmouth College, Sharon started her career at Maryland as a Graduate Assistant in the Stamp and progressed through a variety of positions, eventually becoming Assistant Vice President in 2015. In 2016, she was the recipient of the President's Distinguished Service Award.

Sharon was fiercely devoted to both the people and the work of her unit. She was pivotal in establishing UMD's culture of institutional and learning outcomes assessment. A true mentor to students, she was dedicated to the mission of the University and the students that it serves. She was passionate about the transparent use of data to inform decisions and policy, and was endlessly curious about what those data could tell her.

Outside of her commitment to her work, Sharon was an avid dog lover. She considered her beloved Bull Mastiffs Jack and Simon, and Rhodesian Ridgeback Harry to be medium-sized dogs. She had a lifelong passion for Bruce Springsteen and Patti Scialfa and loved travel, spending time boating on lakes, attending concerts, and enjoying a good meal with laughter, stories, and a glass of red wine. She enjoyed equally watching plays and sports, especially if they were Broadway quality or included Peyton Manning. Her perfect Sunday mornings involved reading the Washington Post with a cup of coffee, while eating banana/egg pancakes made by her life partner, Mike, that were sweetened by syrup and the laughter of Kahnu and Tolashi, her beloved stepdaughters. Despite being a minimalist with no patience for clutter, Sharon was deeply sentimental. She held close the things she treasured the most - a copy of *A Prayer for Owen Meany* with annotations from friends; gifts of jewelry from those she loved; and pictures reminding her of her most precious relationships with her dogs, family, and friends.

Sharon was a loving daughter, wise sister to many, loyal friend, devoted partner, and caring stepparent. She will be missed by so many.

To honor Sharon's memory and her devotion to the University of Maryland, please consider a donation to the Student Crisis Fund at crisisfund.umd.edu. Additional details can be found at irpa.umd.edu.

Celebration of Life

Sharon Anne La Voy

July 3, 1969 – May 24, 2022



*"If you care about something, you have to protect it –
if you're lucky enough to find a way of life you love,
you have to find the courage to live it."*
— John Irving, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*

Memorial Chapel
University of Maryland
May 31, 2022

Order of Service

- Music* *Sunrise, Sunset* by Jerry Bock & Sheldon Harnick
Performed by Dr. Joshua Fishbein on piano and
Jeff Issokson of Rock Creek Strings on violin
- Call to Gather* Darryll Pines, President, University of Maryland
- Service Leader* Gene Ferrick, Director, College of Computer, Mathematical
& Natural Sciences
- Reflection* Jennifer King Rice, Senior Vice President and Provost for
Academic Affairs
- Reading* from *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving
Marylu McEwen, Professor Emerita, College of Education
- Reflection* Marsha Guenzler-Stevens, Director, Adele Stamp Student
Union Center for Campus Life
- Reflection* Jessica Mislevy, former graduate assistant in IRPA
- Reflection* William Spann, former Associate Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Director of IRPA
- Music* *Tears in Heaven* by Eric Clapton
Performed by Tom Ruggieri, Coordinator, University Health
Center on sax and Jon Ozment, Lecturer, School of Music,
on piano
- Reading* *On the Death of the Beloved* by John O'Donohue
Chris La Voy, cousin
- Reflection* Deborah Kristensen Fischer, lifetime friend from New York
- Reflection* Scott Brown, former coworker, classmate; dear friend
- Reflection* Joann Prosser, best friend

- Music* *Amazing Grace* by John Newton
Sung by Bob Infantino, Associate Dean, College of
Computer, Mathematical, & Natural Sciences;
Accompanied by Dr. Joshua Fishbein

Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind but now I see

Was Grace that taught my heart to fear
And Grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come
T'was Grace that brought us safe thus far
And Grace will lead us home

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind, but now I see
Was blind, but now I see

- Recessional* *Come Sunday* by Duke Ellington
Performed by Tom Ruggieri and Jon Ozment

Reception to follow immediately in the Chapel Garden.

*Sharon's parents Gary and Anne La Voy, her brother
Kyle La Voy, her partner Mike Landavere, and her stepdaughters
Kabnu and Tolasbi Landavere
are grateful for your attendance today.*