

Scott Wellman

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Scott Wellman came to DWC shortly after I did, and we had lots of chances to work together over the years. We were on the AES committee together and several times on the entrance exam committee. One time when the English Department hosted the Japan Writers Conference, he and I shared a slot, giving separate presentations on poetry. And of course we sat through many an English Department meeting together — over 300 if you add them all up! I would like to share some other things we had in common and offer some special memories of my friend Scott.

Scott is a novelist and a poet; I translate novels and poetry. I still remember tips he gave me when he read one of my translations. He cautioned me to make my characters' dialogue sound more realistic and consistent. I recall he took issue with my use of the word "tantamount," and now whenever I use that word (or think better of it) I think of him.

We both had large families of boys (four for him, three for me) and I always enjoyed our discussions of parenting. We also both had a Christian upbringing. I well remember a chapel talk he gave on the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis, and how important he thought it was to get students to think about the deeper meaning of such stories, to appreciate them as literature and to relate them to their own lives.

One thing I always admired about Scott was his passion for

teaching and his high educational ideals. He set strict standards for his students and demanded that they meet them. He has also been a tireless advocate for the liberal arts, and often deplors what he sees as a tendency for the college to focus on testing and thereby run the risk of failing in its larger mission of educating the whole person.

A teacher is a performer in many ways, and Scott always impressed me as a performer par excellence, outside of the classroom as well as in it. When our colleague Janet Sono's play *Shadowings* was staged in 1992, he gave a memorable performance as a priest, and he also starred in a short film directed by a contract teacher in the junior college. He often coached students preparing for SP. One evening years ago, I heard him give a bluegrass concert at which he not only sang but played a wicked harmonica. And with Scott gone, who will be the English Department Santa when Christmas rolls around?

Scott is fastidious about his surroundings and his person. His office was always a marvel of order and beauty, the books arranged just so, the décor a pleasure to behold. Once there was some need to take photographs of the English Department faculty right away, and one by one we filed into his office for the purpose. I'm afraid my office never will achieve the same degree of orderliness, but thanks, Scott, for showing what is possible!

Scott is a native of the state of Washington, and my husband Bruce and I are in his debt for introducing us to beautiful Whidbey Island in Puget Sound, where we bought a house back in 2000. Now he and his wife Junko are thinking of moving to

Whidbey too. Bruce is already looking forward to taking you salmon fishing, Scott. We hope to see lots of you. Thank you for so many memories. May you and your family enjoy health and happiness for years to come.