



George W. Lyerly Jr.

March 20, 1976 - November 1, 2020

Dr. George William "Will" Lyerly, Jr., 44, of Conway, S.C. died Sunday, November 1, 2020 at Conway Medical Center following a lengthy battle with cancer. A devoted husband, father, son, professor, and friend, he loved fiercely, lived life with curiosity, and was strengthened daily by his faith in God.

Born March 20, 1976 in Lake City, S.C., Will was the son of George William Lyerly, Sr. and the late Martha Ruth Phipps Lyerly.

He is remembered with love by his wife of 12 years, Erin Farmer Lyerly and their children, Connor James Lyerly (8) and Caroline Ruth Lyerly (6); his father, George William Lyerly, Sr. of Lake City; and several aunts, uncles and cousins. He also shared a special relationship with his mother- and father-in-law, Judy and Jim Farmer; and his sister- and brother-in-law, Beth and Andy Lancaster, and their children, all of Spartanburg, S.C.

Will graduated from The Carolina Academy in Lake City, S.C. He attended Francis Marion University and completed his bachelor's and master's degrees in exercise science and a doctorate in exercise physiology at the University of South Carolina. As a doctoral student, he was mentored by and partnered for research with Dr. Steven Blair, Dr. Larry Durstine, and Dr. Gregory Hand. His passion for research and teaching led him to join the faculty of Coastal Carolina University in 2009, where he served as Associate Professor of

Exercise and Sport Science and helped build the young program into one of the university's largest today. His colleagues became like family and the legacy he leaves includes scores of students he mentored throughout his 12-year career.

A Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, Will focused much of his career on research with a special interest in cardiovascular health and how physical activity affects individuals with chronic diseases. His work was published frequently in peer-reviewed journals.

Will was a devoted member of Kingston Presbyterian Church in Conway, where he served as a Deacon. He was an excellent cook, an avid Gamecock football fan, and a loyal friend who was always generous in helping others. Utilizing the skills he learned from his father, he was a "Jack of all Trades" who took pride in being self-sufficient in nearly every aspect of life. Unquestionably, his greatest joy was being a husband and father.

Over the last eight years, Will approached his cancer diagnosis with scientific curiosity, fierce determination, and positive spirit. His family is deeply grateful to the healthcare professionals at Emory University Hospital and Greenville Health System who supported his care.

A celebration of Will's life will be held for immediate family on Saturday, November 7, 2020. A public gathering will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Will Lyerly Memorial Fund for Student Research in Kinesiology at Coastal Carolina University or to Kingston Presbyterian Church.

Arrangements are with Goldfinch Funeral Home in Conway.

Previous Events

Celebration

NOV 7 (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home
606-610 Beaty Street
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 248-4211
info@goldfinchfuneralhome.com
<https://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

AJ

“ Erin, I am sorry for your loss. I am glad to have known him, and his joy for teaching led me to a career change. After a conversation with him in Burlington 5 years ago, I left 25 years in industry to teach in a local community college which has been a rewarding experience. We miss you and your family, and you are all in our prayers.

Al Brewer, Jr - December 09, 2020 at 12:53 AM

OE

“ I had Dr. Lyerly as a professor at Coastal my senior year, and I can truly say that he made coming to class a great experience. I learned so much from him, and he was always a joy to listen to. He was one of my favorite professors at Coastal, and he will be missed greatly. My heart and prayers goes out to his family during this time.

Olivia Edwards - November 08, 2020 at 06:50 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. We always enjoyed waving to George as we passed by your house. Always a friendly smile and a wave as we drove by as he tried to keep his kids playing nearby corralled into the drive way. Our deepest Sympathy. Bill and Beverley Hinson 128 Furman Circle.

Bill Hinson - November 07, 2020 at 04:03 PM

PB

“ This is a tital shock, I am so sorry, much love and prayers for you all

Patsy Graham Barnett - November 07, 2020 at 12:28 PM

EP

“ *Emily Peal sent a virtual gift in memory of George W. Lyerly Jr.*



Emily Peal - November 07, 2020 at 11:53 AM

XS

“ *Xuemei Sui lit a candle in memory of George W. Lyerly Jr.*



xuemei sui - November 07, 2020 at 10:52 AM

XS

“ *Dear Erin, George and I have worked on papers while he was still a PhD student. I want to send my deep condolence to you and wish if there is anything I can do for you and the kids. You probably did not know that I lost my husband two years ago with two kids left with me now. I miss him everyday, but I want to assure you that all the darkness will pass and the love memory will stay with you. I am praying for you and may God with you and your family. Love, Mei from University of South Carolina.*

xuemei sui - November 07, 2020 at 10:50 AM

JW

“ With deepest heartfelt 🌸 sympathy!



Janice Poston Woodberry - November 07, 2020 at 08:29 AM

NS

“ I taught Connor back when he was three. Every time his daddy came to pick him up his eyes light up. I'm sorry for the family and their loss. May he R.I.P.

natasha sulton - November 06, 2020 at 08:24 PM

AD

“ My heart goes out to this family and his father. Will grew up with my son Brian. They were all good friends since kindergarten. Will was at our house and Brian was at his. Special friends! Remember those wonderful days . Such a great loss to family friends and not only to his community but where he grew up in lake city sc. he will be missed by all. Prayers to all 🙏🙏🙏🙏❤️

abbie denny - November 06, 2020 at 07:08 PM



“ Erin, I was heartbroken to learn the news about Will. I’ve known Will since kindergarten where I used to tease him that he stole my window seat on a class field trip on a train. Later on in high school we attended games, and watched a lot of movies together in our little group. Whether eating out at David’s In Lake City or cruising around town in his big blue 4-Runner, it was always fun. In college I remember hearing him and Steve Cantey attempt to play guitar after a night out on the town—some nights were better than others. Even in adulthood, Will was always there to help. I reached out to him less than a year ago and even though we had not seen each other in years, he was ready and willing to support the project I was working on. He definitely loved you and his kids, he lit up when I asked about his family. He will be missed, but his memories will last forever. Thinking and praying for you all during this time. Sincerely,
Rusty Gaskins

Rusty Gaskins - November 06, 2020 at 04:18 PM

SB

“ I am so sorry to hear this very sad news. He will be missed. He was a splendid graduate student and great Graduate Assistant. I felt very fortunate to have him in our group.

Steven Blair - November 06, 2020 at 02:27 PM

EL

Thank you, Dr. Blair. I know Will admired you very much and enjoyed collaborating with you. I hope you are well.

Erin Lyerly - November 16, 2020 at 09:54 PM

DS

“ *Dr. Lyerly's Former and Current Students purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of George W. Lyerly Jr..*



Dr. Lyerly's Former and Current Students - November 06, 2020 at 10:45 AM

RP

“ *I remember visiting with home when he was young. He had his first electric guitar and I gave him a lesson in some rock and roll stuff. His eyes lit up when I showed him some ChuckBerry and Hendrix stuff. He was a really nice person and I'm so sorry this has happened.*

Roddey Phipps - November 06, 2020 at 09:12 AM

EL

Thank you, Roddey. He told me what a great guitar player you were and how proud he was that you taught him a few things. He loved music, though he never mastered the guitar! Thank you for your kindness towards him.

Erin Lyerly - November 16, 2020 at 09:56 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of George W. Lyerly Jr..*



November 05, 2020 at 10:04 PM

SL

“ *The one memory that stands out was the night we first smoked a hog for the last game of the year. My brother almost blew us up and the pig rose 2 feet off the grill. Oh we were a bunch of wild and crazy guys!! Love you my friend and never ever will I forget you.*

Stephen Lopez - November 05, 2020 at 06:09 PM

EL

Thanks, Steve. He loved you and had so many good memories with you, and all the guys. Thanks for being such a good friend to us both.

Erin Lyerly - November 16, 2020 at 09:58 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your lost - You were both so welcoming to me in the short time I lived near you, and I have great memories of hanging out with both of you. Your family is in my thoughts during this tough time.*



Geneviève Marchand - November 05, 2020 at 05:32 PM

EL

Thank so much, Gen! I miss you and hope you are well. I love this picture. It feels like a lifetime ago.

Erin Lyerly - November 16, 2020 at 09:59 PM

FB

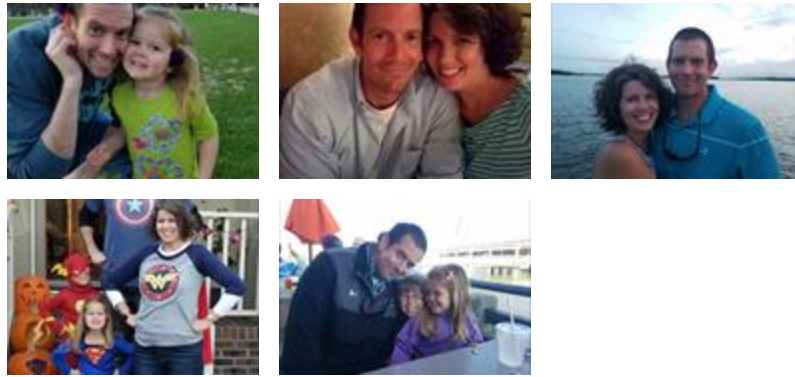
“ *My deepest sympathy to Andy and Beth Lancaster and the rest of the family.*



Fran Bagwell - November 05, 2020 at 04:59 PM

EL

“ *11 files added to the album Lyerly Family Photos*



Erin Lyerly - November 05, 2020 at 04:56 PM