



## Mr. Daniel William Millspaugh

March 26, 1945 - September 14, 2021

Daniel Millspaugh, born in Miami, FL on March 26, 1945, to the late David E. Burnett Millspaugh and Marion Ignatz Millspaugh, passed after a twenty-year-long battle with prostate cancer on September 14, 2021. He was preceded in death by his parents, the love of his life, Margaret Powell Millspaugh, and his sister, Patricia Millspaugh Stringer.

Dan was a proud veteran of the United States Coast Guard, serving from 1966 -1970. His service led to his use of the GI Bill to obtain his Bachelor of Fine Arts (Ceramics) and Masters of Fine Arts (Sculpture) from his beloved University of Miami (The U!) which led to a career as a teacher. He loved helping his students find their creative voices. His teaching career included Ceramics, Graphic Design, Sculpture, & Drawing at the University of Miami; General Art, Ceramics, & Photography at Ransom-Everglades in Coconut Grove, FL; Drawing, Photography & Sculpture at Miami-Dade Community College; Photography at Blue Ridge Technical Community College; and Sculpture, Drawing, Casting, Photography, Humanities, & Desert Ecology at UNC-Asheville, from which he retired in 2007 in order to become a caretaker for his wife, Margaret.

His passion for teaching is reflected in the accolades he received. He was awarded the Faculty Appreciation Award-Student Affairs-UNCA 1992, the NC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1996, the

Distinguished Teacher of the Year-UNCA 1996, Board of Governors Award of Excellence in Teaching-UNCA 1999, Ruth and Leon Feldman Professor-UNCA 2001-2002, Outstanding Scholarship and Creative Achievement Award 2003-2004 and was named Professor Emeritus of Art in 2008. He also obtained numerous grants while at UNCA in order to help improve the Art Department.

A talented artist, Dan's work has been showcased around the world and remains on display to this day across the United States and countries abroad in both public and private collections. His use of mediums ranged from painting and ceramics, cast bronze, aluminum, and iron, to film, the camera, and even fabric.

Dan was honored to contribute to his community. A founding member of the Urban Trail Committee, for 10 years he worked with his students to produce stations throughout Asheville, telling the history of the city through art. These stations included bronze replicas of Thomas Wolfe's shoes for "Dixieland" at Station #19, W.O. Wolfe's tools in front of the Jackson Building at station #27, and the Eagle on the corner of Eagle Street and Broadway, representing the Eagle Hotel and Asheville's original hotel district at station #30. Visitors to Pack Square will be familiar with his earliest piece in Asheville, the Thomas Wolfe Look Homeward Angel.

Dan is dearly missed and survived by his son, Richard Millspaugh, his daughter, Jana Millspaugh, and many nieces, nephews, and treasured friends and colleagues.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution to one of Dan's three favorite charities: Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue (<https://donkeyrescue.org/donate>), the Asheville Humane Society (<https://www.ashevillehumane.org/donate>), or the Disabled Veterans of America (<https://www.dav.org>).

A celebration of Life will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, October 16, 2021, at 2393 Hendersonville Road, Arden.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT **16**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Highlands Chapel  
2393 Hendersonville Road  
Arden, NC

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Daniel William Millspaugh*

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October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *So sorry to learn of Dan's passing. I have great memories of our UNCA Desert Ecology trips with students. He was always a pleasure to be with and a great authority in his field. Our students especially appreciated Dan's knowledge of photography and always enjoyed the visits he arranged to museums featuring western art. -- Jim Perry*

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**Jim Perry** - October 03, 2021 at 08:41 PM



“ *Dan was a fine artist and a fine man. We traveled together to Texas with a student group and I came to appreciate his wisdom, good humor, and love of family. He will be missed. Merritt Moseley*

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**Merritt Moseley** - September 27, 2021 at 10:20 AM

RT

“ Dan Millspaugh was an amazing colleague and friend! He was an inspirational teacher who won numerous teaching awards (including the highest teaching award at UNC Asheville, the Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching). These many teaching awards were well deserved, because of his love and dedication for teaching. Dan retired a little earlier than we expected, but we later learned that it was in order to spend more time with and care for his ailing wife, Margaret, the love of his life. Indeed, he cared for her until her death a few years later. During retirement, Dan volunteered to return to further assist the Department of Art with his knowledge of both Ceramics and Sculpture. He was a dedicated professor and a happy soul! All who knew Dan will miss his jolly personality and the way he made everyone feel welcome and included in his presence. Rest In Peace, my friend! —Robert Tynes

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**Robert Tynes** - September 24, 2021 at 09:49 PM

AH

“ I am so saddened to hear about the passing of Dan. He was a huge influence for me as an art student at UNCA. He was so kind and was truly one of the best professors I ever had. The picture I’m posting is one from my college days when a friend and fellow art student were able to be involved with the Urban Trail because of Dan. It’s a wonderful memory that I will cherish.



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**Angel Hudgins** - September 23, 2021 at 09:47 AM



*Angel, thank you so much for sharing this! The basket of apples! I forgot to mention that station. He loved teaching and watching his students learn and grow.*

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September 23, 2021 at 01:41 PM



*Dan was a role model in so many ways. We worked together on committees, he was always a positive light no matter the circumstances. His infectious smile was wonderful. Always the kind yet firm professional. Exceptionally creative, students loved him as colleagues. His return to help the art department and work with students was both unusual, but a mark of his depth and love of his students, and his art.*

*I am honored to have known Dan. Saddened at his passing, a loss for all who knew him.*

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**shirley browninf** - September 26, 2021 at 02:45 PM



*Dan was an extraordinary artist and an wonderful colleague. He was a gifted teacher as well. He brought beauty into the world. He also taught me new ways to "see." I am saddened by his death. But my life has been enriched by my brief contact with him.*

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**Deborah James** - September 27, 2021 at 12:22 PM



*Dan was one of my favorite collaborators. He designed the set for the production of Hansel and Gretel for the Drama Department and also the horse heads and the feet for our production of Equus. He was so talented and always willing to contribute. His positive force has been greatly missed. Fair winds and following seas my friend.*

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**Rob Bowen** - October 15, 2021 at 09:21 AM