



Harvey Edgar Hecht

August 15, 1939 - September 9, 2024

Harvey Edgar Hecht, 85, of Cape Girardeau, passed away peacefully Monday, September 9, 2024, at Mercy Hospital in the company of loved ones.

He was born in Excelsior Springs, Missouri on August 15, 1939 to Harry J. Hecht and Wanda Hecht.

He went to William Jewell College; he graduated in 1961 with degrees in English and Math.

He met Carolyn Lea Hecht, and they married on August 4, 1962. They moved from Missouri to Knoxville, Tennessee in 1963 where Harvey pursued his graduate work. While there they had the birth of their son, Matthew Gregory in 1966, and their daughter, Laura Michelle in 1969.

When the family moved back to Missouri, they settled in Cape Girardeau in the fall of 1969. Harvey began teaching in the English department at Southeast Missouri University and continued to for over 40 years. He was incredibly fulfilled in his role as a professor - he was especially proud of the film classes he developed.

He also served as the editor of *The Cape Rock*, an award-winning poetry journal, for several years. Harvey adored his role and the interactions that came with it.

One of his greatest life experiences was when he was living in London,

England with Lea while teaching in the Missouri London Program for two different semesters. He was pleased with his work with the program. Matt and Laura coming to join Harvey and Lea in London for a month only added to how wonderful the experience was.

Harvey enjoyed all sorts of games, from board games to card games to video games. He shared that love with friends, his children, and his grandchildren. He was especially fond of Ms. Pacman, Q*bert, Tetris, Clue, Uno, and bridge. He looked forward to playing games, no matter the type; he was known for always wanting to play “just one more game.”

Another game Harvey immensely loved was baseball. He coached little league teams, including his son Matt’s team, for numerous years. He made frequent trips to Kansas City and St. Louis to see the Royals and Cardinals play. Harvey and Lea even made trips to meet with close friends and watch the Spring Training games.

Even though baseball was Harvey’s favorite, he was also an avid football fan. He cheered for the college teams for the universities of Missouri and Tennessee and professional teams such as the Kansas City Chiefs. Harvey also spent time as the public address announcer for SEMO football games at Houck Stadium

Harvey also joined several choirs; he most recently sang with First Presbyterian’s choir and Southeast Missouri State’s Choral Union. In other choral groups, he had unique opportunities to sing with Lea at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and at the National Fourth of July Celebration. Travel was always a love for both Harvey and Lea; they not only loved traveling all over America but also abroad. They were introduced to the beautiful beach at Okaloosa Island, Florida and started a ritual of going annually, which was then shared with family and friends and will continue after them. Other destinations they loved included New England, Colorado, and Arizona.

He and Lea enjoyed several cruises. Favorite stops were the Caribbean, Alaska, Paris, Monet's Garden, Normandy, Omaha Beach, Santorini, Malta, Mykonos, and the Acropolis.

As much as Harvey and Lea traveled, they both cherished their morning coffee with friends. This tradition has been established for about 20 years - so long that the coffee group has gone through five locations; four of which are no longer open. The group often jokes about how they "killed" four coffee shops, but the cups of coffee, friendship, and conversation have stood the test of time.

Harvey was preceded in death by his parents; a son, John Carl Hecht; and his wife, Carolyn Lea Hecht.

He is survived by a son, Matthew Gregory - the twin of John Carl - Hecht (Barbara); a daughter, Laura Michelle Emmons (Steve); three grandsons, Troy Emmons (Laura); Adam Brown (Amanda) and Justin Brown; granddaughter, Abigail Emmons (Dakota); great grandson Landon Brown; great-granddaughter Reagan Brown; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Friends may call from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm on Sunday, September 29th at First Presbyterian Church. A memorial service will directly follow at 4:00 pm, being officiated by Rev. Ellen Gurnon.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to First Presbyterian Church, Friends of the Smokies or Reading is Fundamental.

Online condolences can be made at fordandsonsfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **29**. 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM.

First Presbyterian Church Cape Girardeau

Funeral Service

SEP **29**. 4:00 PM.

First Presbyterian Church Cape

Tribute Wall

DJ

“*Dr. Hecht was my favorite professor in college. He was an inspiration for me. He always took time to listen and help. I loved his sense of humor and his laugh always brightened my day. When I would see him out, we always shared a laugh and a smile. He was so kind. I called him at home the day before a paper was due because I was on my way to the ER and was worried about losing points. He told me not to worry and just get healthy and turn it in when I was better. I took every class that he taught just because I wanted to learn from him. It's because of him that I can watch a film and see the artistic elements. It's because of him that I can read a book and understand the deeper meanings that can be found within the words. He will always hold a special place in my heart. I'll miss you, Dr. Hecht. Thank you for helping to guide me into adulthood and teach me how to better understand the world around me.* ❤️🌸

Deanna Johnston - October 16, 2024 at 03:01 PM

KA

“*I was so sorry to hear about Harvey's passing. My sons and I would see him often over the years. We would visit him, his wife, and other friends over coffee. We started meeting our coffee friends at Cup n' Cork and have moved with our friends to other coffeeshops as well. I will miss hearing his stories of teaching, traveling, and laughter.*

Krista A - September 29, 2024 at 01:23 PM

AP

“*A wonderful, kind and caring colleague. His film courses were legendary as was his love of sports, tracing, his family and especially his love for Lea. It was an honor to serve with him on the faculty in the English Dept.*

Adelaide and Robert Parsons - September 26, 2024 at 10:37 PM

JB

“ Harvey and I were colleagues and friends as members of the Department of English at SEMO State University. Harvey will be remembered for his dedication to his profession, his love of teaching, and his quick wit. Death ends a life but it does not end a relationship. For his family and friends, there are many good memories of Harvey that will live on.

John C. Bierk

john c bierk - September 26, 2024 at 11:17 AM

JC

“ John C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harvey Edgar Hecht.

John C. - September 26, 2024 at 11:06 AM

DJ

“ As an undergraduate, I took the " Art of Film" class with Dr. Hecht. I learned to love this class and how he made it so interesting. It has been over 25 years since taking it and I still can't watch a movie without explaining a shot or what's about to happen next. I will never forget him or the wonderful experience of his his class. Great teachers are never forgotten!!

Dinia Jenkins - September 26, 2024 at 10:44 AM

BW

“ While at Semo, I enjoyed working with Harvey on a composition class called Sports & Society. His infectious enthusiasm made him great to be around. I remember an anthology dedicates in part to Hammerin” Harvey Hecht. My condolences to his family.

Bruce L Woods - September 25, 2024 at 10:42 AM

TL

“ *When I was at SEMO, I always looked forward to a class that had Dr. Hecht as the professor. His classes were always enjoyable and he was an interesting man to talk to. Deepest condolences to his family. Todd Long - Huntsville, AL*

Todd Long - September 25, 2024 at 04:10 AM