



Samuel Russell Vaden

July 8, 1972 - July 30, 2021

Samuel Russell Vaden, 49, of Little Elm, TX, passed away Friday, July 30, 2021, in Frisco, TX. Russell was born July 8, 1972, in Jacksonville, AR to Bobbie Sampson Vaden and Onetah Faye Sellars.

Russell valued education as a lifelong learner and teacher, earning numerous degrees and academic accolades. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies at Austin Peay State University, Master of Science degree in Counseling Psychology, Education Specialist degree in School Psychology, and Doctorate in Educational Psychology and Research all from The University of Memphis.

Russell has worked as a school psychologist since 2002, most recently at Prosper Independent School District from 2019-to present. Russell has also taught in higher education, most recently at Collin College in Frisco, TX. He is a published author of book chapters, journal articles, professional conference presentations, and grants.

Russell loved music of all kinds. He played the piano virtuously and sang in a beautiful baritone. His favorite songs were ballads, country, and showtunes. Russell performed in many musicals and straight plays throughout DFW. He loved and cared for his family and friends above all else. Russell enjoyed spending time with his rescued Boston Terriers: Buster and Bowen. He was a

treasured husband, son, sibling, and friend who will leave lasting memories with those who loved him and those he helped.

Russell is survived by his spouse, Steven Jerome Arenz of Little Elm, TX; mother, Onetah F. Vaden of Lebanon, TN; brother, David and wife Sheila Winfree Vaden of Crossville, TN; sisters, Phyllis Dies and husband Ricky of Brush Creek, TN, Dawn Bass and husband David of Carthage, TN, and Paula Thomas and husband John of Hendersonville, TN; in addition to several nieces and nephews.

Russell was preceded in death by his father, Bobbie Sampson Vaden.

A memorial service will be held 2:00PM-3:00PM, Saturday, August 14, 2021, at Slay Memorial Chapel of Aubrey in Aubrey, TX. Online condolences may be shared at www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Terri Slay and Slay Memorial Funeral Center

Previous Events

Memorial

AUG **14**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Slay Memorial Chapel of Aubrey
400 South Highway 377
Aubrey, TX 76227
info@slaymemorial.com
<http://www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

JG

“ Russell has been a dear friend since he first relocated to Texas. His kindness, hospitality, and his smile are without equal. His laugh was infectious. We are soo lucky to have reconnected upon his return to Texas and have befriended Steven and his fur babies.

Jesse Garza - August 13, 2021 at 12:24 PM

RA

“ Russell was dear colleague and friend since he came to work with us in Grand Prairie ISD during the 2005-06 school year. He set the bar high for excellence and we worked very well together. I remember co-presenting with him on a testing instrument to our group and he made it fun and enlightening. Even long after he moved on to other jobs in his career, we stayed in touch and I was honored when he asked me to serve as a mentor to his graduate students. He was a loyal and caring friend whom I will sorely miss <3

Rana Afeiche - August 08, 2021 at 02:06 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Samuel Russell Vaden.



August 05, 2021 at 10:04 PM

RD

“ Sorry to hear and shocked by this news. He contributed a lot to our school psychology program while he was here as he seemed to do in many areas of his life. The memory that comes to mind with Russell was when we would talk about the Wisconsin winters and he would just shiver at the stories we told. His phrase, and the many connotations of, "bless your heart" still bring a smile.

*Rob Dixon
School Psychology
La Crosse, WI*

Rob Dixon - August 05, 2021 at 09:56 PM

 David
Willie

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



David Willie - August 05, 2021 at 09:45 PM

YG

“ Dr. Russell Vaden...I'm in shock. My heart is broken. One of the best Spadoni College of Education professors that I ever had at Coastal. I learned soooo much under him. I'm going to miss our FB conversations and will hold the last conversation we had via inbox dear to my heart. Such a sweet, sweet soul. One of his favorite slogans to say was, "bless your heart." I loved how we would mess with him about bringing him food that was the color blue. I'll never forget the night this was taken. We had so much fun that night. He was crowned Mr. Myrtle Beach that night. God needed a special angel. 🥹🥹🥹🥹🥹🕊️🕊️🕊️🕊️



Yolanda Gore - August 05, 2021 at 08:52 PM

SP

“ Russell was such a GEM! He will be missed! RIP Mr. Myrtle Beach!



Shawn Pitman-Anders - August 05, 2021 at 07:31 PM

CL

Thank you Shawn for posting these. What a fun night that was!

carol lane - August 05, 2021 at 08:00 PM

BM

“ I’m very sorry to hear this. He was always fun and it was going to be his colleague when he was here in Wi.

Betsy Morgan - August 05, 2021 at 07:20 PM

MA

“ I remember Russell’s vibrant personality when we both worked in the St. Bernard Parish School System. He was always professional, very dedicated to his students, & he was always fun. My sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Mavis - August 05, 2021 at 07:19 PM

TH

“ My deepest condolences, prayers and thoughts to Russell’s family and to his husband Steven.

Timothy Allen-Landt Holt - August 05, 2021 at 06:54 PM

NP

“ Russell was the Major General in Pirates of Penzance in Irving, TX. I was lucky enough to meet him and work with him as choreographer of the show. What a wonderful talented man. Gone too soon.

Nancy Pistilli - August 05, 2021 at 06:02 PM

CT

“ Russell was something else! It was a joy to have him around when he was in Wisconsin. His energy was infectious! I know he loved and adored Steven and his pups. My sincerest condolences to all those that loved him.

Casey Tobin
Univ of Wisconsin- La Crosse
Psych Department

Casey Tobin - August 05, 2021 at 05:58 PM



“ I went to high school with Russell. Some of the best memories from that time include him. He will absolutely be missed by everyone that knew and loved him. Steven, though we never met, my heart is breaking for you. -- Jennifer Massey

Jennifer Massey - August 05, 2021 at 05:54 PM

GD

“ As I heard the news my heart sank. Russell aka Rusty was one of the first friends I made when I moved to Lebanon. We always had a blast and usually pulled a lot of pranks. Music was our only class together and he truly made it fun. There was never a dull moment. He will truly be missed by all who knew him. My prayers are with each and everyone who's lives were touched by knowing him.

Gina Hogue Dowlen - August 05, 2021 at 05:51 PM

TL

“ I was grateful enough to know Russell in high school, where we were in band together. He was always a happy soul and a joy to be around. I am saddened very much by his passing. I know he will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him. --Tracy Law

Tracy Law - August 05, 2021 at 05:24 PM