

CLAUDIA MARIA SCHMIDT

Dr. Claudia Schmidt passed away quietly at her parent's home in Riverside on January 7th, 2011 at the age of 49 after a long, brave battle with leukemia. For the past ten years, she had been living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the past ten years where she was Associate Professor of Philosophy at Marquette University. Claudia was born and raised in Riverside, CA. In 1981 she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from UCR, where she was also inducted in Phi Beta Kappa and named the "Outstanding Woman Graduate for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences." She went on to earn an MA degree in Religious Studies from UCSB (1985), a Ph.D. in Historical Theology from the Berkeley Graduate Theological Union (1992), where she wrote her first dissertation, "History and Rationality: Hume's Philosophy as a Social Theory of Knowledge." Claudia earned her second Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Iowa (1999), where she wrote a dissertation on "Kant's Transcendental and Empirical Anthropology of Cognition" under the supervision of Günter Zöllner.

Upon completion of her Ph.D. at the University of Iowa, Dr. Schmidt was hired by Marquette University, where she taught undergraduate and graduate course in philosophy of human nature, philosophy of history, Kant and Hume. Her published work includes a comprehensive scholarly work on Hume's writings, *David Hume - Reason in History* (2003). Her articles on Hume, Kant, and the Philosophy of History appeared in *Kant-Studien*, *Clio*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, and elsewhere. In her teaching, Claudia was able to share her enthusiasm for the history of philosophy, and her graduate course in Kant was one that prepared students well for further study. As a colleague, Claudia was unfailing delightful. Her sense of humor, her concern for colleagues and students, and her joy in her vocation as a scholar and teacher were contagious. Her regular presence at departmental and university-wide events, from colloquia and seminars to interdisciplinary faculty groups dedicated to Ignatian pedagogy and fellowship is notable. Her service to the Department and College were extensive, but special attention should be given to her role as secretary of Marquette University's Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, her work as department Colloquium Coordinator, and her work as an advisor to undergraduate and graduate students. Claudia's colleagues elected her to the Department's Executive Committee in 2004-05, a testament to the respect they had for her judgment and leadership ability. Her colleagues and students are in her debt for exemplifying the joy with which an academic career can be led.

Among Claudia's wide ranging interests could be counted the works of Jane Austen, dance, ballet and theatre performances, and music ranging from Gregorian chant to Robert Plant. She was an active member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Milwaukee, where she served on the Altar Guild and was a frequent Lector. A beloved family member, Claudia was the daughter of Ada and Hartland Schmidt. She is also survived by her brother Steven, sister-in-law Rong-Huey Liu and nieces

Autumn and Aurora. Claudia has uncles, aunts and cousins in California, Texas and Minnesota.