The Daily Item, Sunbury, PA

March 15, 2012

Gerald Eager, 77, Lewisburg

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— LEWISBURG — Gerald Eager, of Lewisburg, passed away on Feb. 14, 2012, Valentine’s Day. It was an appropriate day because Gerry was indeed all heart. His friends and family repeatedly recall that he was happy, humorous, kind, generous and gentle. These attributes certainly describe the man and have as much significance as the accolades he received in his professional life.

Gerald became a faculty member at Bucknell University in 1965 and retired as professor emeritus of art in 1996. After receiving his Ph.D from Columbia University he taught first at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colo., then at Bucknell. He showed thousands of students of all ages that art history is more than images, dates and names. That it is a living subject that reflects both the world we live in and our view of it. Politics, religion, relationships, the economy—every aspect of society is presented, contemplated and reflected by the artists of today and yesterday.

Gerry taught that art offers a personal experience. While the art historian may have the insight of research and experience; it is up to each viewer to take this knowledge and then decide what the artwork means to them. He taught that art is for everyone, not just the scholar. That each of us can share in an appreciation of art; and we can see the world around us as a rich canvas that supplies the ingredients for a beautiful life.

Dorris Keen (DeeJee), his beloved for many years, remembers Gerry as unbelievably caring, thoughtful and quite funny. She shared his love for Rissa and Sadie, and treasured their many trips with the dogs and the camper west to visit western family members and to Taos, N.M.

Gerald continued to contribute as he helped with many causes including Habitat for Humanity. He took great enjoyment in sharing his love of the outdoors, of dogs, and of tennis with a wide circle of friends in Lewisburg. He also loved the vistas of the American West as well as the great Bison, a symbol of strength and, of course, the mascot for Bucknell.

Gerald was married to Patricia Anne Bell who passed in 2003. He is survived by two sons, William Eager and his wife, Laurie Nelson, and Philip Eager and his wife, Wendy Gorczynski Eager, and their son, David Eager, of Spokane, Wash.; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Joan and Frank Marshall, and their children, and Adrienne and Leon Kortz, and children.

A memorial service will be held at 5 p.m. Saturday, March 31, in Bucknell Hall at Bucknell University, promptly.

Donations may be made in Gerald’s memory to Evangelical Community Hospital Hospice, Lewisburg, PA 17837, or Mostly Mutts No-Kill Dog Shelter, Sunbury, PA 17801.