

## Death: Faculty instrumental in nationally recognized writing program

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program like this."

Barton received the university's highest honor in 1988 when he won the President's Faculty Excellence Award for Public Service.

"Tom Barton's name has become synonymous with English education," wrote Dr. Susan McLeod, director of composition in 1988, in recommending Barton for the award. "Calculations of his time look something like this: teaching 100%, service 100%."

The citation on Barton's award noted he had a vision of quality education and a mission of spreading that vision everywhere students and teachers would benefit.

**"Calculations of his time look something like this: teaching 100%, service 100%."**

SUSAN MCLEOD  
Chair of the English department

Barton received the distinguished service award from the Washington State Council of Teachers of English in 1986.

Early in his career in education, Barton spent time teaching English, speech and drama at public schools. He was on the Columbia Basin College faculty from 1961-66 and became the first supervisor of English language arts in the office of the state Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Barton helped establish regional cooperative programs with the nationally recognized Bay Area Writing Project and worked with the Inland Northwest Writing Program, an in-service workshop to revitalize the teaching of writing in the public schools.

In 1978, the English professor introduced and directed a major training program for English teachers through a \$300,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The money paid for the implementation of a program to improve the writing ability of high school students.

On the national level, Barton served on the executive committees for the National Council of Teachers of English and the Conference on English Education.

Barton, a Spokane native, earned bachelor degrees from Eastern Washington State College and a master's degree from the University of Denver.

Barton is survived by his wife, Sarann; two sons, Stephan Barton and Michael Daly, both of Spokane; four daughters, Christae Kelly of Murphys, Calif.; Teresa Hanson of San Francisco; Julie Harlan of Salem, Ore.; Sarann Graham of Spokane; a sister, Barbara Johnson, also of Spokane; and two grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be sent to the Thomas Barton Scholarship Fund at the WSU Department of English.

# Barton: Teacher always center of attention

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one of Barton's classes as a graduate student, said he was an excellent facilitator. Students discussed several theories in the class, which resulted in heated arguments between participants.

"There were huge mud-slinging contests," Johnson-Shull said. "He would stay out of our way so we could wrestle with the issues, ideas and theories in the field."

Because the class began at 7:45 a.m., Johnson-Shull said Barton helped students wake up.

"He was really funny," Johnson-Shull said. "You were never quite sure how to take his humor."

Barton's humor often involved two of his favorite hobbies — smoking and the theater. The combination was indicative of his personality, friends say, because Barton was no pushover.

"He was a man who set his own terms," said Johnson-Shull. "He was a strong man in a calm and silent way."

Faculty members said Barton also

had a positive impact on the atmosphere in the English Department.

"He was very helpful in introducing me to the program and the people," said Susan McLeod, chair of the English department.

Barton was a senior faculty member when McLeod joined WSU as a junior professor.

"He was a mentor to me," she said. "He always had a twinkle in his eye."

As the director of English Composition in 1988, McLeod nominated Barton for the President's Faculty Excellence Award for Public Service. Barton eventually received the university's highest faculty honor that year.

In her recommendation, McLeod outlined the effects Barton had at WSU, at state and national levels, and in the community.

"Perhaps the best evidence one can provide of the impact of Tom's outreach efforts to the public is what happens when he walks into a roomful of teachers at a state or national meeting," McLeod wrote in her recommendation. "He is immediately the center of attention; everyone knows him, or knows who he is, and everyone wants to talk with him. Teachers respect and admire him because he respects them and their work, treating them as professionals."

**"He was someone who cared about what the university is doing in meeting the needs of the people in the university and outside."**

JOHN PIERCE  
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts

Barton helped design and implement the Inland Northwest Writing Project, an in-service workshop to revitalize the teaching of writing in the public schools. The English professor worked with high school teachers so they could help their students prepare for university level writing, Johnson-Shull said.

Barton's work with the Inland Northwest Writing Project and the

Bay Area Writing Project led to sketching a writing structure for WSU.

Barton guided the All-University Writing Committee in its deliberations on writing proficiency, bringing in readings and experts, helping the committee to shape its recommendations into a program consistent with the latest research in the field.

"Outside evaluators who have looked at the principles developed by this committee ... have said that the program proposed is one of the most comprehensive and far-reaching that they have seen, and that if WSU can implement the principles Tom helped to shape, the institution will be in the forefront of the Writing Across the Curriculum movement," McLeod wrote in 1988.

Barton retired after beginning the framework for the writing program.

"He was clearly a leader in terms of writing education," said John Pierce, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "He was someone who cared about what the university is doing in meeting the needs of the people in the university and outside."

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# GLBA COMING OUT WEEK

<p><b>Mon. 10/7</b> 12-1:30pm Transgender Issues (Brown Bag Lecture) CUB 214</p> <p>2-4pm Student Workshop w/ Gloria Anzaldua (CUB Cascade 127)</p> <p>7:30pm. Gloria Anzaldua Key Note Speech CUB Auditorium</p>	<p><b>Thur. 10/10</b> 12-1pm Politics Of Community (Brown Bag Lecture) CUB 214</p> <p>7:30-9:30pm Movies The Life &amp; Times of Harvey Mills Paris Is Burning</p>
<p><b>Tue. 10/8</b> 12pm Laura Bowly, CUB Lair, or Mall depending on weather</p> <p>12-1:30pm (Alternatives To Violence) ATV, CUB 214 (Brown Bag Lecture)</p> <p>8:15pm Laura Bowly Butch's Den</p>	<p><b>Fri. 10/11</b> 12-1pm Religion (Brown Bag Lecture) CUB 214</p> <p>6:30 Potluck K-House</p>
<p><b>Wed. 10/9</b> 12-1pm, GLBT Symbols (Brown Bag Discussion)</p> <p>7:30-9:30pm Movies Among Good Christian People (30 min.)</p> <p>Tomboy (12min.) Love Thang Trilogy (12 min.) Homoteens (60 min.)</p>	 <p><b>Gloria Anzaldua</b> is a Chicana dyke-feminist, tejana patlache poet, writer and cultural theorist. Internationally-renowned and respected, "much may develop from our interactions with Anzaldua's consciousness." (Woodward, NWSA Journal, 1989).</p>

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