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Obituaries

# Richard Clark, 58; taught English

By Barbara Boyer  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Richard Stephen Clark, 58, an associate English professor whose zest for literature and persuasive writing touched thousands of students over his 30-year teaching career at the Community College of Philadelphia, died Friday of renal failure. He lived in the city's Mount Airy section for more than 25 years.

Mr. Clark was born in Philadelphia and graduated from Central

High School. He earned a master's degree from Temple University in 1966 and went on to study at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

He became an associate professor of English at Community College in 1966 and was active at the college until 1997, when he became ill with cancer.

During his tenure, Mr. Clark was instrumental in organizing the Faculty Federation and was cochairman of the union as well as the nego-

tiating team that hammered out the college's first faculty contract in 1970 in conjunction with the American Federation of Teachers of the AFL-CIO.

"He was a very sweet and concerned guy," said Harold Ash, a retired labor organizer for the AFT. "Anyone who had a problem, he tried to work with them."

Mr. Clark served as an officer in the National Council of Teachers of English during the 1970s. And he founded the college's Advanced College Experience (ACE) program in 1986, which lets students from Philadelphia's high schools experience college-level courses during the summer.

Mr. Clark's love of Shakespeare and other Renaissance literature as well as his interest in interdisciplinary studies led him to give many seminars to his colleagues about literary topics.

His hobbies included photography, carpentry, sailing, swimming, tennis, bicycling and poetry. He was also an enthusiast in target-pistol shooting and attended competitions throughout Mid-Atlantic states during the 1980s. He tried out for a position on the U.S. Olympic target pistol team of 1984 and was a member of Kimberton Shooting Club. He held many shooting medals and awards.

Mr. Clark had been battling heart failure since the mid-1980s and underwent two heart transplants in 1989 and 1991. In 1997, he was struck with throat cancer and stopped teaching at that time.

Mr. Clark is survived by his wife, Lynne; a daughter, Catherine Harbor Clark; a son, Peter Louis Clark; a sister, Linda Lisman; and a niece and nephew.

Services will be at 11 a.m. tomorrow at Goldsteins' Rosenbergs' Raphael-Sacks, 6410 N. Broad St. Burial will follow at the Montefiore Cemetery in Rockledge.