

Louise Cowan. In Memoriam.

Many ACTC members either have known Louise Cowan for many years or have been influenced by her seminal work on behalf of core texts and liberal education. On Monday, November 16, her son Bainard, wrote that she passed peacefully from this world, with her family around her. Her family read Psalms and poetry to her in her last hour.

She was a revered teacher, a core curriculum innovator, and a liberal education institution builder, not only at her beloved University of Dallas, but for many years at Thomas More College in New Hampshire, as well at ACTC. Her critical editions and articles on the genres of Epic, Lyric, Tragedy and Comedy have led generations of her students to think with her in original and sensitive ways about works of art that matter to humanity.

Louise Cowan was responsible for the early close connection between the University of Dallas and ACTC, as well as the successful maturation of ACTC into a professional liberal arts association. An early plenary speaker at ACTC annual conferences and a person who could be relied upon to provide others for that role, she, along with Tom Lindsay, helped ACTC to create and pilot its Liberal Arts Institute at the University of Dallas. Without her effort on the Institute ACTC would not have grown into an association that can reach around the world and support so much in core text curricular and pedagogical development. Her former students populate colleges and universities across the land, as well as ACTC conferences and activities. Anyone who had any contact with Louise knew of her generosity of spirit and keenness of mind. With so many others that she touched, I feel honored to have known her and to have been befriended by her.

She is a presence, missed, but felt, today.

J. Scott Lee
Executive Director, ACTC
November 16, 2015