



## Ron McGaughey

November 6, 1952 - October 26, 2018

Dr. Ronald Earl McGaughey, II, 65, of Elkins, passed away October 26, 2018, at Fayetteville. He was born November 6, 1952 in Tyler Town, Mississippi; to Ronald and Elizabeth McGaughey. Ron received his BSBA, in Industrial Management, and MBA, in Management, from the University of Southern Mississippi; his BA, in Computer Science, from LaGrange College; and his PhD, in Management Information Systems, from Auburn.

Ron served as a professor at Arkansas Tech University, in Russellville, from 1992-2001; and recently retired from the University of Central Arkansas, in Conway, where he had been a professor since August of 2001. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Russellville; and First Baptist Church of Fayetteville.

Ron's other passion in life, beyond education, was turkey hunting. He grew up in rural Mississippi and started turkey hunting at the age of twelve. He loved traveling and hunting with his friends. He authored a book on the subject in 2011, sharing his passion and knowledge of the sport. He said "Perhaps there is something about the man that makes him a turkey hunter, or there is something that turkey hunting contributes to making the man."

Ron was predeceased by one sister, Debbie Varner. He is survived by one son, Ray McGaughey; one sister, Susan Laurie; three nieces, Melissa Martin-French, Jamie Swan, and Ashley Sanchez; one nephew, Jeremy Lesso; and great-nephew, Caleb Lesso.

A celebration of life service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the

family requests that donations be made to create a scholarship fund for students to attend the IT Career Camp at UCA. Donations may be made in memory of Dr. Ronnie McGahey online by visiting [www.uca.edu/give](http://www.uca.edu/give) or by mailing a check to the UCA Foundation, located at 201 Donaghey Avenue, Conway, AR 72032 and denoting the IT Careers Center Fund in the memo line. Services are entrusted to Brashears Funeral Home and Crematory of Huntsville.

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ My condolences to the family, even some 7 years after his passing. I ran across his obituary as I did a search for his turkey book and thought I'd share a memory while he was on my mind. I still remember the smile on his face when, after he told me his book was going to print, I told him I ordered one. You see Dr Mc was my advisor. The day we met we talked of classes for about 5 minutes and turkey hunting for over an hour. It was an immediate bond over birds and faith. We stayed in contact even after graduation. He continued the advisory role when I decided to get my MBA, and he even set me up with some general guidance and tips for my first out of state turkey hunt to an area he had visited many times. Our catch up conversations were often centered around spring successes and failures, with a little work and life otherwise mixed in. I hate that I didn't jump at the offer to come up and make a wing bone turkey call the last time I talked to him. It was some time later when I realized I hadn't heard or seen a post from him in a while, and learned there'd be no more check ins to see how his spring was going and what states were on the list for the year. I still think of Doc as every spring approaches, and can see that big 10 point in his old office with beards lining an arrow from one end to the other. I look forward to the time I see him again and I know if there's any turkey hunting to be done in heaven, he'll have a good tree already picked out when I get there. He was truly one of a kind, and a friend that is dearly missed.

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**Dustin B** - March 18 at 12:03 AM

Jl

“ Oh how I miss the conversations we used to have. You we're and still are the greatest brother in law a person could ever ask for. Love you brother.

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**Jimbo** - August 08, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ You are missed my friend..... See you in heaven.....

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**Steven Holland** - June 19, 2020 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ My deepest sympathy to Ron's family and friends. I am stunned and heartbroken to hear of his passing. I was a colleague of Ron's at ATU. I always enjoyed listening to his stories about hunting, students and life. What a vibrant and exceptional man. We we're all better off with him in this world! I will miss you, Ron.



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**Genie Black** - November 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ I met Ronnie in the late 1980s when I was about 15 and went to go live with my older brother, David Shealy, in Lagrange, GA. David and Ronnie were friends from LaGrange College and both taught at LaGrange. Ronnie was always very nice and cordial, and I remember him fondly. He treated me like a peer of his, even though I was just a kid in the late 80s. David, my brother, thought it would be a good idea for me to build a good work ethic and know what hard work was. David liked and admired Ronnie. So during the summer of I think 1987, Ronnie and I built an additional room onto his log cabin home in Pine Mountain, GA. I stayed all week in the cabin with Ronnie, his wife, and very young son Ray. I remember getting up at the crack of dawn everyday or being woken up by Ronnie before the crack of dawn. We worked all day long every single day until dusk. I remember eating Turkey burgers and deer at his house throughout the week. Probably by 7 PM every night, I was crashing to sleep from dead exhaustion. I could barely keep up with Ronnie....the guy would not stop...he seemed to be a tireless worker. At the conclusion of the week and after probably working nearly 80 to 90 hours, I think I earned the whopping sum of about \$105. Don't get me wrong. I was very proud and happy to have earned that money, but the bigger reward was learning what real work ethic and hard work is. I really felt that week which I never will forget was instrumental in my life towards me becoming successful in some of the businesses I own today. Ronnie and I also worked on some other small projects such as building a rather large book case for the apartment that my brother and I shared. We kept the book case for at least 20 years. In fact, I think I would like that book case if David still has it. I'll need to ask David about that. I also remember Ronnie's love of hunting. While I have never really hunted, I knew Ronnie was an expert without doubt. Ronnie, I wish I had an opportunity to have spoken with you before you left for Heaven. You were a very nice person. I will see you again though.....Tim Shealy

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**Tim Shealy** - November 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ My sympathy goes out to Ron's family. He was a good friend to me, many fond memories with him flyfishing on the White River. He always said we couldn't take any food on our camping trips, if we wanted to eat we had better catch some fish... He will be missed...

Jason Pitts - November 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM

E1

“ What a changed man with a changed heart. A privilege to be his friend.

Emmitt a Barnes 111 - November 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ My deepest condolences to Ray and all of the family. I knew Ron for many years through the college recruiting program and my company working with UCA. We did a lot of great things together helping students start their careers and developed a wonderful friendship in the process. I always have had the utmost respect for Ron and enjoyed working with him very much. He had such a passion for his work - he cared so much about his students succeeding. He will be forever special to me, and we are all richer for the experience of knowing him. Peace be with him now and to all of us as we remember him.



Kristi Connell - October 31, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CE

“ I was a professorial colleague of Ron's at LaGrange College i Georgia; we also played several seasons of intramural basketball together. He was a very unique person & I respected him greatly. Ron was direct, honest, and pragmatic. I can't believe that he is gone. I kept in touch with him on Facebook & he never mentioned any health problems.

Charles Evans - October 31, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ My deepest sympathies to Ron's family. He and I were third cousins and I was so looking forward to reconnecting with him at Thanksgiving. I know he has many friends and colleagues who will miss him dearly. My deepest condolences to his family.



Sylvia Miller - October 31, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Ron I wish we had more time together. I hope there is turkey hunting in Heaven I'll come looking for ya! God Bless, YBIC.

Joe Thomas - October 30, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ As a professor he was one of the most challenging I had at LaGrange College. Always fair and supportive which continued in many exchanges we had shared over the years. He will be greatly missed! RIP! may God Bless you and your family!



Terry G Howard - October 30, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ *Ronnie was more than a professor- simply put he was a friend who cared for you as a person- much comfort and prayers to the family- thanks again Ron for all your kind words over the years!* ”

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**Scot Davis** - October 30, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ *I can't believe this has happened. I am broken hearted that this good man is gone. There is joy in knowing where he is. I hope he found my daddy up there, they would have a ball turkey hunting. No doubt he's engaged in intellectual conversations with Jesus, the great philosophers, Presidents, and those with which he could exchange ideas of wisdom, love and kindness. Rest in n peace my friend and may peace and love be with all he left behind.* ”



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**Melanie Cowart Collier** - October 29, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ *We are gonna miss you! You were a great man and an even better friend. We Love You! Love, AJ, Natalie, Brooks, Brenna, Bear, Bailey* ”



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**A J Burk** - October 29, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ *So sorry to hear of Ronnie's passing.* ”

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**Bob Dooley** - October 29, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *My deepest condolences to Ray and all of Ronnie's family and friends. Praying for God's precious comfort for you during this time.* ”



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**Jennifer Warren** - October 29, 2018 at 12:00 AM