



Z. Dean Parks

Long-time Grossmont educator Parks dies at 58

Long-time Grossmont College instructor Z. Dean Parks died Sunday of a heart attack while vacationing in Italy. He was 58. At the time of his death, Parks was a member of the Governing Board of the Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College District.

Word of Parks' death spread through the campus community Monday morning in a memo from District Chancellor Jeanne Atherton. Grossmont President Dr. Richard Sanchez, contacted Monday evening, said, "I am very distraught at the loss of such a fine individual, a balanced board member, and a friend of Grossmont College. We're going to miss him very, very dearly."

Parks was elected to Seat 4 of the Governing Board last year after retiring from the Grossmont College faculty in 1990. He was chair of the Reading Department for 26 years and taught, by his own estimation, more than 16,000 Grossmont students.

Parks was an East County resident for 29 years. He was the founder and past president of an international sports manufacturing corporation, and he was a financial adviser and consultant for 14 years.

Parks, who had a history of heart trouble, was traveling in Europe with Margo, his wife of 25 years. Authorities said Parks was stricken early Sunday afternoon in a Florence hotel and could not be revived.

Funeral arrangements were tentative, pending plans to return Parks' body to El Cajon.