



## Duggan John Phillips

August 27, 1975 - April 6, 2023

Duggan John Phillips, 47, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, passed away on Thursday, April 6, 2023.

Duggan was born on August 27, 1975 to John and Leah (Duggan) Phillips in Tulsa. After Duggan graduated from Broken Arrow High School in 1994, he earned his Bachelor's degree in English from the University of Oklahoma and his Master's degree in English Language and Literature from the University of Tulsa.

Duggan completed coursework for a PhD in the English department at the University of Tulsa before teaching as an adjunct instructor at both Tulsa Community College and the University of Tulsa. His most recent teaching position was at McLain High School in Tulsa.

Duggan enjoyed literature, music, and film, and devoted his time to serving the Alcoholics Anonymous community.

Duggan is survived by his daughter, Maddie Phillips; his parents John and Leah Phillips; his sister and brother-in-law, Kelly and Jason Davis, and nieces, Julia and Claire, and nephew James; his grandmother, Geneva Duggan; his aunts, Melissa Herring and Diane Hensley, and his uncles Steve Duggan (and wife Ginni), Craig Duggan, and Michael Phillips.

Duggan was preceded in death by his grandparents, Carl Duggan, Clifford J. and Anne Phillips, and his aunt Patti Garrett.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Grand Addiction

Recovery Center (formerly 12 x 12).

There will be a Memorial service honoring the life of Duggan at 2:00 PM,  
Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at Harvard Christian Church, 5502 South Harvard  
Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR **12**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Harvard Christian Church  
5502 South Harvard Ave  
Tulsa, OK 74135

# Tribute Wall



“ *Duggan John Phillips*

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October 23, 2023 at 01:21 AM

LP

“ I just heard about Duggan today... I'm so sorry.

*I'll always have the fondest memories of Duggan. I learned so much from him in Junior High and High School. He was so talented and a gifted thinker (even as a teenager)... and more than that, he was just a great friend.*

*One quick story...*

*In 10th grade, a bunch of us had a class together called "Literature & History". Me, Dan Hounslow, Brian Cross, Duggan, and Jason Sholar. One day, Jason and I were arguing about something (probably a girl) and it got pretty heated. We ended up getting in each others' faces yelling at each other and it finally came to blows. We started wailing on each other for all of 2 seconds when Duggan comes FLYING OVER the desks, gets right in between us with punches still flying and while he was now getting punched in the face, he easily broke up the fight with his deceptive strength. It was crazy that getting hit multiple times in the crossfire didn't even seem to phase him and he didn't even hesitate. He just instantly reacted and took care of business.*

*I've often thought about my ONE fight I got in during High School and how Duggan just jumped in to break it up. I know it's a small thing, but it's made a big impact on me over the years, wondering if I would be willing to do the same thing for my friends.*

*Well, sorry for the long note, but as I was sitting here reflecting on Duggan... I thought I'd share.*

*If there's anything I can do for you, please let me know.*

*Aaron Confer*

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**Leah Phillips** - April 25, 2023 at 06:22 PM

AB

“Duggan and I met as ball boys for the men’s OSU basketball team. During timeouts in Gallagher Iba Arena, we swept the floor and goofed around. As a fellow eighth-grader, he instantly came across as a zany, witty friend who was willing to push all sorts of boundaries for a laugh.

Duggan and I were dorm roommates during our first year at the University of Oklahoma, the most memorable year of our friendship. This experience helped to catalyze the adults we would become. For Duggan and I were kindred spirits: mind travelers. We were iconoclastic thinkers who sought to reject the college curriculum as a mere means to an end. You see, Duggan and I were drawn to the life of the mind. Our souls were ignited by the passionate fire of thinking itself. We loved interpreting and criticizing current institutions and ways of life to dream beyond the conventional and mundane. We would stay up late in our dorm room, talking about this and that; joking about this and that. I think we intuited that year that college was not just a path toward our future careers, but our career goal itself. Duggan would go on to earn his BA and MA in English. I eventually attained a PhD in social philosophy. While we never made it as full-time professors, we earnestly tried “to suck out all the marrow” -- to quote Thoreau from one of our favorite movies, *Dead Poets Society* -- of what college had to teach us, and to share what we had learned with those whom we were fortunate to teach as adults.

Duggan was not only smart. He could be hilarious, and his aesthetic sensibilities -- in literature, music and film -- stretched beyond anything I appreciated at the time as art. Two examples from that year at OU, one sacred and one profane, are illustrative. First, the profane. Once I called his phone and received his answering message. An obnoxious and lascivious MC Hammer song blared in the background as Duggan exceeded the occasion like he was a rap performer on “Yo! MTV Raps”. It was hilarious. What made it a classic was that he was playing a song that I owned, and was poking fun with his characteristic wit. Now for the sacred. That same

*year a radically unconventional student roamed the OU campus. Although I did not know him personally, I would depict him as earthy; his hair was long and unkempt, and he walked everywhere barefooted. I shared a moment with this fellow in the hallway outside our dorm room. A seraphic voice and otherworldly instruments boomed from inside our room. Duggan was listening to Dead Can Dance (with Lisa Gerrard). The man looked at me a bit startled and remarked, "That is GOOD music". I nodded in agreement. Reflecting on it now, I wish I would have said, "Yes, that's a gift from Duggan. He spends hours and hours reading music magazines so that we don't have to."*

*During the past ten years, Duggan tried on a number of occasions to contact me on Facebook. Almost always his messages were about some unorthodox philosophical ideas from European thinkers he wanted to chat about. Sometimes I never responded. Other times I told him that I was not much on Facebook and disliked social media, which are both true. I did try to call him once or twice, but he never seemed willing to share his number (perhaps he did not have a reliable phone). While we did see each other in Tulsa twice, I wish we would have visited together more. He deeply loved and was committed to his daughter, Maddie, for he once cancelled a meet with me to spend it with her. These sentences about the last years are, in the end, essentially just ramblings, hoping that he knew I continued to care for him even as I chose not to develop our relationship vis-à-vis social media.*

*I doubt I will ever listen to a song by Lisa Gerrard again without imagining, just for a moment, his soul traversing the parallel rarefied realms of thought and music. True to form, as I finish this, the song "Dawn of the Iconoclast" from Dead Can Dance started playing on my Spotify.... Rest in Peace, Brother.*

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**Allan Breedlove** - April 16, 2023 at 10:05 PM

KE

*Thank you for the taking the time to share this Allan. It means a lot and captured him perfectly.*

**kelly** - April 21, 2023 at 12:01 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Duggan John Phillips.*



April 12, 2023 at 10:35 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Duggan John Phillips.*



April 12, 2023 at 09:42 AM



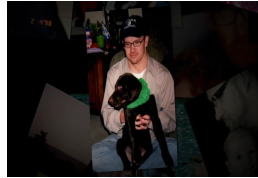
“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Duggan John Phillips.*



April 11, 2023 at 08:06 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Pictorial Video Tribute



Hayhurst Funeral Home - April 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM

AA

Beautiful tribute. Sending you all peace, love and healing. May his memory be a blessing.  
The Auerbach Family

Adry Auerbach - April 11, 2023 at 11:21 AM

LP

Thank you, Adry, and thank you for Wednesday!💔

Leah Phillips - April 15, 2023 at 04:33 PM

TJ

“ My deepest sympathy and caring wishes to you and your family. I haven't seen Duggan since HS he was a great guy and I hate this for your family.



Tina Jabbour - April 10, 2023 at 08:27 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Duggan John Phillips.



April 07, 2023 at 04:05 PM