

**Mark Gruenwald**  
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh  
1971-1975

Mark Gruenwald was a student at UW Oshkosh from 1971 to 1975, earning a Bachelor's degree in Art. He went on to become a major creative force at Marvel Comics in New York, beginning as an Assistant Director and advancing to Chief Executive Editor, overseeing all product lines, and Editor-in-Chief of the Fantastic Four and



Avenger titles. After he died unexpectedly of a heart attack in 1996 at the age of 43, family and friends established this scholarship. Initial contributions to the endowment included \$10,000 from the Comics Magazine Association of America.

While at UW Oshkosh, Mark was involved in not only the visual arts, but writing, musical composition, choreography and radio drama, as well. He also served as Associate Art Director on the film, *Exit Dying*, and was a writer and artist for the *Advance-Titan*, where he is best noted for the comic strip *Augmento*. The hero of this comic strip was a music student fighting injustice as he saw it. The humorous strip was written in Mark's witty, tongue-in-cheek style, which would later become Mark's hallmark with Marvel Comics. Many of the characters were patterned after members of the UWO community.

In addition to his work with the A-T, Mark could be found almost any night of the week painting in the art studios, working with the UWO Modern Dance Club or collaborating with colleagues in the music practice rooms on his latest rock opera. His renaissance approach to education and life has a profound impact on everyone who was fortunate to work with him. It was Mark's interdisciplinary nature that has inspired this scholarship award. Family, friends and colleagues have given generously to this endowment with the hope that his creative spirit will live on to encourage and guide future generations of students in the arts.