

= Samuel Conway =

Samuel Charles Conway (born June 4 , 1965 in Bryn Mawr , Pennsylvania) is an American researcher in the pharmaceutical , biomedical and agrochemical fields of organic chemistry . He holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from Dartmouth College .

Outside the scientific community , Conway is better known as Uncle Kage / ?k???e? / and is chairman and chief organizer of Anthrocon , the largest furry convention in the world . He is a published author , and has acted as a volunteer emergency coordinator , entertainer , and auctioneer .

= = Academic and scientific activities = =

A graduate of Ursinus College , Pennsylvania in 1986 , Conway subsequently studied at the Burke Chemical Laboratories of Dartmouth College , New Hampshire , where he obtained his Ph.D. in 1991 . His thesis concerned the attempted generation of indolyne (an aromatic compound related to indole) .

After college , Conway took a postdoctoral appointment in Chicago , later working as a contractor for the Food and Drug Administration , a researcher for Bionetics , a medicinal chemist for Avid Therapeutics (March 1995 ? August 1997) and researcher for Message Pharmaceuticals (August 1997 ? April 1999) . He spent two years in organ distribution at the National Disease Research Interchange , and was subsequently employed by crop protection company Cerexagri as a regulatory chemist from May 2001 to June 2007 , when he became a principal chemist for West Pharmaceutical Services . As of July 2013 , he was working for a group near Raleigh , North Carolina .

Conway has authored eleven professional publications and two patents . One patent covers compounds intended to treat hepatitis B in synergy with lamivudine ; another relates to recyclable packaging material . His work has been published in Heterocycles , Synthetic Communications , Organic Preparations and Procedures International , Water Research , Rapid Communications in Mass Spectrometry , Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy , Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters and Current Organic Chemistry .

= = Fandom activities = =

Conway was introduced to furry fandom at Noreascon 3 (the 1989 Worldcon) , and has been involved in fan activities from the early 1990s to the present day .

= = = Convention chairman = = =

Conway became the chairman of Anthrocon in 1999 , after his invitation as a guest of honor in 1998 . Under his leadership , Anthrocon was incorporated and moved to Philadelphia . The convention 's attendance grew from 842 to 2 @, @ 489 over the period from 1999 to 2006 , necessitating a further move to Pittsburgh ; 3 @, @ 390 attended in 2008 . Conway is the public face of Anthrocon , responsible for public relations , negotiating hotel contracts , managing finances , damage control and other activities before , during and after the convention . He also talks to fans about presenting furry fandom to the public .

= = = Media dealings = = =

Conway dissuades members of the fandom , and Anthrocon membership in particular , from responding to the mass media and news media , due in part to sensationalist coverage like the 2001 Vanity Fair article in which he was quoted . In 2003 he said his standard response to the media was : " Anthrocon is a private event held on private property . Its membership is not interested in being the subject of your documentary . "

However , Conway relaxed this stance with Anthrocon 's move to Pittsburgh in 2006 . While no television , magazine or tabloid representatives were present , several newspapers were invited to attend , and did , including the Pittsburgh Tribune @-@ Review , the Pittsburgh Post @-@ Gazette , and the Pittsburgh City Paper , which printed both a preview and an extensive review . When local television station KDKA @-@ TV showed up , Conway gave a short television interview outside the convention hotel . In November 2006 he gave a radio interview to Dublin 's 98FM . Anthrocon still retains tight control over media access , not only to the convention grounds but to the membership , and has official policy that forbids unmonitored dealings with unauthorized members of the media .

= = = Storyteller = = =

Conway styles himself " Furrydom 's Storyteller " , making annual appearances at Anthrocon in what has come to be known as Uncle Kage 's Story Hour . The entertainment typically consists of four or five extended personal anecdotes . His stage name resulted from his first storytelling experience at ConFurence in 1994 , and derives from his fandom name Kagemushi Goro (Shadow Bug Goro) , a reference to Kagemusha .

Conway is regularly invited to tell his stories at other fan conventions , including I @-@ CON , Eurofurence , ConClave , and Camp Feral ! . Gross sales from recordings of his Story Hours were over US \$ 2600 in 2004 ; no profit was realized , as the intention was to increase membership and awareness of Anthrocon .

= = = Auctioneer = = =

Conway 's first auction was at Albany Anthrocon 1997 . Since then , he has presided over auctions which have raised over US \$ 66 @, @ 000 for a variety of local wildlife charities at Anthrocon alone . He has performed similar services at other fan conventions , including Midwest FurFest . Conway says his techniques are influenced by Phil Foglio and Joe Mayhew ; they include humor and appeals to pity , novelty and scarcity .

= = = Author = = =

While known within the fandom for his spoken storytelling , Conway is also the author of several short stories published in various works by Sofawolf Press .

In May 1998 , Conway was invited to write a story based on his interest in birds of prey , particularly the Red @-@ tailed Hawk . The result was " Tweaked in the Head " , published December 1999 in Flights of Fantasy . He next contributed to the first issue of HistoriMorphs , a fanzine mixing historical fiction with interaction between humans and anthropomorphic animals . " The Secret of Wollknäul " took place in Nazi Germany at the end of World War II , and was published in June 2001 . He went on to write " The Good Bird of Nanking " and " It Takes A Fox " for subsequent issues of the series .

For Anthrolations # 5 ? a magazine of dramatic fiction ? Conway submitted " Six " , a previously @-@ written work " based on a true story " involving wildlife rehabilitation from his days as a Red Cross volunteer . The story , illustrated by Synnabar , was nominated for " Best Anthropomorphic Short Story " in the 2002 Ursa Major Awards . Also nominated that year was Breaking the Ice : Stories from New Tibet , a collection set in and around a subarctic mining colony ; Conway 's contribution , " Dead End " , features a bartending vulture who provides an introduction to the harsh , dystopic world .

= = = Charity Work = = =

In 2012 , Conway learned that Fernando 's , a local restaurant , was going to be closing down due to financial trouble . Fernando 's had welcomed Anthrocon guests and furies since Anthrocon moved to Pittsburgh . After putting word out on Twitter and YouTube , over \$ 21 @, @ 000 was

raised in donations to keep the restaurant in business .

= = Other activities = =

While in college , Conway was a member of the Ursinius Meistersingers vocal music group , and the performing arts honor society Pi Nu Epsilon . He became a volunteer for the American Red Cross Disaster Service in 1989 , but quit in 1998 due to his perception of high @-@ level corruption in the organization . He was an Emergency Management Coordinator while residing in Malvern , Pennsylvania .

In March 1990 , Conway became an experimental bone marrow donor for Mark Stevenson , a 4 @-@ year @-@ old with Hunter syndrome . The operation ? the first of its kind involving an unrelated donor ? was a success , allowing Mark to live to 24 . Conway became an active volunteer for the National Marrow Donor Program , claiming to have helped add over 500 entries to their donor registry .

Since May 1996 , Conway has participated in the MadSci Network , a free questions @-@ and @-@ answers resource organized by the medical school of Washington University in St. Louis . While most active in the period 1997 ? 2000 , he remains a member as of 2009 .