

Jeff Berger

June 28, 1943 - February 11, 2020

Philip Jeffrey “Jeff” Berger was born in Newark, NJ, and grew up in Pittstown, NJ. He was active in 4-H, Future Farmers of America, Boy Scouts, and was elected president of his high school class. He received a B.S. from Delaware Valley College in 1965 and a PhD from The Ohio State University in 1970.

For 38 years, Jeff taught graduate students in the Department of Animal Science of Iowa State University on linear models and computing and conducted research in animal breeding. Trained as a quantitative geneticist, he had a passion for computer programming and algorithm development. Much of his early work focused on experimental populations, including red flour beetles (*tribolium*) and mice. His true passion,

however, was the dairy cow, with a focus on the genetics of twinning and pioneering the application of the threshold model for genetic analysis of calving difficulty (dystocia) and stillbirth. He conducted the national calving ease evaluation for dairy cattle at Iowa State University from 1978-1999, helping to introduce the threshold model, and conducted preliminary evaluations of stillbirth. Jeff was a Fellow of the American Dairy Science Association and was awarded the prestigious J.L. Lush Award for Animal Breeding and Genetics for his contributions to dairy cattle breeding by the American Dairy Science Association in 2008.

Jeff’s colleagues found him to be helpful with his time and a generous contributor to many projects. Jeff’s students remember a kind mentor who was always generous with his time and understanding. Along with his wife, Fran, the Berger’s took great care of their academic family by providing a supportive family that made graduate students feel welcome when they came to Ames to study, from all across the world.

Jeff was an active member of Collegiate United Methodist Church. He was a supportive father to his daughter and son and a 4-H and Cub Scout leader. He enjoyed vegetable and flower gardening. He was a skilled woodworker and enjoyed reading historical non-fiction and mystery novels.

William “Bill” Cook

Professor Emeritus William “Bill” Cook passed away February 4, 2021 at the age of 91



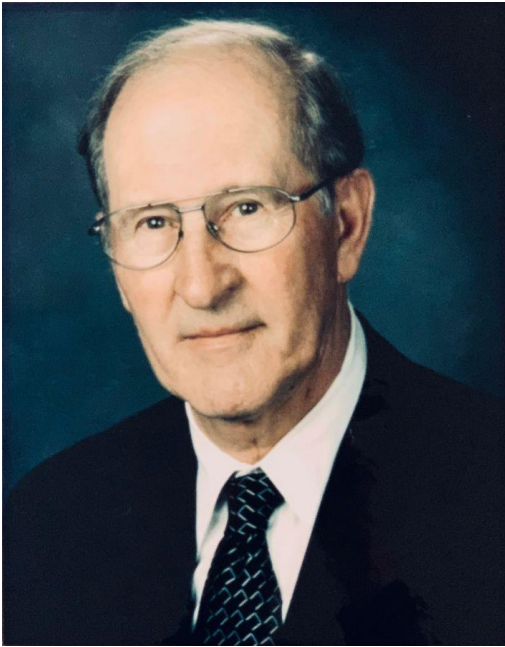
William “Bill” Cook, a previous professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, passed away on February 4, 2021 in Downers Grove, Illinois. William John (Bill) Cook was born in Des Moines, Iowa on April 12, 1929. After graduating from Des Moines East High School, he worked as a machinist and served in the U.S. Army. He met Laura Kate Edwards in Fort Meade, Maryland and the couple wed in 1953. Bill went on to earn his BS, MS and PhD in mechanical engineering from Iowa State University, and joined the ME faculty at Iowa State in 1958 as a graduate student. His research was in the field of thermofluids and he taught courses in fluid dynamics, fluid mechanics, and compressible fluid flow. He was also an advisor and mentor for countless students, at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, throughout his career. Administratively, he served as a reviewer for the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology in the late 1990s. He retired with the rank of Professor Emeritus in 2001. Bill is survived by his wife, two children, two grandchildren, and various nieces and nephews.

Obituary

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/amestribune/obituary.aspx?n=william-john-cook-bill&pid=197684234>

ME Newsletter (p. 4)

<https://www.me.iastate.edu/files/2011/06/spring2003.pdf>



Gene Freeman

March 16, 1931 - March 21, 2020

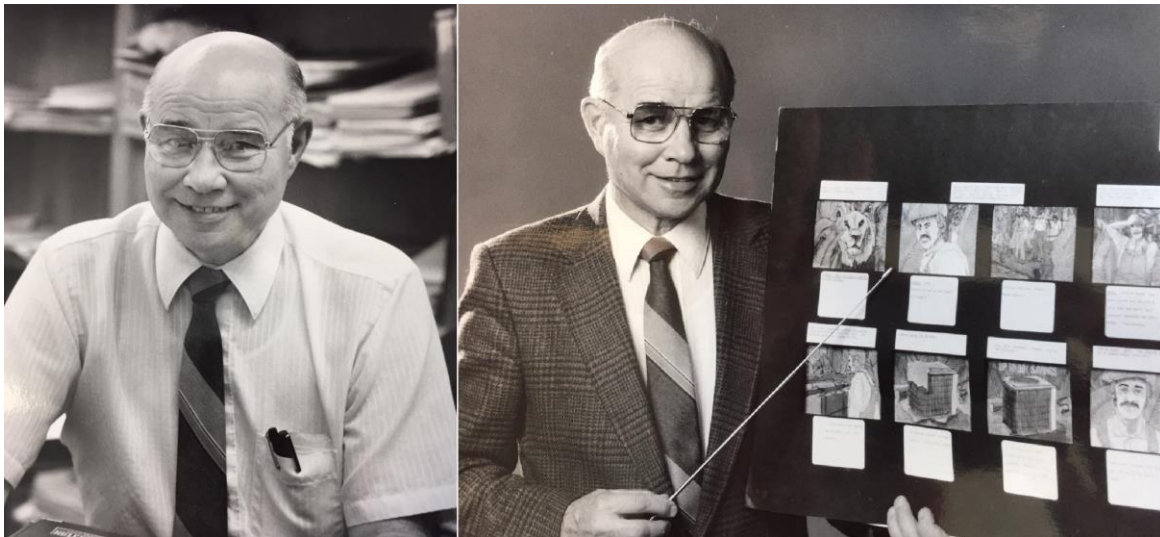
Albert Eugene "Gene" Freeman was born in Lewisburg, West Virginia. Growing up on the family's small dairy farm, Gene was active in 4-H, showing and judging dairy cattle, and he learned to hunt at an early age.

Gene obtained a B.S. in Dairy Husbandry in 1952 and a M.S. in Animal Breeding in 1954 from West Virginia University and went on to obtain his Ph.D. in Animal Breeding at Cornell University in 1957. Gene spent his entire career at Iowa State University and was named a Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor of Agriculture. He taught and mentored over fifty graduate students and conducted research on dairy cattle breeding and the application of genetic principles to dairy herd

nutrition and management. He interacted with his graduate students at both a social and intellectual level and generally treated them as colleagues. He provided strong encouragement and help where necessary. Once they graduated, Gene continued to open doors for his former students. He was a mentor, a colleague, and a friend. He also served as a mentor to numerous visiting scientists (postdoc and sabbatical) and students.

Gene had the ability to communicate with any audience, whether it was a farm family or a collection of international scientists, and he had the ability to recognize practical problems faced by dairy farmers and apply scientific principles to solve such problems. Throughout his prolific career, he published more than 200 scientific journal articles and traveled, lectured, and consulted in more than thirty states and twenty countries. Gene received numerous academic and industry honors and awards, including being an inaugural member of the West Virginia University's Academy of Distinguished Alumni, the Borden Foundation Award for outstanding research in Dairy Science, the National Dairy Shrine Guest of Honor, the J.L. Lush Award for Animal Breeding and Genetics from the American Dairy Science Association, and the Rockefeller Prentice Memorial Award in Animal Breeding and Genetics from the American Society of Animal Science. Gene was also active and held leadership positions in multiple professional associations, including the American Dairy Science Association.

Gene was a caring and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He led by example, treating everyone he met with kindness and respect. He was an active member of Collegiate Presbyterian Church, where he taught Sunday school and served as an elder, deacon, and trustee. His hobbies included hunting, woodworking, and golfing and he enjoyed playing bridge and penny poker with his friends.



Veryl LeRoy Fritz (Feb. 13, 1928 -- Dec. 16, 2020)

Veryl and his twin brother Vernon were born in Menlo, Iowa, where his father Charles and mother Margaret Fritz farmed. Veryl graduated from Rippey High School in 1945. After farming for a year, he attended Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts (now Iowa State University), graduating in 1951 with a B.S. degree in Agricultural Journalism/Animal Husbandry. He then enlisted in the army with a rank of 2nd Lieutenant and served as a public information officer in Japan and Korea. He continued on reserve status, graduating from the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College in 1965. He retired from the Army Reserve with the rank of Major. After his active military service, he completed a M.S. degree in Animal Science/Advertising in 1956, and was hired as an agricultural copywriter at Klau-Van Pietersom-Dunlap in Milwaukee. While working there, he met and married his wife June. He became an account executive in 1961, and then moved to Detroit as an account executive for Campbell-Ewald Company supervising Firestone Tire & Rubber farm products. After a number of years working as an account executive at several firms, he moved back to Iowa in 1976 to take a managerial advertising position, and in 1977 became Sales Promotion Manager, Farm Machinery, Massey-Ferguson, Inc., Des Moines. He and June lived on an acreage outside of Indianola, Iowa, raising registered Suffolk sheep on their farm for the next 30 years.

In 1982 he returned to Iowa State's Department of Journalism and Mass Communication as an assistant professor of advertising. In 1985, he was promoted to associate professor and also served as a member of the Iowa State University Press Board. In addition to his teaching, Veryl served as adviser to the ISU NAMA student marketing team and adviser to the Iowa Agriculturist student magazine. In 1989, ISU's Student Alumni Association named him an Outstanding Academic Adviser. He also had a quarter-time ISU Extension appointment and served as facilitator for Iowa Futures Project town meetings in Boone, Ames, Eagle Grove and Chariton. During his 15 years of teaching, Fritz was a strong advocate for the importance of the Agricultural Journalism degree, and he was disappointed when the degree was ended. When teaching, he emphasized the importance of student creativity, noting that attractive presentation is no substitute for a meaningful message. Fritz retired in December 1997 but continued to be an active supporter of what is now the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication advertising program.

Veryl is survived by his brother Vernon (Alice) Fritz; children, Alan Fritz of Indianola, Carol (Doug) Struss of Cedar Rapids, Charles (Shelley) Fritz of Clive, and Andrea (John) Weaver of Mason, MI; grandsons, Eric, Nick and Ben Struss; granddaughters, Carmen, Madeline and Anna Fritz and Erica Weaver. He was preceded in death by June, his wife of 58 years, his parents Charles and Marion Fritz; sisters Darece Hummel (Don), and Charlene Fritz.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Abbott, Emeritus Professor, Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication.



Richard “Dick” Dean Heggen

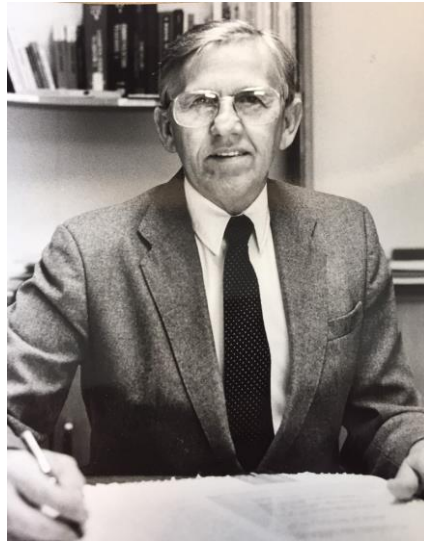
Richard Dean Heggen, 89, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020, at his home in Ames.

Heggen was a Distinguished Professor of Art in the College of Design at Iowa State University from 1966-1996. He also served as a cooperating teacher, assisting many student teachers from Iowa State University. Heggen became a Distinguished Professor Emeritus when he retired after 30 years.

Heggen was born at home on January 8, 1931 to Elof and Inga Heggen. He was the fourth of eight children who lived on their family farm near Harcourt, Iowa. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Joyce Lorraine Heggen, and four daughters: Barbara (Craig) Alcott, Sharon Romsey (the late Steven Romsey), Joyce (David) Hansen and Rachel (Michael) Inouye. Heggen is also survived by ten grandchildren and by his sisters Betty Jo Smith, Peggy Jackson, and Ilene Werner. Richard was preceded in death by his parents, older brother, Roy, his older sister Virginia Tynan, his younger brother, Don, and sister, Wilma Hair.

Prior to joining ISU, Heggen served in the United States Air Force (1951-1955) and received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (1958) and Master of Fine Arts degree (1962) from Drake University. He received the faculty citation for long and inspiring service to Iowa State University and was named to the rank of Distinguished Professor of Art in the College of Design in 1983. His artwork, which he exhibited widely and is included in both public and private collections including the Smithsonian Institute, received accolades and awards in state, regional, national, and international competitions.

A Celebration of Life Service was held at the Calvary United Methodist Church in Ames on December 11th. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in Richard Heggen’s honor to Calvary United Methodist Church (1403 24th Street in Ames, Iowa, 50010).



Karl Robert "Bob" Kern (Dec. 31, 1923 -- Sept. 2, 2020)

K. Robert "Bob" Kern died Sept. 2, 2020, at Green Hills Retirement Community in Ames. He was born in Pittsfield, IL, the third of three sons who lived to maturity – a younger sister Mary Josephine, and brother, Walter, died in infancy. His parents were Karl S. and Pearl J. (Thomas) Kern. He attended a one-room school and then Pittsfield Community High School, graduating in 1941 as salutatorian of his class. He grew up farming. He attended the University of Illinois on an agricultural scholarship but interrupted his studies in 1944 to enter army service in World War II with the 79th Infantry Division in Europe, and participated in the final crossing of the Rhine River at Dusseldorf. Because of his writing ability, he was assigned to write citations for soldiers in his unit, and later for the occupying Third U.S. Army under General Patton. In 1946 he returned to the University of Illinois to complete his bachelor's degree in General Agriculture (there was no degree in agricultural communication at the time), and there he met and later married Verna L. Lathrop. They were married for 65 years. (At Iowa State, Verna was the lead academic adviser in the Physical Education Department for almost 20 years).

Bob and Verna came to Ames in March 1950, where Bob was a graduate assistant in the Extension Information Service under an assistantship established with the Department of Technical Journalism. He joined the faculty in 1952, and later directed his unit for 17 years. During his years at Iowa State he worked on and received a M.S. degree in Journalism from Iowa State and a Ph.D. in Mass Communications through the University of Wisconsin. At ISU, he served four years as secretary and one year as chairman of the ISU Faculty Council. Within the ISU Extension Information Office, Bob played a leadership role in a number of initiatives. While still a graduate assistant, he was recruited to set up and implement a study of whether or not a series of 10 30-minute economics courses offered by then-new ISU-owned WOI-TV could teach Iowans basic economics concepts. The program reached 15% of the TV audience, a huge number for an educational course. In 1956, he helped develop an Extension Caravan that took 20 extension exhibits around Iowa viewed by more than 33,000 Iowans. Research showed many adopted the ideas presented. In 1955-56, he was one of the planners of the National Project in Agricultural Communication (NPAC), which developed materials for a generation of agricultural communication researchers and practitioners. In the 1960s, he helped develop extension publications and flannel-board presentations regarding "Diffusion of Innovations" research being conducted nationally with leadership by ISU sociologists George Beal and Joe Bohlen. Hundreds of presentations nationally were made using these materials to top corporations as well as a national ABC television program. In 1965, he was elected president of AAACE (American Association of Agricultural Communication Editors; now ACE (Association for Communication Excellence). He also participated in development of Iowa State public affairs programs that combined TV presentations by specialists followed by local discussions among Extension-organized local groups that would discuss the issues and forward group conclusions back to Extension. At one time, almost one-third of Iowa adults were organized into these groups. After developing this approach in Iowa, Bob provided training to other Extension organizations at Cornell University and the University of Maine.

In 1961, Bob became head of the graduate program of the Department of Technical Journalism (in

addition to his duties with Extension), which began to place emphasis on development of its M.S. program. By 1962, there were 10 graduate students in the program. Due to rapidly rising numbers of graduate students, the department hired a full-time graduate program coordinator in 1963. Bob continued to advise graduate student thesis work as a professor of journalism and mass communication but no longer was in charge. The number of graduate students increased to more than 40 by 1971. Within the Extension Communication unit, Bob emphasized professional development, requiring graduate degrees and the ability to conduct formative and summative research to evaluate extension communication activities. Bob has been a strong supporter for an agricultural journalism major at Iowa State.

Bob's work with Extension Information brought him in contact with a number of international delegations seeking to improve their extension communication capabilities. Extension editor C.R. "Dutch" Elder played an important role in encouraging this international cooperation, and it was through Elder's efforts that the first exchange of agricultural officers from the Soviet Union was arranged following the visit of Premier Nikita Khrushchev to Iowa and the university. Bob had an especially important impact on communication activities of the global international agricultural research centers (CGIAR System). While on leave from his job at Iowa State, he set up the information office for ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics) in India and toured many of the other international agricultural research centers around the world. In 1980, after 30 years of work at Iowa State, Bob took a leave and in 1984 an early retirement to accept a position as editor at CIMMYT (The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center) working with Director Norman Borlaug in Mexico. While there, he reorganized the communication unit's budget to emphasize getting new technology messages out to users rather than emphasizing annual reports. Later, he was hired by ISNAR (International Service for National Agricultural Research) in The Hague, Netherlands, as an editor and strategist to develop communication strategies for national agricultural programs. In 1985, he collaborated with George Beal (former head of Sociology at Iowa State and then director of the East-West Center in Hawaii) on a project to develop an improved agricultural knowledge system for the South Pacific Islands. In his work, Bob found that many agricultural researchers in developing countries did excellent research but lacked the writing skills necessary to get acceptance of their work in leading journals. He established a number of training workshops to work with researchers to get their work published.

Bob is survived by two of his children: Karl Robert II (Ann), Princeton MN and Barbara Louise Carlson (David), Boise ID. He was preceded in death by his wife Verna, who died in 2013, and daughter Martha, who died in infancy. His ashes were buried with Verna in the Iowa State University Cemetery.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Abbott, Emeritus Professor, Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication.



NICHOLAS CHRISTOPHER LAUTER

Nicholas (Nick) Christopher Lauter, 48, died of a pulmonary embolism on January 7, 2021. Nick was born on December 13, 1972, in Appleton, Wisconsin. He was a member of the Appleton Boy Choir and spent two years in Germany—one in Kassel with his family and one as a Rotary Scholar in Siegen—before graduating from East High School in 1991, where he played soccer and sang in the school choir. At Grinnell College, he majored in Biology, toured with the Grinnell Singers and served as the student manager of German House, earning a BS in 1995. Under the supervision of John Doebley, he earned his Ph.D. in Plant Biology at the University of Minnesota (UMN) in 2001 and completed post-doctoral work at the University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana in 2005, having served as a USDA-NIFA Fellow for 2004-2005. Nick met Adrienne Moran when they were graduate students at UMN, and they were married at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens on September 13, 2003.

Nick came to Ames, Iowa, in 2005 as a USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Research Geneticist. He was a member of the USDA-ARS Corn Insects and Crop Genetics Research Unit in Ames and also a Faculty Affiliate in the Department of Plant Pathology & Microbiology at Iowa State University. Nick's research focused on maize genetics, genomics, and phenomics for maize improvement, quantitative genetics of disease and pest resistance, and plant growth and development, including leaf epidermal development and the metabolomics of cuticular lipids. Nick was an active member of the maize genetics community for over 20 years, collaborating with researchers in the U.S. and abroad, publishing papers in journals such as *The Plant Genome*, *Nature Communications*, *Nature Genetics*, *the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and *Genetics*.

Nick grew up exploring in the woods of Door County, WI, developing a life-long love of trees, plants and the outdoors. He sailed and wind-surfed on the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan. As a graduate student, he was a principal trip leader for the UMN Outdoors Club. In Ames, he planted many trees around his housing development as a member of the homeowner's association. He spent much time outdoors paddling on local lakes and rivers, skiing and snowboarding, biking and one-wheeling. He was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames. He was active in Scouting with his sons. Nick is survived by his wife Adrienne; three children, Colfax, Quinton and Ashton; sister, Kristin (husband Thomas) of Redmond, WA; and parents, Charles and Estella Lauter of Fish Creek, WI. Nick was a well-loved member of the community and his profession, and will be sorely missed.



Loren Oliver Muench passed away peacefully at Green Hills Health Care Center on Sunday, November 29, 2020 of natural causes. He was born October 4, 1931 in Boxholm, Iowa to Louise (Hammerstedt) and Oliver Edward Muench and raised on the family farm. He attended a one room school, and later, Boxholm Community Schools, graduating from high school in 1950.

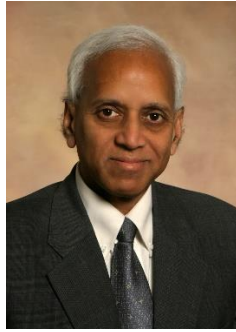
He served as a staff sergeant in Korea from 1952-1953 with US Army 45th Infantry "Thunderbird" division. Upon discharge, he returned to Boxholm and pursued farming with his father. He soon met a young Boxholm elementary school teacher, and future wife, Marjorie Ellen Kalsem. Loren began attending Iowa State University, receiving a BS Degree in Industrial Education in 1956, and taught this subject to high school students in Newton, Iowa for two years. He earned a Master's Degree in 1965, a Ph.D. in 1974, and for 29 years served as a faculty member in ISU Safety Education and later occupational safety program, until his retirement in 1992. He was active in safety related organizations and served as an officer, board member and business manager for those groups.

Renowned for his beautiful bass voice, music was ever present in Loren's life. In the 1940's as a tall lanky teenager, he would belt out standards from Hank Williams, and other contemporary stars. Starting in 1962, he began sharing his talents weekly as a choir member at the First United Methodist Church in Ames, and soloed for special occasions, including weddings and funerals. A favorite was "Mary's Little Boy Child" sung annually during their Christmas Eve candlelight services. For 27 years, Loren was a dedicated Barbershop singer, and coined the name "Ametones" for the Ames chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragements of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America. (SPEBSQSA). In the 1960's he sang bass with the "Marvelads" quartet. Later in life, in the Ames Senior Variety Shows held at the Ames City Hall.

Loren was kind, good natured, with a great sense of humor and always willing to lend a hand to those in need. He was an avid auction enthusiast and tinkerer, with an ever-growing collection of 8N Ford tractors. He was a great husband, father, and grandfather who enjoyed spoiling his grandkids. He was ever supportive of his wife, Marge, and he artistic passions. For 63 years they formed a very talented and loving partnership.

Loren is survived by his wife, Marjorie of Green Hills Health Care Center, Ames, IA; two sons, Joseph (Colleen Hoppe) of Ames, IA and Michael (Leslie Shalabi) of Dubuque, IA; a daughter, Marie Kathleen of Des Moines, IA; a foster daughter, Maryanna (Les) Holland of Ames, IA; six grandchildren, Ethan, Elise (Joe) Robinson, Lauren, Maddie, Molly, and Jamarie; two sisters, Bonnie (Don) Taylor of Buena Vista, CO and Judy (Bill) Newman of Kirkland, VA. He was preceded in death by his parents, Oliver and Louise; and sisters, Donna Marie and Lurene (Don) Mallott of Rockford, IL.

The family wishes to extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to all who played a part in Loren's life, and to those at Ballard Creek in Huxley and Green Hill Health Care Center in Ames who cared for him in his final days. A celebration of Loren's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund will be established for a cause he believed in.



Dr. R. Ganesh (“Ganesh”) Rajagopalan, professor, Department of Aerospace Engineering, passed away March 19, 2021.

He was born in Uttiramerur, Tamil Nadu, India. In his youth, he excelled in mathematics, flute, and chess. A lifelong learner, he began his studies in aerospace engineering at Madras Institute of Technology and continued studying aerospace topics at the Indian Institute of Science, where he received a Master of Science degree.

He was the first in his family to emigrate from India when he joined the doctoral program in aerospace engineering at West Virginia University. While still a doctoral student, he married his wife, Rs Nappinnai. After paving the way in a new country, they welcomed their siblings and opened doors for their family – a legacy for generations to come.

He joined the Iowa State Department of Aerospace Engineering faculty in 1985 as an assistant professor and was promoted to associate professor in 1991 and professor in 2001. He was recently recognized by Iowa State’s 25-Year Club for his 35 years of service to the university.

Dr. Rajagopalan was a highly regarded researcher, responsible for unique contributions to rotorcraft, wind energy systems, and computational fluid dynamics (CFD). He and his students made significant and wide-ranging contributions to the field of CFD. He was an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a lifetime member of the Vertical Flight Society as a Gold Circle member (which recognizes pioneers and leaders in the helicopter industry) since 1985. He received the Alfred Gessow Forum Best Paper Award at that organization’s Forum 61 in 2005. He was a technical consultant for numerous corporate interests and a reviewer of archival journals for many publications.

Dr. Rajagopalan also founded and led Sukra Helitek, Inc, an engineering consulting firm focused on computational fluid dynamics, supporting clients across the commercial aerospace industry and in the U.S. government.

He has been credited with numerous research citations, more than 70 research publications, 18 journal articles, and more than 50 conference papers from events around the world. He was principal investigator, co-principal investigator or investigator on more than 30 grant-supported research projects.

In 2017 he was honored with the NASA Exceptional Technology Achievement Medal, which is among the most prestigious awards that a civilian can receive from that organization, reflecting a career filled with outstanding contributions to its mission.

In addition to his wife Rs, a teaching professor in Iowa State’s Department of Finance, Dr. Rajagopalan is survived by daughter Pavithra Rajagopalan, her husband Dustin Counsell and grandson, Tarak Counsell of Boston, MA; daughter Dr. Supraja Rajagopalan of Boston, MA; and his large, close-knit extended family.

A private memorial ceremony was held. The Department of Aerospace Engineering also held a memorial ceremony with invited guests.



PATRICIA ANNE REDLINGER

Patricia Anne Redlinger, 67, of Iowa City, Iowa, passed away beautifully and peacefully at her home on Monday, Feb. 22, 2021, surrounded by love. Per her wishes, Pat's body was deeded to the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine for scientific purposes.

Pat worked in the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department at Iowa State University as a full-time faculty member teaching food prep labs. She also shared her expertise as a staff specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Pat was born Dec. 12, 1953, in Washington, Iowa, to Duane and Mary Joan Redlinger. She graduated from Washington High School in 1972. She studied at Marycrest College in Davenport and Kansas State University, where she obtained her Ph.D. in Food and Nutrition. Pat served in the Peace Corps on the Paraguayan/Brazilian border. She then began her teaching career at the University of Wisconsin, University of Tennessee and Iowa State University. Pat also operated a jewelry store (Nature's Touch) on Main Street in Ames for 24 years. She moved to Iowa City in 2016.

Her joy, love, compassion, wisdom, generosity and sense of humor were felt by anyone who met her. She was proud of her accomplishments, but especially proud of being a farm girl. Growing up on a farm gave her the work ethic, resourcefulness and a value system that became the foundation for her life. She inherited her mom's gentle spirit and Dad's sense of humor. Just like her dad, she loved to tell a joke or story.

Forever a teacher, Pat cherished being at the University of Iowa Hospital, where she was surrounded by bright, ambitious students and staff, and could be part of the greater good. Her fervent wish was to keep their spirits bright and strong, not dimmed by terminal cases. She wanted to infuse them with hope and energy. Her hope was they could see advances in ovarian cancer in their lifetime.



Frank J. Rizzo Jr., a former faculty member in Iowa State's Department of Aerospace Engineering and chair in engineering mechanics, passed away April 11, 2020, at the age of 81.

Originally from Chicago, Rizzo received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering (1960), a master's degree in theoretical and applied mechanics (1962) and a Ph.D. in theoretical and applied mathematics (1964) from University of Illinois. He was a faculty member in engineering mechanics at University of Washington and University of Kentucky, where he remained for 21 years.

From 1987-1989 Rizzo was a professor and chair of the Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics at Iowa State University, which was later combined with the Department of Aerospace Engineering. He returned to the University of Illinois as professor and head of the Department of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics from 1989-1991; and then in a second stint at Iowa State was a professor of aerospace engineering and engineering mechanics and member of the Center for Nondestructive Evaluation from 1992 until his retirement in 2001. He then held the title of professor emeritus in the Department of Aerospace Engineering.

Rizzo was noted as a researcher in the subject of boundary element method (BEM), a numerical computational method of solving linear partial differential equations which have been formulated as integral equations. The method is influential in the study of fluid mechanics, acoustics, electromagnetics, fracture mechanics, and contact mechanics.

He authored more than 100 published research papers during his career and provided more than 50 presenter and guest lecturer appearances at both academic and industrial venues around the nation.

On June 9, 1962, Frank was united in marriage to Mary Louise Davis, of St. Louis, MO, in Champaign, IL. They became the parents of Robert Christopher in 1963 and Russell Frank in 1964.

After retirement, Frank remained active in Ames, teaching "College for Seniors" for many years. He was a lifelong avid fisherman and a great lover of the outdoors, especially in northern MN, where Frank and Mary built a retirement home in 2000, traveling back and forth between Orr, MN and Ames for 15 years. He was a resident of Green Hills Retirement Community in Ames at the time of his death.



Dr. Giora Slutzki

(December 11, 1943 – February 21, 2021)

Dr. Giora Slutzki dedicated his life to his students and his research during his long career at Iowa State University. His contributions, wisdom, quick-wittedness, and genuine care for students and colleagues will be missed by all who knew him.

Giora, the son of Itzhak and Ruth (Gruber) Slutzki, graduated from high school in Israel in 1962. He received his bachelor's degree in 1970 from Hebrew University, his master's degree from The Weizmann Institute in 1973, and his Ph.D. from Tel-Aviv University in 1977. He moved to Iowa State University in 1983, where he spent the next 37 years in the Department of Computer Science, ascending to the rank of professor. During his time with the department, Giora was a dedicated researcher and instructor. Over the years, he taught courses covering various topics of the theory of games, knowledge, and uncertainty, discrete computational structures, the logic for mathematics and computer science, and computation theory.

Giora had numerous interests when not focusing on computer science research. He would relax by playing games like canasta, doing daily crossword puzzles with his son Daniel, and listening to opera and classical music. He enjoyed walks in the park with his family and continued to exercise at the gym, rain or shine.

Giora is survived by his wife, Rina Slutzki, his daughter, Naomi (Brandon) Whalen; his son, Dan Slutzki; and his grandchildren: Sephora, Aria, and Colette Whalen. He was laid to rest at the Iowa State Cemetery in Ames. He has a special place in the heart of all who knew him.



Patricia A. Thiel, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and of Materials Science and Engineering, died on September 7, 2020 from breast cancer. She cared deeply about Iowa State University and the Ames Laboratory, and was an outstanding faculty colleague in all aspects of the profession: as a caring mentor, terrific educator, brilliant scientist, and skilled leader.

Pat was born in Adrian, Minnesota and grew up on a farm in southwest Minnesota. She is survived by her beloved husband, Jim Evans, and cherished daughters Amanda and Ellen, whom she regarded as her greatest gifts.

Pat earned a B.A. summa cum laude in Chemistry at Macalester College, and completed a Ph.D. in Chemistry at the California Institute of Technology in 1981. After postdoctoral research at the University of Munich as an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow, she joined the technical staff at Sandia National Laboratories before joining the faculty of Iowa State University in 1983, where she excelled for 37 years. During that time, she held leadership positions in the Ames Laboratory and served a term as Chemistry Department chair.

Pat was a world leader in surface chemistry and is especially noted for her research on the formation and evolution of nanostructures on surfaces as well as surface properties and structures of quasicrystals. Through her scientific work and leadership, Iowa State University and the Ames Laboratory became a world center for research on quasicrystals. She supervised the research of about 30 doctoral students and 10 Master's students. Her accomplishments earned many notable recognitions, including membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the David J. Adler Lectureship Award from the American Physical Society, the Arthur W. Adamson Award from the American Chemical Society, and the Medard W. Welch Award of the American Vacuum Society. She was also among the university's most respected classroom instructors, being recognized as a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Master Teacher as well as receiving the Cassling Award for Outstanding Teaching. All in all, Pat was an extremely astute scientist, who pursued challenging problems, but also maintained a childlike wonder of Nature. This rare combination made Pat such an outstanding mentor and role model for so many students and faculty.

Her leadership qualities excelled as well, not only as a Program Manager for the Materials Chemistry Program in the Ames Laboratory for many years, but Pat was also primarily responsible for getting the Hach Hall project to advance and she crafted an updated version of the Chemistry Department's history.

Those who knew Pat remain ever grateful for her inspiration and impact on their lives.



Richard (Dick) John Tondra passed away on Thursday, November 12, 2020 after a years long battle with illness. He will be remembered by faculty and staff as an upbeat colleague who was always ready to listen and help, and by students as an outstanding and approachable advisor and teacher who always put in extra effort to help students see and achieve their potential.

Dick started his career at Iowa State as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics in the Fall of 1968, after completing his Doctorate in Mathematics at Michigan State. He did research in topology, differential geometry and knot theory, but also had a passion for teaching and working with students. Dick was dedicated to helping his students succeed, whether in the classroom or in his capacity as an advisor. In 1995 he was recognized for his outstanding work with the Ruth W. Swenson Outstanding Advisor Award.

Dick Tondra was born on January 23, 1943. He attended Central Catholic High School in Canton, Ohio, where he met his future wife, Rosemary Krantz. The two of them were married in 1966 while Dick was a graduate student at Michigan State. Their children, Mark (1967) and Kristin (1969) followed soon after to complete their family.

Dick was a devout Catholic. This devotion was evident in Dick's work in service to both people and organizations. He had a long history of service at the department, college, and university level, worked to provide affordable housing to those in need, and was an ordained Deacon at Saint Cecilia Parish.

Dick loved the outdoors. He and his family enjoyed canoe trips into the Boundary Waters area. In 1979 Dick purchased two-and-a-half acres of land in Northern Minnesota. Dick and his family built a cabin on the land, and used it for years as a place to enjoy nature. Back in Ames he was a devoted and loyal fan of the ISU Women's Basketball team.

Dick is survived by his wife Rosemary, his two children and two grandsons. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



Jerry Young

1934-2020

Franklin, TN - Jerry Young passed away on the evening of August 16, 2020. He was born on August 19, 1934 in Lincoln County, TN, to the late R.W. and Jewell (Sweeney) Young. He was preceded in death by siblings Joan Corder and Harold Young.

He is survived by his wife, Charlotte; son David (Amy), daughter; Jeretha, grandchildren, Ashley (Luis) Galindo and Jared Young, siblings Emma Jean Young and Ronald Young, He attended Berry College (B.S. 1957) and North Carolina State University (M.S. 1959; Ph.D. 1963). After studying as a post-doctorate at the University of Wisconsin, Jerry joined the Department of Animal Science at Iowa State University in 1965. He retired from there in 2000 and moved to Franklin, TN to be near family.

While at Iowa State University, Jerry taught undergraduate and graduate classes in animal nutrition. His research was in dairy nutrition. Jerry was a Fellow in the American Dairy Science Association, He served that association as a member of the Board of Directors, as Secretary, Vice Chair, and Chair of the Production Committee. He was a member of the editorial board for the Journal of Dairy Science. He was awarded the Distinguished Achievement Award from Berry College in 1998. That same year, he was awarded a Faculty Citation by the Iowa State University Alumni Association for inspiring service to students. Jerry was very proud of the many undergraduate and graduate students (16 M.S. and 23 Ph.D.) and post-doctorates (3) with whom he worked.

He loved the Lord, his family, his church, golfing, and the Iowa State Cyclones.