



Memorial for Daniel Ashlock

Daniel Abram Ashlock

December 14, 1961 - April 5, 2022

Daniel Abram Ashlock died at the age of sixty on April 5th, 2022. He was a lover of discovery, a servant of truth, a mathematics professor beloved by countless students, a chair of bioinformatics who published an unprecedented number of collaborative papers, and a fierce advocate for social justice causes, especially math education, neurodiversity acceptance, and environmentalism. He is survived by his beloved wife Wendy, his brother Joe, and his children Charlotte, Peter, and Richard—who he would want you to know are all insanely talented.

Dan was raised in Lawrence, Kansas, where he learned a joyful love of nature and science from his father Peter (who taught entomology at the University of Kansas) and a delight in imaginative literature from his mother Jinny, who did her master's degree on JRR Tolkien's works. His school guidance counselor complained that he was an "outlier" because he had both high grades and lots of fights.

Being an outlier in all sorts of ways was a lifelong source of pride for Dan, who became a high achiever without ever receiving support for his autism, anxiety, or trauma. His spiritual strength in the face of adversity came from how much he loved learning new things, a love he was incredibly successful at sharing with others. He received many awards for teaching, and his Calculus classes would frequently give him standing ovations at the end of the semester. "Dan taught me to believe in myself," was the most-repeated comment on the occasion of his death.

Why was this teacher so successful at instilling self-belief? Dan believed the work of learning and research was a joy that everyone deserved to share, and it simply never occurred to him that anyone would decline to participate in that joy if it was introduced properly. For him mathematics was not simply numbers, but a kind of super-powered vision, a way of looking at the world. When asked how many times one should continue explaining things before giving up, Dan said, "42: or more, if the person is still trying to understand."

Dan wanted everyone in the world to know that math is fun, not scary: and, that math sets you free. His blog [Occupy Math](#) was dedicated to that mission, and all subscribers will receive a notification

when an edited collection of the most popular posts is developed into a book by the blog's editor. Dan is also the author of several university textbooks on bioinformatics, evolutionary computation, calculus, and education.

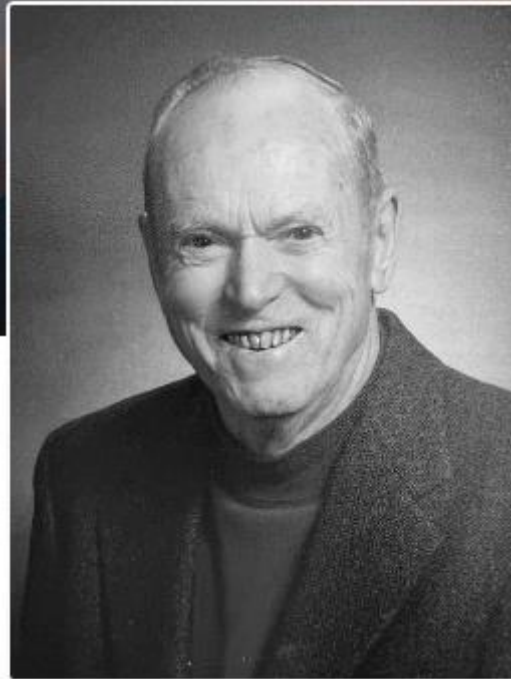
Although he died painfully of colon cancer and pneumonia in an understaffed hospital, he died without regrets because he lived his life exactly how he wanted to live it. His work connected him to an international community of scholars, plus the researchers of the past and future. Through his hobby as a game master for tabletop roleplaying games, he provided loving community and "decent meals" to people who really needed it. He loved cooking for people, telling them stories, and helping them solve their work problems. He took more pride in his co-authored papers than his single author papers for this reason.

Although not fitting in could sometimes be a source of emotional pain, Dan believed it was worth it because his misfit status also gave him a creative mind that solved problems no one else could solve. When other misfits were mistreated, he stood up for them with a fierceness that bureaucrats, narrow minds, and other evildoers would find alarming. People knew they could rely on his generosity and advocacy. He believed that if creative and intelligent young people were not cherished, the consequences for the world would be very negative. He expressed this sentiment using his favorite Ursula K. LeGuin quote, "It is ill to leave dark the minds of the mage-born."

As well as a fierce side, Dan also had a tender side. He loved playing with kids, talking to them in Darth Vader and Marvin the Martian voices, and tossing them in the air. He read his favorite science fiction paperbacks (particularly Heinlein) to his children for bedtime stories every single night of their formative years, in minimum rations of 13 pages. He was very attached to following the habits and rules of life he made for himself, to the point where when his wife said, "I wish you made me tea more often," he religiously made a cup for her every single day.

Many others felt the impact of Dan's enthusiasm for life, some of which are expressed in the comments at his online obituary, which can be found [here](#). Dan will be missed.

Obituary Link: <https://www.passagescb.ca/obituaries/danielashlock>



Craig Beer Obituary June 20, 2022

Craig Eugene Beer, 95, of Ames, Iowa died Monday, June 20, 2022 at MercyOne Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

Born February 26, 1927, on a farm near Keosauqua, Iowa, Craig was the son of Willis and Pearl Rankin Beer. Although he was class valedictorian, he did not attend his high school graduation ceremony, instead enlisting in the U.S. Navy and serving in the Pacific during World War II. After the war, Craig attended Iowa State College obtaining a B.S. degree in agricultural engineering. On a summer break from college, Craig met Janet Hootman and they married June 12, 1949, a loving partnership of 73 years. The couple lived in Ames a short time before returning to the dairy farm near Keosauqua where they started a family that would eventually include five children.

In 1955 Craig moved his family to Ames, to teach at Iowa State University earning a Masters and a PhD in agricultural engineering. While he distinguished himself as a full professor engaged in teaching and research, he also held leadership positions in professional organizations such as the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. That activity launched many family cross-continent camping trips as Craig and Janet would plan geographically and historically interesting adventures lasting several weeks as they traveled to summer meetings of ASAE.

An opportunity to develop land using his engineering skills and a chance to “return to a rural setting” drew Craig to form a partnership that resulted in “Valley View,” a

housing area between Boone and Ogden near highway 30. He built a house for his family, living there from 1973 to 1995 when the couple moved back to Ames.

Craig's respect for the earth was present in his outdoor sports. He was active in the Isaac Walton League conservation efforts and was a member of a fishing and hunting group in central Iowa called Anderson Lake. He loved to fish and hunt with bounty (particularly pheasant) frequently featured in Janet's Thanksgiving meals.

Craig believed in giving back to the community. He served in almost every leadership position of the United Methodist Church in both Ogden and Ames. He volunteered for many years at ISU Reiman Gardens, Heartland Senior Services, College for Seniors and also at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames. Together with Janet, the Beers were named as "Unsung Heroes" by the Ames Tribune and also selected as ISU "Parents of the Year" in 1984 with Craig continuing to be involved with the ISU Alumni Association in coming years.

Craig and Janet traveled widely in the U.S. and internationally for pleasure and for service. They were participants on mission trips to South and Central America.

Craig's hobbies included photography; he was a member of the Ames Camera Club. He also had a woodworking shop. All of his children have at least one piece of furniture made by Craig from his favorite source: the walnut tree.

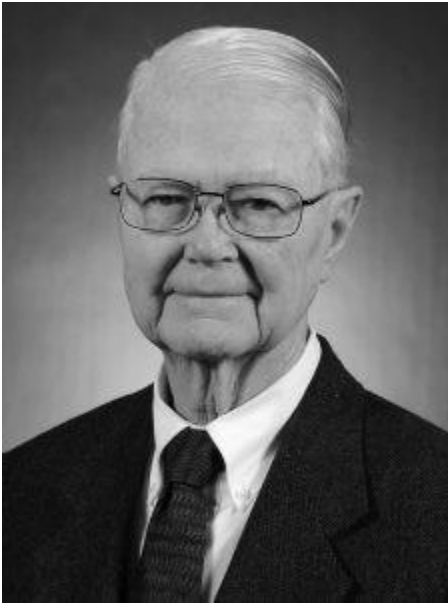
Craig loved a good bridge game, dancing to swing music with Janet, producing the best tomato in the garden, but high in this mix was his love of chocolate.

Craig is survived by his wife Janet and five children: Teresa (Jami) Larson (Ames, IA); Alice (Mark) McCoy (Charlottesville, VA); Steve (Debbie) Beer (Prescott, AZ); Jim (Jackie) Beer (Charlottesville, VA); Bonnie (David) Orth (Ames, IA). Surviving grandchildren are Jill Larson (husband Darren van Beek), Heather McCoy, Peter Beer, Sam Beer, William Orth and Elizabeth Orth. Surviving great grandchildren are Jane van Beek and Maya van Beek.

Craig was preceded in death by his parents and three siblings: Keith Beer, Stanley Beer and Beryl Beer Loeffler.

A visitation to greet family is scheduled for Friday July 8, 2022 from 5-7pm at Grandon Funeral Home in Ames. A Celebration of Life is planned for Saturday July 9, 2022 at 2pm in the Community Room of Green Hills Retirement Center in Ames.

Memorials may be directed to Reiman Gardens, Mary Greeley Medical Center Foundation or the ISU Foundation with emphasis toward Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering, Memorial Fund for Dr. Craig E. Beer.



A well-known leader with a kind heart in the Iowa State University Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering (CCEE) and in the profession, Jerry Chase, who passed away on January 26, 2022, left behind many successes and happy memories in CCEE that will never be forgotten.

Gerald "Jerry" Warren Chase was born on July 9, 1934, in Glendale, California, to Elizabeth Bowman Chase and Robert Chase. His early years were spent in the northern Los Angeles area, with high school years at Santa Monica High School. Chase went on to college at West Point in New York, and graduated in 1957. He first served in Korea with the engineering battalion, and later returned to study and earn a Masters Degree in Civil and Nuclear Engineering at University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. While there, he met Sara Homburg and they married in 1962.

Chase served in the Army Corps of Engineers for twenty years, with his final assignment in Des Moines, Iowa. After the U.S. Army had switched to being a voluntary entry organization, Lt. Col. Chase was sent to Iowa to encourage the youth of the state to serve their country, learn and travel through their service. When Lt. Col. Chase retired from the Army, he took a teaching position at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, and also earned his Doctorate in Civil and Construction Engineering at that time.

From start to finish, Chase was often known for his encouragement toward others to pursue their dreams. Chase grew up and established a career in the military, completing assignments in Ecuador, Vietnam and many Army posts in the United States. Years later, Chase found a passion for construction engineering and joined CCEE as a construction engineering professor in 1977 – where he taught generations of students for 19 years.

Chase was a spark to CCEE – passionate about teaching and advising students on their path to innovation. A mentor to many, his constant words of encouragement and enthusiasm inspired and motivated students and fellow faculty in the department.

Chase's passion for helping others never truly came to a stop – even after retiring in 1996, Chase loved supporting the community and his past mentees.

In 2015, Chase was inducted into the **CCEE Hall of Fame** for his outstanding contributions to the program and the profession. Always putting students and their passions first, Chase sponsored the **'Jerry Chase Scholarship'** with Charles Jahren, a scholarship dedicated to students studying construction engineering.

Chase's humble heart and empathy for others is reflected in the **2010 Construction Engineering report**. Chase recalls the day he was invited to be a CCEE faculty member with joy, and reflects on his love for helping students grow in their future careers.

"I soon came to love what I was doing," Chase had said. "Teaching, advising and incorporating teamwork into what we were doing in the classroom."

Chase reflects that some of his 'fondest memories' were supporting student activities outside of the classroom, through field trips, monthly meetings and more. As a professor-in-charge from 1982-1986, Chase credited CCEE's construction engineering successes to the students, faculty and staff that 'kept the department alive.'



John L. "Jack" Cleasby, age 93, died on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at Northcrest Health Center, Ames, Iowa.

Cleasby came to the Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering (CCEE) department in 1954 as an instructor with a bachelor's and master's from Wisconsin. He continued up the ranks to become an assistant professor in 1956, earned his Ph.D. in 1960, became an associate professor in 1961, a professor in 1965 and a distinguished professor in 1993. He retired in 1994.

A highly regarded researcher, Cleasby's work emphasized filtration methods of water and wastewater; it focused on granular bed and pre-coat filtration methods as well as treatment processes, including: flocculation kinetics, coagulation, lime softening and biological waste treatment. Filtration is the most commonly applied water treatment operation used in the production of potable water.

Cleasby's most widely recognized research contributions were in the areas of declining rate filtration plants, prediction of fluidization and expansion of filter media during backwashing, evaluation of backwashing routines for different filter media and filtration applications, and effective filtration methods for small communities.

Throughout his career, Cleasby was involved in government service and taught courses on water treatment internationally. Cleasby served as a member of the Iowa State Department of Health (1978-1982); he presented lectures and short courses in several Latin-American countries (1972-1996); and he prepared a Technology Transfer Booklet, "Wastewater Filtration," for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1974 and 1977).

Due to his research and service to numerous scientific organizations, Cleasby has been the recipient of a variety of honors and awards. He was elected to membership in the National Academy of Engineering (1983) – the first NAE member at Iowa State. Cleasby's publishing involvement with the American Water Works Association garnered several awards including the Abel Wolman Award of Excellence (1997) and Best Paper Awards (1970, 1992, 1995). Cleasby was also active in the American Society of Civil Engineers, receiving Rudolph Hering Medals (1968, 1970, 1983) and a Norman Medal (1980). He also received the Founders Award (1981) for sustained and outstanding contributions to environmental engineering education from the Association of Environmental Engineering & Science Professors.

Cleasby is often remembered with a “smile always on and a story to share.” He is preceded in death by his loving wife, Donna (2019); parents, Clarence & Othelia Cleasby; his daughter, Teresa Ochiltree; a sister-in-law, Charlene Cleasby; and two brothers-in-law, James Honnold and Charles Cook.

Bernard C. Gerstein
October 18, 1932 - July 5, 2022



Bernard C. Gerstein, Professor of Physical Chemistry at Iowa State University and Senior Scientist at Ames Laboratory, died peacefully on July 5, 2022, at the age of 89. Bernie was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Clarice (Coffey) Gerstein, and oldest sons Greg and Mark. He is survived by sons William (Rhoda), Garth (Angela), daughter Beth Timm (Greg), and seven grandchildren.

Bernie received his B.S. in Chemistry from Purdue University in 1953 and Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Iowa State University in 1960. In addition to Iowa State University and Ames Laboratory, where he worked as a teacher and researcher, Bernie was a visiting faculty at California Institute of Technology (1972-73), University of Paris (1981), Universite' de Lille (1992), Tokushima University (1995), University of Utah (1996, 1999), and Tokyo Institute of Technology (1996, 1999, 2002). He became Professor Emeritus at ISU in 1992.

For most of his career, Bernie's research interests involved development of modern techniques in solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and their applications to problems in energy, materials science, polymer science, and heterogeneous catalysis. He published over 200 research papers and a renowned monograph, *Transient Techniques in NMR of Solids; An Introduction to the Theory and Practice* (with Cecil R. Dybowski), which became a must-read for researchers entering the field of modern solid-state NMR. Bernie's most seminal scientific contribution was an experiment that allowed, for the first time, to observe NMR spectra of hydrogen nuclei in solids under high resolution. During retirement, he was an editor of the solid-state NMR section of the *Encyclopedia of NMR*. He was also an excellent teacher and mentor, who showed that scientific and academic excellence can be achieved through kindness, hard work, generosity with time, and uncompromised integrity.

In private life, Bernie enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, sailing, swimming, jogging, and playing music. He had a life-long interest in politics, which was inspired by compassion toward the disadvantaged and concern for our planet. This motivated him to march in Selma in 1965, and to fight for the environmental causes in his twilight years. Many people in the Ames community were fortunate to have Bernie in their lives.



Dr. Robert Allen Martin

October 28, 1945 - May 20, 2022

Dr. Robert Allen Martin, Professor in the Department of Agricultural Education and Studies at Iowa State University, passed away of natural causes at his home in Ames, Iowa at the age of 76.

He was born on October 28, 1945, in Warsaw, Indiana to Conda Harold Martin and Freda Lucile (Anderson) Martin. He graduated from Triton High School, Bourbon, Indiana and went on to earn a B.S. and M.S. from Purdue University. While at Purdue he was a member of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club. After college he served four and one-half years as an agriculture teacher in Nigeria, Africa. Returning home he taught four years in Bremen, Indiana as an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. Robert went on from there to earn his PHD in Agricultural Education from Penn State University. From there, Robert spent 37 years as a professor at Iowa State University where he was chair of the Department of Agriculture Education and Studies for twelve years.

Robert served on 276 master's and Ph.D. committees and 121 as major professor and advised hundreds of undergraduate students. Many of his former students are high school agriculture teachers, some are in governmental agencies including the Iowa Department of Education, and others are faculty members across the world. He published and presented more than 280 research and professional papers, 9 book chapters, and more than ten curriculum projects on agricultural education. His research and teaching interests included several projects and experiences in Africa, Nigeria, Botswana, Egypt, Southeast Asia, Korea, Japan, Thailand, Tanzania, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East.

Robert was especially proud of the programs he helped to create and/or coordinate using his teaching expertise centered around delivery systems, program planning, comparative international education, and adult and extension education. He worked with the Iowa Agricultural Awareness Coalition to present the Teacher's Academy on Agricultural Awareness, a summer workshop for elementary school teachers. He was instrumental as coordinator and director of Ag Comm – The College of Agriculture Communications Across the Curriculum Program. He established several special workshops for Extension professionals focused on management styles, learning styles

and delivery systems, collaborated with the biotechnology education program to prepare teacher to teach biotechnology, and provided leadership for the Governor's Council on Agricultural Education, a state-wide effort to recommend changes to improve Agricultural Education. He was extensively involved as Chairperson of a project with The National Council for Agricultural Education to infuse an international perspective into the study of agriculture by providing an international experience to Japan, in-service training for teachers and sets of instructional materials for teachers of agriculture across the U.S.A. He was most proud of his work to help organize and conduct the first Experiment Station regional project in Agricultural Education.

Robert held significant leadership roles including Chair of Iowa Governor's Council on agricultural Education, Iowa Association of Agricultural Educators, and chair of the Ag Education and Studies department at ISU. He was a senior fellow of the American Association of Agricultural Education. Nationally, he served as editor of the *Agricultural Education Magazine* and member of the editing managing board for the Journal of Agricultural Education. He served as president of AAAE and AIAAE, as well as other officers (secretary, treasurer and vice president). Robert received more than 50 state, national and international awards and recognitions for outstanding teaching as well as mentoring and advising students.

Robert is preceded in death by his parents, infant brother Jerry Martin, brother Richard and Nancy Martin. He is survived by brother Mac and Lucy Martin and brother Steve and Muriel Martin and several much-loved nieces and a nephew and many great nieces and nephews.



On June 1, 2022, Wayne Oran Ostendorf passed peacefully at Mill Pond Community in Ankeny, Iowa. He lived 87 wonderful years celebrating faith, family, farming, fishing, fitness and friendships.

Wayne became a member of the Computer Science faculty in 1967 as an assistant professor and taught a variety of computer science classes. He was promoted to associate professor in 1972 and served until 2000. In his role as professor he emphasized the use of academic models as they applied to actual business environments. He served on several departmental committees and was chair of the Computer Science Equipment Committee from 1988 to 2000. He acted as an advisor for several non-thesis MS degree students as well as PhD degree program students from 1972 to 1982. He was elected to the Cardinal Key Honorary in 1976, received the Upsilon Pi Epsilon Membership in 1980, and the Outstanding University Academic Advisor Award in 1983.

Ostendorf was also active on many other university committees including, but not limited to, the Faculty Workload, Alumni Honors and Awards, University Extension Review, Total Quality Management Steering, and the Academic Affairs Computer Advisory Committees. He also served on several university-wide search committees.

Wayne passionately served in community organizations and often held leadership positions. He was particularly fond of Ames Town & Country Kiwanis and their work with Ames High School's Key Club.

Professionally, Wayne was a founding and active member of CUMREC (College and University Machine Records Conference) from 1960 to 2000 and received the Frank Martin Service Award. He was a member and leader of CAUSE (College and University Systems Exchange) and the central Iowa DPMA (Data Processing Management Association).

But he was perhaps most loved and known for creating a family atmosphere and positive team spirit with work. He worked hard and made work fun. He loved the people and energy of campus life, running or playing basketball every noon lunch break, the Carillon Bells and the aura of academia on a truly gorgeous campus.

Wayne, age 87, is preceded in death by his parents and older sister Marlys Kramer. He is survived by his wife Eleanor, two children; Nancy Ann Thompson (Mark) of Badger, Iowa and Alan Wayne Ostendorf (Angela) of Ames, Iowa, and 7 grandchildren; Jackson & Juliet Thompson, and Victoria, Brennan, Collin, Drew & Ethan Ostendorf – all the great loves of his life. He's also survived by a younger brother LeRoy (Janice) Ostendorf of Aplington along with many nieces, nephews and fond neighbors who will miss him dearly. He was the best friend, husband, father, and grandpa who gave the best advice, encouragement and warmest hugs!

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.adamssoderstrum.com



Dr. Richard Francis Poist, Age 78, passed away at Mount Sinai Hospital in Miami Beach, Florida on February 19, 2022 with his family by his side. Dr. Poist was born in Hanover, PA on May 12, 1943. He attended Delone Catholic High School before pursuing an undergraduate business degree at Penn State where he played varsity tennis. He subsequently earned his M.B.A at the University of Maryland and Ph.D. in logistics at Penn State University..

Dr. Poist taught at the University of Maryland for nearly 20 years. During that time, he earned several awards for teaching excellence and had several research articles published. In 1990, he moved his family to Ames, Iowa to become a tenured full professor at Iowa State University. Dr. Poist was an active scholar throughout his career and served as the chair of the Department of Logistics, Operations, and Management Information Systems. He also served as co-editor of the *International Journal of Physical Distribution & Logistics Management*. He remained at Iowa State University until his retirement in 2012 and then his subsequent move to Key West, Florida. His colleagues remember him for his love of teaching and Iowa State athletics. Dr. Poist and his children attended several sporting events together, including the Cyclone's Insight.com Bowl win and most recently the Cyclone's Camping World Bowl game in Orlando, Florida.

Dr. Poist is predeceased by his parents, Richard F. Poist, Sr. and Mary Ann Poist (O'Reilly) and his daughter, Carol Ann Poist. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Helena Poist (Sledz), two children, Christine Trovato (Nicholas) and Mark Poist (Vannessa Metzger) and their two daughters, Nola and Emily, his son-in-law James Connors, and his sister, Deborah Ann Poist. He is also survived by his brother and sister in law, Bernard and Louise Sledz and his nieces, Nicole and Allison, their husbands and children.

The Passing of Ken Stalder

Dr. Ken Stalder passed away unexpectedly on October 24, 2022. Ken was a mentor, colleague, collaborator, and friend to many, many people.

Ken Stalder grew up on a small diversified farm in Southeast Iowa and went to school in the Fairfield Community School system. He developed his interest in livestock through 4-H and FFA youth activities. He was active in leadership roles in both organizations while also actively participating in swine and beef projects. These projects led him to showing market pigs and market steers at the Jefferson County Fair.

After graduation from high school, Ken began his collegiate journey at Iowa State University in the 2-year Farm Operations program that at the time offered an associate's degree. He graduated from this program in 1985, in the middle of what many called the first farm crisis of our generation. Ken realized that his dream of going back to the family farm was likely not possible and decided to further his education by pursuing his Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science at Iowa State University. During his first semester, Ken met Dr. Lauren Christian, who taught the Pork Production course. Ken was fortunate that, when he asked, Dr. Christian agreed to be his academic advisor. The relationship became much more than academic advisor over the years. Ken worked his way through school and, needing a job, Dr. Christian helped him find work at the Iowa Swine Testing Station, which stimulated his interest in performance testing, genetic improvement, purebred livestock, and the overall swine industry as well as the wonderful, insightful, and brilliant people engaged in it. Ken was involved with everything from daily care of the animals to data collection while working part time at the Testing Station.



Ken graduated with his B.S. degree in Animal Science and went to work for a large coop in Northeast Iowa as Livestock Production Specialist. His role was to sell feed and provide nutritional and management advice to the livestock producers he served. During his 3-year sales career, Ken conducted several on-farm demonstration projects looking at animal performance when fed different diets. His passion for the demonstration projects allowed him to identify his interest in applied research. While working in Cascade, Iowa, Ken met his future wife, Cheryl Burns, who was a music teacher at a private school in town.

Understanding that he had a great interest in research and really enjoyed working with numbers, Ken desired to learn more about animal breeding, so he went to Western Kentucky University where he began work on a Master of Science degree. While there, Ken studied the immune response difference between pure- and crossbred animals. His study at WKU, led to the development of a life-long friendship with Dr. Gordon Jones after earning his MS degree.

Ken returned to ISU to pursue his PhD in Animal Breeding. As part of his assistantship, he was responsible for working with all the remaining boar testing stations, entering their performance information and providing genetic evaluation services to enhance the information provided to producer when they made

their selection decisions. Ken worked with the test station managers to make sure they submitted the breeding values in time to be published in the sale catalog. He was fortunate to be a student during that time because he was involved with many projects conducted by the National Pork Producers Council including the Terminal and Maternal line tests and many others. This allowed graduate students, including Ken, to gain a tremendous amount of knowledge about accurate data collection, meat quality, statistical analyses, etc., and Ken made many close lifelong friends.

After completing his PhD, Ken went to work as Extension Swine Specialist at the University of Tennessee, based out of the West Tennessee Experiment Station in Jackson. During his work there, he served swine producers across the state of Tennessee and quickly learned that he needed to become well versed in a variety of topics including Ag Economics, Ag Engineering, Swine Nutrition and others. To that end, Ken was very successful at the University of Tennessee assisting producers with their gilt replacement program and helping purebred breeders with their on-farm testing and selection programs by serving as ultrasound service provider. Additionally, he began to focus on the economic importance of sow longevity or sow productive lifetime.

Ken worked at the University of Tennessee from 1995 to 2003 and then was selected to fill a vacant Extension Swine Specialist's position at ISU. After returning to ISU, he continued to work with the large pork production systems operating in Iowa and maintained a successful research and teaching program.

While at ISU, Ken developed and established a nationally and internationally recognized research program in applied swine breeding and genetics, centered especially on sow longevity/sow productive lifetime. His research program was funded almost entirely by extramural grants and gifts. Through these funded research projects, he trained 18 MS, 6 PhD, and 12 post-graduate students. Nearly all these students have gone on to make significant contributions to the swine industry in the U.S. and throughout the world. Additionally, he had many outstanding undergraduate students work on a variety of research projects, which allowed these students to gain an appreciation for the research atmosphere, many going on to professional or graduate school. Ken established a large network of collaborations with colleagues within ISU; at other universities throughout the U.S.; and with commodity groups, government research agencies, private industry, and a variety of international organizations. He published in 39 internationally recognized journals where he authored or co-authored over 160 refereed journal publications. His work has been cited over 3800 times. Additionally, he authored or co-authored 12 book chapters, 14 peer-reviewed extension publications, and over 360 other publications including popular press articles, conference proceedings, research reports, and others. Ken presented over 175 invited talks at scientific meetings and conferences in the U.S. and internationally. He was the winner of many prestigious awards in Animal Science and Animal Breeding and Genetics and from ISU. Ken was promoted to full professor, and he was group leader for the Animal Breeding and Genetics group within the Department of Animal Science. Additionally, he remained active in many professional organizations including the National Swine Improvement Federation.

Ken and his wife Cheryl were married for over 30 years and have three children, Lauren, Sam and Will, and one grandchild. Ken and his family made their home in Huxley, Iowa. To all who knew him, Ken was a great friend and colleague, a big St Louis Cardinals fan, and a tremendous contributor and supporter to the swine industry and the field of animal breeding. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. May his memory be a blessing.