



Clyde William Kimball

April 20, 1928 - June 3, 2015

Professor Clyde Kimball passed away suddenly and unexpectedly June 3, 2015 in Corvallis Oregon where he had retired with his wife and partner Joan Truckenbrod. The joyful memories of intellectual pursuits, artistic endeavors and creative explorations sustains the community of many people touched by Clyde Kimball.

Clyde was such an amazing and special person for all of us. He touched so many people with his support, generosity, and mentoring, supporting colleagues and Graduate Students with funding, encouragement and confidence in their ideas and projects. His passion for NIU faculty and students, as well as his own research, radiated throughout the community.

He continued to read and discuss new ideas each day. We went out to bookshops, coffee shops, concerts, poetry readings, movies and musical theatre. We also loved going to the coast, usually for ten days at a time. Our hotel was right on the ocean so he could watch the waves as he sat next to the fireplace - which he so loved. Room service delivered breakfast, and then we sampled fresh fish in a variety of local restaurants. Clyde and Joan have many friends in Corvallis and have enjoyed their company at various dinners on patios and in restaurants. Clyde exchanged articles and books with many friends - educators, engineers, artists and designers.

His passing was very unexpected. His bills are in a neat pile to be paid. He had just ordered another book that had not arrived, and his Science magazines are piled ready to read. He had just ordered a model airplane like the one he built when he was a kid. He had just ordered a hand-colored print. And he was so pleased with his new wheelchair that had just arrived a few days earlier, as he told a friend from Illinois.

Et cetera...

Clyde Kimball is survived by his wife and partner, Joan Truckenbrod, an artist, and his brother-in-law Ron Sharman of Corvallis. His children include Emily Truckenbrod, Head of Vocal Studies at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Karen Kimball, an Attorney in Wynantskill New York, and Paul Kimball, Head of the Science Program at Northeastern

Iowa Community College. He is also survived by his brother Paul Kimball, grandsons Jeff Kimball-Spear, Will Kimball-Spear and Aidan Truckenbrod, and a number of very special nieces and nephews. He is greatly treasured by a wide circle of friends and relatives and will be greatly missed.

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



McHenry Funeral Home - October 07, 2015 at 05:05 PM



“ Clyde Kimball (Continued)

For about 20 years right from its very beginning, Joy Talsma served as the chief administrator for CARS. Joy writes:

“Clyde was a very special person. I truly admired him and sincerely liked him.

In that, Joy speaks for all of us. Joy continues:

“I have many fond memories of Clyde from the years when I had the privilege and pleasure of working with him in CARS, and the word collaboration is essential to many of them. Clyde was a gifted consensus builder who firmly believed that collaboration was key to CARS success. Through the years, he graciously and skillfully pursued mutually beneficial collaboration for CARS with scientists, academics, industrial representatives, politicians and others. I have one very special twenty year old memory of Clyde in the State Capitol office of Illinois State Speaker of the House Lee Daniels. Together with Speaker Daniels and Advanced Photon Source representatives, Clyde and other CARS leaders were honored by the large crowd of dignitaries gathered to recognize CARS planned research facilities at the Advanced Photon Source and CARS early success in obtaining competitive State of Illinois Technology Challenge Grant funding. Of course, that was only one of many milestones of which Clyde was an important part!”

(Joy Talsma)

When we were writing the original CARS proposals. We all had to feel confident that our CARS joint venture would succeed. Yet without Clyde our herd of cats almost surely would have dispersed. CARS would not have existed. CARS now has 2500 users and has accelerated the adoption of synchrotron radiation techniques in several disciplines --I hope that the non-scientists here will trust me that these techniques have made an importance difference in those fields.

Those were exciting times!

Mark Rivers and Steve Sutton, both relatively junior at the time, the late Joseph V. Smith (the first Executive Director of CARS) and I wrote the first proposal that brought \$2.7 million of seed funding for CARS. Mark became the second Director of GeoSoilEnviroCARS and is now CARS Executive Director. Mark wrote:

It was my pleasure to know Clyde for the many years that he led the CARS Board of Governors. He guided us through the early years, playing a critical role in securing funding from the Illinois Board of Higher Education during tight times in state budgets. He helped to forge a strong relationship with our Australian partners, and steer that very successful collaboration. We benefited so much from his savvy, wisdom, and experience. But more important were his wit, his charm, and his warmth. He was very supportive of all of us in CARS as individuals, and made us feel

pride in what we had accomplished with his help. I am very thankful for what he gave us, and we will all miss him.

(Mark Rivers)

On a different note, you probably know that Clyde was an avid collector of prints. My ex-wife was a professor of Art History at the University of Chicago. Clyde and Joan, Barbara and I would get together occasionally, not as often as we would have liked. I remember the intense discussions between physicist Clyde and art historian Barbara. Barbara regarded him as a peer. Such was the breadth and depth of Clyde's knowledge.

And after our divorce, Clyde and Joan took me under their wing, inviting me to their family New Year's Eve parties.

I feel joy and sadness, as I am sure we all do. Joy at having worked with and known Clyde, and benefited from his gentleness and, wisdom, and enthusiasm. And, sadness at his loss.

Fred E. Stafford

Fred Stafford - July 30, 2015 at 01:28 PM



“ Clyde Kimball

My name is Fred Stafford. I will share with you my and three other people's comments about the wonderful person that Clyde was, and how that person had an impact on the progress of science.

I first met Clyde in 1978 while I was a Program Director at the NSF (National Science Foundation), the Federal agency that provides much of the support for basic research in our universities.

Clyde came to NSF while on leave from NIU as “rotator” Program Director for the Low Temperature Physics Program. He had responsibility for the vitality of that area of Physics, and for funding the work of about a hundred professors and their research groups. These rotator appointments were designed to help keep the permanent staff (I was there for 12 years) intellectually vibrant and aware of the concerns of the community. And Clyde did that wonderfully. Beyond that, at the end of the year, our Section, comprised of 6 overachiever scientists, plus our Section Head, would meet to decide on budget allocations for the coming year. You can imagine how competitive it was. Newcomer Clyde was extremely effective. He had a way of making things into win-win situations.

Around 1990, after I had come to The University of Chicago, I was helping to put together a Consortium to build cutting-edge experimental instrumentation at a national facility called the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois. We called it the Consortium for Advanced Radiation Sources, or CARS. Thirty to 50 million dollars needed to be raised. This was an enormous sum for fields where typical grant sizes were \$100,000. The Consortium included 4 national user groups for: Chemistry and Materials Research; Geophysical Sciences; Soil and Environmental Sciences; and Structural Biology; plus 3 Universities: Northern Illinois University (Clyde's institution), Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and the University of Chicago. I expect that you already see the complexity of this situation, but just in case... this group gives vivid meaning to the expressions “strange bedfellows” and, “Getting faculty to agree on something is like herding cats.” The Consortium was to be governed by a Board of Governors. Senior management of our three universities searched for the Chair. Required were impeccable scientific credentials, a reputation for absolute integrity and even handedness, and extraordinary interpersonal skills. The name of only one person emerged. That person was Clyde, who became the founding Chair of the Board in 1992 and served for about 20 years. I served as founding Secretary to the Board for its first seven years and thoroughly enjoyed working with Clyde and getting to know both him and Joan.

At this point, I want to bring you reminiscences from three other people from CARS who had significant and longstanding interactions with Clyde. I will read them in the order that I received them.

Keith Moffat is an eminent structural biologist who brought people together to form a national structural biology group, BioCARS, in order to help create our Consortium.

Keith served as the second Executive Director of CARS. Keith wrote.

“We professors get hired and promoted largely on the basis of our scholarly skills, not for our administrative or diplomatic skills. Clyde was a wonderful mentor in both skill sets. I remember his comment to me after a difficult meeting in the early days of CARS. I was trying to encourage representatives of other Illinois universities to support us rather than promoting their own, rather different agendas, but my clumsy efforts were notably unsuccessful. After the meeting, Clyde said quietly and privately "Keith, that was a real train wreck! Now, if you'd approached it THIS way....." And he laid it all out, like the diplomat and gentleman he was. I listened; we learned; his skills live on in us. But he himself did it best.....”

(J. Keith Moffat)

Fred Stafford - July 30, 2015 at 01:27 PM



“ I came to NIU in the summer of 1965 as a graduate student in physics and became Clyde’s 4th graduate student. As an advisor, he steered me in directions that proved their worth long after grad school. As a teacher, he always proved that I could do more than I thought I could. His ability as a researcher was exemplary. Traveling with him to Argonne National Laboratory was always a learning experience. He took me to a number of conferences and even let me present to gain experience. After getting a Ph.D. in chemistry, I returned to NIU to work under Clyde in 1983 on my sabbatical. Once again, his office was always open; time, and expertise were offered freely.

I think the greatest tribute I can pay to Clyde comes from the dedication page of my first textbook. It reads:

To Clyde W. Kimball
Teacher, scholar, and friend

Ralph H Hannon
Professor Emeritus
Department of Chemistry
Kishwaukee College, Malta, IL 60150

Ralph Hannon - June 29, 2015 at 08:16 PM



“ Before the 1961 Mossbauer Conference in Paris, Gil Perlow wrote a letter (it was before email) saying that I ought to meet a colleague who would be visiting England on the way, and who was just my kind of person. It was Clyde of course and Gil was right, he was my kind of person. We made many trips together to the Lake District in northern England where he bought prints and water colors. I remember seeing a book signed by Wordsworth (authenticated) which tempted him, but it was pictures he liked because you could put them on the wall. When I retired and came to live in Woodridge he arranged for me to teach at NIU and our friendship continued. A gentleman scientist and an all-round cultured human being, it was a privilege to count you as a friend and I shall miss you.

Charles Johnson - June 29, 2015 at 06:11 AM



“ To say that he had an impact on my life 15 years ago would miss the fact that the conversations that we had then still ripple through my mind, actions, and being on a daily basis.
I am grateful for the opportunity that I had to talk with and be heard by CWK. He allowed me the opportunity to discover so many things. Thanks Clyde.

Pitter Patter - June 24, 2015 at 04:36 PM



“ Joan and Emily-

We are so sorry for your loss. Clyde has touched our family in many ways. We have many wonderful memories to cherish.

Love-
Matt and Cindy Olson

Olson - June 20, 2015 at 01:50 PM



“ Joan, please accept my sympathy. You've lost a dear, dear man. I'll remember Clyde not only for his fame as a scientist but for his generosity, kindness, and understanding of others. He was a star researcher and grantsman--a true leader in his field--and also one of the nicest, warmest people I've ever known. He will be missed by a large community of admirers and friends,

Mary Lincoln

Mary Lincoln - June 19, 2015 at 02:43 PM



“ Joan, I just read your husband's obituary in today's local paper. I send you sympathy and love.
Penny Rosenow

Penny Rosenow - June 18, 2015 at 10:06 PM



“ Clyde was a very kind and gentle man. I always told him that if I had a science teacher like him when I was young, I would of majored in Science. He explained things to well and clearly. He loved books and he would always visit the Barnes & Noble in Dekalb, where I worked to either purchase or order a book. He will be greatly missed!

Marlene Bryant

Marlene Bryant - June 18, 2015 at 04:12 PM



“ Clyde was the best of friends to us and quite possibly the sweetest man I have ever known. His intelligence, humor and insight remain with us today. We miss you so, Clyde. Happy trails!

Cathy Kerr - June 18, 2015 at 01:01 PM



“ Dr. Kimball was my teacher and mentor. He was an extraordinary person who guided me through my student years and shaped my career as a scientist. I have never met such a brilliant, kind and selfless person in my life as Dr. Kimball. I will always remember him.

Andrei Tkachuk

Andrei Tkachuk - June 17, 2015 at 07:20 PM



“ I didn't forget that Dr. Kimball financially supported me for a semester through a scholarship program when I was a new graduate student in Physics but couldn't secure an assistantship. I thank him for that.

Harsha Panuganti - June 16, 2015 at 09:20 PM



“ Clyde Kimball was an extraordinary scientist and teacher. He was respected and beloved by the students and faculty whose lives he touched at Northern Illinois University and he will be missed. His legacy in science and at NIU will endure and honor his memory. My condolences to Joan and Clyde's family. Submitted by Lisa C. Freeman, Executive Vice President and Provost of NIU.

Lisa Freeman - June 09, 2015 at 06:49 AM



“ Dear Joan and Family,

Annette and I offer our heartfelt sympathy for your loss. We will remember Clyde's engaging personality and wonderful smile. We love you.

Jerry & Annette

Jerry Johns - June 08, 2015 at 10:45 PM



“ As one of Clyde's last undergraduate students, I can say that his commitment to teaching and his true interest in each of us as his students was tremendously valuable. I continued to stop by and chat with Clyde as I finished my Master's and later when I started working for the department. I valued our conversations deeply and appreciated his advice and wonderful outlook. Pati Sievert

Pati Sievert - June 08, 2015 at 02:39 PM



“ Clyde was an awesome guy. I remember, years ago, reading a book that had nanos gone bad in it. Low and behold, Clyde happened into the dean's office that same week and knowing he worked with nano technology, I had to tell him about the nanos in the book... he got quite the laugh and then proceed to explain what nanos were really used for.

Margie Foshe

Margie Foshe - June 08, 2015 at 01:28 PM



“ Joan and Family,

My deepest sympathies on Clyde's passing. He was one of my most favorite faculty members at NIU, and a dear, dear friend. He believed so strongly in NIU and in creating a national, and even international reputation for NIU; he dedicated his entire career, giving up opportunities at other prestigious, highly ranked universities, to continue his teaching and research at NIU, mentoring, challenging and leading our students by example. In short, he was a gentleman, a scholar and a wonderful friend.

I remember one occasion when my youngest son was in junior high and was thinking about studying to be a physician. Clyde knew my science background wasn't deep enough to provide the necessary encouragement and instruction at home to Matthew, so he went out and bought him age-appropriate books and developed a reading list to provide the necessary background in science to augment what he was learning in school. I was so grateful, and Matthew was so touched. Needless to say, Matthew's a financier, not a physician, but he still carries a strong affinity for math and science, even as an adult.

In short, Joan, I will miss him so. I'm at UIC now and working with a physician who is equally as passionate about public health as Clyde was about high-energy physics. I just wanted you to know that I will be keeping you and the family in my prayers. He was simply a wonderful friend and person who dedicated his entire career to the physics program at NIU, its faculty and students. And he made the program and everyone's life with whom he came into contact, the better for it.

Love and prayers,
Kathy Buettner



Kathy Buettner - June 08, 2015 at 01:21 PM



“ It is with great sadness that I learned of oClyde's passing. He was a friend and a colleague, and a mentor to me over the last 47 years. He will be missed both for his friendship and for his important contributions to the scientific community.

Frank Y. Fradin
Argonne Fellow
Argonne National Laboratory

Frank Fradin - June 08, 2015 at 01:19 PM



“ Clyde, Thank you for all years supporting science and young colleagues. I will remember your guidances and conversation on physics and culture, especially, music and arts, and culture. RIP. Yasuo and Elyna

Yasuo Ito - June 08, 2015 at 01:05 PM



“ Clyde, Thank you for all years supporting science and young colleagues. I will remember your guidances and conversation on physics and culture, especially Japanese culture and your Judo experiences, music and arts. RIP.

Yasuo Ito - June 08, 2015 at 12:07 PM