



## David Lloyd Noakes

August 3, 1942 - December 1, 2020

David Lloyd George Noakes, 78, of Corvallis, Oregon passed away at Evergreen Hospice in Albany on Tuesday, December 1, 2020. As David wished, his cremation has already taken place. His ashes will be disposed of according to plan, below the tide line at the nearest shore. Please leave condolence messages for the family below.

# Tribute Wall

KK

“ Dear Pat and Jeff

*I just learned of David's death today (after a distracting little battle with cancer here these past 6 months) - when I dropped him a note. I am so sorry to hear the news... he will be missed by friends/colleagues around the planet. I always enjoyed hearing from him over the years since our shared time at Guelph and will remember him very fondly indeed.*

*Kit*

*(Kit M. Kovacs, PhD Guelph from Lavigne's lab - "next door")*

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**Kit M. Kovacs** - May 05, 2021 at 08:56 AM

DN

“ *Having retired, I only just heard of dlgn's passing. I was a post-doc in his lab in the late '80s. He was a man of immense intellect, dry humor, and his contributions to the field of fish ecology were immense. It was at a dinner hosted by David and Eugene Balon that my wife went into labour with our first daughter. We thought we were being so discrete, but David "caught us in the act" of timing contractions - ever the behaviourist! Although we had drifted apart over the years, I consider myself privileged to have been associated with him. Doug Noltie, retired, U. Missouri.*

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**Douglas Noltie** - March 29, 2021 at 03:58 PM

DB

“ I came to know David through the professional meetings on the *Ecological and Evolutionary Ethology of Fishes (EEEEF)*. In 1987, I hosted the EEEF meeting at Lamar University, Beaumont, TX, and then cohosted the conference with professional colleagues in 2000 at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA. David was instrumental in assisting me and others in developing and organizing the conferences over the years. Without his professional and personal assistance, it would have been much more difficult to put on the conferences. David also professionally assisted and helped me in many other ways over the years on various points. I thank David for all his time and support.

*Dave Bechler, Retired biologist.*

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David Bechler - February 22, 2021 at 02:54 PM

EM

“ I learned only recently of David's passing, and am deeply grieved - I suppose death is never expected and always too sudden, but this is such a great loss.

*I cannot do justice to David's memory, but I can share a few facets of my acquaintance with this excellent colleague. One of my students moved to Oregon State to pursue his Ph.D., and I asked him after a few months what he thought of David. He said that the undergraduates were terrified of him – the quiet, steely gaze that made them quail – but he (my former student) loved David, because he could see the gleam of humor and understanding that was always present. That told me a lot about both of them, and echoed exactly how I felt about David.*

*I spent far too little time with David, just short intervals at conferences, though I had the pleasure and honor to work with him on a chapter – soon to be published in a book on which he is one of the three editors, a fitting tribute that should not, alas, be post-humous. But one particular interaction is very important in my memory. Just prior to a conference, I experienced an acute personal crisis. I joined David and two or three other colleagues for pre-arranged dinner at the conference, keeping very quiet. David was, as always, both perceptive and sensitive. He engaged me in a conversation that pulled me out of my misery, made me laugh, and demonstrated a great deal of empathy without being obtrusive.*

*So many other moments that built my respect and affection for David – chatting about fish development, fish behavior, and that wonderful, hilarious presentation at the Chars symposium in Scotland – his piratical ‘Charrs’ will be long remembered by the participants. David, you are sadly missed.*

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Ellen Marsden - February 19, 2021 at 01:13 PM

IH

“ I have only just now learned of David's passing and was very sad to hear the news. He was a wonderful colleague at the University of Guelph and a great support for me during my time in senior administration. I will always be grateful for his wise counsel, his wry sense of humour, and his warm and cheerful spirit. He leaves a lasting legacy in the lives of so many students, faculty and staff. He will be missed!

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**Isobel Heathcote** - February 15, 2021 at 12:00 PM

KO

“ I was very saddened to learn of Prof. David Noakes passing. While I was never fortunate enough to have him as a teacher, he was a mentor who equally and freely shared advice and wit. It was always a good thing to see him coming down the hallway, and rarely could you pass without receiving a dose of his dry humour.

Also famous was his previously mentioned comprehensive exam question which sent shivers down the grad students spines, "what is a fish?". Bemused, he would watch students sweat, point out exceptions for any statement made, and generally try to suppress a grin. His question (and delight behind its asking) became so legendary that (I believe unbeknownst to David) the graduate students did get together to pre-emptively create the best definition we could "a heterogeneous collection of vertebrates variously comprised of skin and scales", which seemed to meet the mark, and remove some of David's mirth watching us squirm (to our delight!).

Other statements he told were not academic, but fatherly, as my oldest son was born while working on my PhD. What David said resonated with me then, but even more so as my kids grew older into the teens, and the wisdom of it spoken in the Axelrod Bldg mailroom (a common haunt of David) has never left me; "we raise our kids to be hostages to the world"

David was part of my Guelph extended family for the time I spent there, along with a collection of other characters who broadened my thoughts, knowledge, and confidence while also being friends and mentors. It was a special time, and its hard to imagine the university in their absence. The Zoology faculty, and David, contributed immensely to our growth, a debt not easily repaid aside from paying it forward.

It was my honour to have known and interacted with Prof. David Noakes.

Ken Oakes

**Ken Oakes** - February 05, 2021 at 03:49 PM

NB

“ *The news of David's passing was heartbreaking. I didn't know David as a scientist but as a wonderful family friend. In the 60s, when David was a graduate student with my father, Pat and David were a constant in our family life. Somehow, perhaps through bribery or threats, my parents enlisted the Noakes as babysitters for me and my two sisters. Over the years, I would see the Noakes when they passed through the Bay Area and it was always a joy. Of course, I would receive the Christmas card and occasional emails. When George died in 2007, David came to Berkeley to help. He archived George's office, wrote much of George's obituary, and gave the eulogy at the memorial. Of course David had us laughing and crying. And now, with David's passing, to ease the sadness, I imagine that David and George are somewhere sharing corny puns and discussing their beloved cichlids.*

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**Nora Barlow** - January 22, 2021 at 07:35 PM

NB

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Nora Barlow** - January 22, 2021 at 06:44 PM

CS

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Cristina Soto** - January 22, 2021 at 11:33 AM

CS

“The tributes on this site so beautifully express the kind, caring, generous, brilliant scientist, friend, and family man that David was, so I will just share a few memories.

*Exaggerating the bass tones of his voice for effect, that dry humour, the stern look on his face intimidated a lot of students, but it didn't intimidate me for long because I saw the sparkle in his eyes behind it.*

*We had a collegial relationship and a friendship based on respect, a tone that he had with everyone. Reflecting back over the years, I don't take that for granted David always made me feel like an equal - respected and appreciated (and that's so important for a young woman studying in university at the beginning of her career).*

*I first got to know him taking ichthyology class in 4th year university at Guelph. I have a lousy memory, but we developed a good connection - he told me about *Rivulus marmoratus* (as it was known then) - the tiny, self-fertilizing hermaphroditic fish, unique among vertebrates, that fascinated him and that he had a small colony of in an incubator in the Food Science building. He transmitted that interest to me, and I ended up doing an NSERC Summer Research Award with him after graduating (see the photo). I became so intrigued with this fish that I ended up doing my master's degree with David as my supervisor.*

*I'll never forget the first time I handed in something to him as his grad student. David of the “bleeding page” - that's what I called it. He was already an editor at the scientific journal, “*Environmental Biology of Fishes*.” The report was literally covered in red. Yes, this was the time we dealt with paper and pen. (Trivia: He was the first one I ever met that got an Apple computer - an Apple 2e).*

*A highlight from this time is our field trip to the Florida Keys with Will Davis. *Rivulus* prefers mangrove swamps where it lives in crab holes. Not the kind of glamorous fish-collecting trip one associates*

*with the Florida Keys. We wove our way in and out of entangled mangrove branches and spider webs, often knee deep in mud, and discovered Rivulus in unexpected places like coconut shells, a bamboo hollowed out trunk, and even beer cans. David made jokes about how Rivulus preferred Anheuser Busch over Michelob. He said I had the metabolism of a baby bird because we were either stopping for food for me or the restroom.*

*We kept in touch sporadically over the years. He would send me things – job and conference notices, and updates about Rivulus and more recently about clove oil. I ended up doing aquaculture research with CUSO in Indonesia where I learned that clove oil could be used as a fish anesthetic. I published research on this work and David, his student, and I subsequently collaborated on a study testing clove oil on rainbow trout.*

*I saw him many years later at a fisheries conference (CCFR) in Montreal or Ottawa... I hadn't been to one or seen him in years and we reconnected there. We were standing in the hallway and a longtime colleague of his came up and David asked us playfully: "What's the biggest bony fish in the world?" The other gentleman's answer was wrong, and I piped up with mola (the massive sunfish that can be seen floating on the surface). Yes! David was so proud of his once-graduate student that he treated me to a 30-year-old Oban.*

*The day after his son Jeff shocked me with the news of his passing, I had the song playing on repeat in my head from James Taylor's Fire and Rain, "I always thought that I'd see you again...." This is a tough one. David, "So long and thanks for all the fish!"*

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**Cristina Soto** - January 22, 2021 at 11:32 AM

PP

“ Dear Pat and Jeff,

*I am absolutely gutted to hear of David's passing. He was a beacon of light during a very dark time in my undergraduate years. He was a kind, thoughtful mentor that taught me invaluable lessons that have served me well throughout my career in academia, particularly with respect to his support of women in STEM. I will never forget those wonderful days in the GHOTI group: the delicious baked goods he would share after the Fishes & Loaves seminars (that great apple crisp that I still make to this day!), his incredible dry wit and his compassion and care for his students. He will forever remain an academic hero of mine, a mentor who pushed his students to discover their unique potential and gifts. I fondly recall visiting you in Corvallis in 2010 and now wish I could have seen Dr. Noakes one last time to let him know what he meant to me. My deepest sympathy and condolences to you in this difficult time.*

*Pier Andrée Penttila*

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**Pier Andree Penttila** - December 30, 2020 at 07:29 AM

HS

“ *This time of year, I always think of David. Even after leaving Oregon, he would stay in touch sending birthday cards and singing holiday e-cards with inside jokes and lots of fish puns. David had a gift for seeing people for what they could be, and he showed us how to reach our true potential. He mentored us both professional and in life. Demonstrating that the relationships you build in life are what gives life meaning and purpose. David lives on in all of us, we carry with us his stories, his knowledge, his compassion, and even some of his humor. My heartaches for the loss of such an incredible friend and role model, but I am grateful for the impact he leaves behind.*

*Heather Stewart*

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**Heather Stewart** - December 26, 2020 at 01:00 PM

AG

“ Dear Pat & family,  
I am heartbroken to hear of David's passing. I learned of it just now sending him an email excitedly telling him of my PhD acceptance and to thank him for the recommendation letter that he wrote only 6 weeks ago. He was the first person who told this naive cichlid fanatic that Ichthyology was a 'thing'. Since then he was a supportive and encouraging mentor. I am so grateful I was able to see him last year, reminisce about Guelph, and marvel at the incredible field lab he built at the Hatchery Research Center. His humor was unparalleled and I can't imagine the fishy world without him.

With love from Ana.



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Ana Gaisiner - December 22, 2020 at 08:12 PM

SM

Dear Pat, from far away I sent you both a holiday greetings today.... so shocked to receive these sad news! He was and has been a strong support for me throughout the years.... since Guelph till now. I have him in my prayers and my heart with deep gratitude.

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Silvia Manzanilla-Naim - December 27, 2020 at 03:36 PM

TS

“ *I am so sorry to learn of this sad news about David.  
Since his cousin Daryl, my husband, died in 2005 David kept in touch regularly.  
Most recently he sent me a cd he made from an old family video his uncle Dode had taken in the early 1970s  
We had never met yet I felt like he really cared for Daryl, me and my children. My deepest condolences to the entire family.  
Rest In Peace David  
Tina, Ryan and Sarah Sangster*

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**tina sangster** - December 18, 2020 at 07:58 PM

SW

“ Dear Pat, Jeff and the family,

*I have known you Pat and David since 1968 or 9 from George Barlow's lab. What a wonderful place to get my education about cichlids, scientists who collaborate and are fond of one another and I was myself. I was adopted by the guys in the lab- they called me "just sam" and I learned, did a study with George (my very first publication) and then went back to Michigan State U to finish my MS on- you guessed it Cichlid behavior (the convicts).*

*Over the years I visited the Noakes family - watched Jeff grow taller - in Guelph. I did an MS on fish, hiatus for 2 years, then a PhD on Equine behavior. Boy, did I catch heck from David and everyone he told..... Still those christmas cards kept coming. Mine too went to them. Over the years I have more photo cards of Pat and David than I can count. I sent annual letters and cards. Computer programs gave me more creativity for a while. I missed a few years. But Pat & David ever faithful kept sending those cards. Rarely a letter. Once in a while an e-mail or a phone call. Faithful friends at a distance. Looks like they had many, many fishy friends all over the world. Pat - what was your annual postage bill for christmas cards? You must have sent out hundreds every year!*

*I sent a e-mail today and got the notice. I am still in shock. David was a friend to many, a mentor to many, a raira avis - no he was a ..... is there a word....Mensch, yes Mensch.*

*May memory of David reach far and wide and may his memory be a blessing to all!*

*Samoa Joane Ruth Wallach, BS, MS, PhD (Zoology - Animal Behavior), MBA, CPA (California and New Mexico) [a traitor to critters] and alphabet soup is in the pantry - waiting....*

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**Samoa "Sam" Wallach** - December 15, 2020 at 03:33 AM

“ Dear Mrs. Noakes & Jeff,

*I was very sorry to hear the sad news of Dr. Noakes' passing from my long-time friend Marie Rush-Smyth, who used to work as a Zoology technician under Dr. Noakes. I was very shocked because I had been wondering recently how he was doing, and thinking it would be nice to see him and you, Mrs. Noakes, if you ever came back to Guelph someday.*

*During my time as a secretary in the Zoology department (1988 – 2000), Dr. Noakes was always very warm and friendly to me. Even from the very beginning, he offered me kind advice and sometimes made witty jokes to make me laugh. He showed me and was also very proud of his business card written in Japanese, which his Japanese colleague had helped him make. I still fondly remember several occasions when I was invited to lunch with Dr. Noakes, Mrs. Noakes, Marie, and other members of the fish research group. And I still remember when Dr. Noakes brought Jeff to my office to introduce me to him. Jeff was in high school at the time!*

*The strongest memory I have of Dr. Noakes was when I went to the party at the Arboretum to celebrate the naming of the Axelrod building in honor of Dr. Axelrod. I was hesitating where to sit, because I was feeling very shy in the crowded room, and then Dr. Noakes just came over to me and took me to the appropriate table. I deeply appreciated his thoughtful gesture in that moment, as it immediately made me feel so much more comfortable.*

*When the coelacanth came to the Institute of Ichthyology, Dr. Noakes and Dr. Balon invited me to see this rare, historic fish one day while I was working, and even allowed me to touch it! I can still feel the coelacanth's scale on my hand even now! And he also invited me regularly to the coffee time following the "Fishes & Loaves Seminar," even though everyone else was a fish professional. But I always enjoyed my time there, listening to their conversations. I will never forget these precious memories and the*

*warm feeling of friendship he gave me.*

*I have no words to comfort you in this difficult time, but please accept my deepest condolences to you and your family.*

*Sincerely,*

*Yoko Imai & family*

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**Yoko** - December 14, 2020 at 09:57 PM

JS

“*David introduced himself to me about 3 years ago. He had prepared an entire nest of items that he thought might stimulate my thinking, and we had a deep and meaningful connection. He taught me much despite my then 57 years of age - I am saddened beyond words to hear of his passing. Many of us use him as a guide post on what a well-lived life can be. I am shaken that he is gone, but in his spirit, I will try to live up to his beautiful example.*”

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**John Selker** - December 14, 2020 at 12:38 PM

AM

“*David Noakes and I are academic siblings. David was a Ph.D. student of George Barlow's at Berkeley a generation before me (he received his Ph.D. in 1971 and I in 1988). I have met David only on a few occasions during my scientific career such as EEEF meetings in the U.S. or Canada and it was always a treat to meet him since he was a scholar and a gentleman who was the kindest person. He was part of the fish powerhouse at Guelph University and the journal (Environmental Biology of Fishes) that many of us published in. Only electronically were our interactions in the last years when we communicated about a book chapter for a book that he was editing on cichlid fish - it is slated to come out early next year. David's Ph.D. work on Midas cichlids and other work on ontogeny of behavior and social systems in cichlids remains valid and important until now. My students and I continue to refer back to David's classical work on these fish and continue to be impressed by his insights, vision for biological relevance, and David's scientific rigor. David will continue to live on through the classic research he conducted throughout his life and the memories we cherish about meeting him in person. Reading his work, trying to read his mind and asking what more he knew about fish that he did not leave behind in print will now remain unanswered questions that I wished I had asked him earlier.*

*RIP David, you are an academic hero of mine who will live on in my memories for a long time to come.*

*Axel Meyer, Chair in Zoology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Konstanz, Germany*

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**Axel Meyer** - December 14, 2020 at 09:47 AM

DJ

“ David helped me connect students with fisheries opportunities on numerous occasions when I was internship coordinator for the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. I am forever grateful for his assistance. He always encouraged me to travel and was always offering to connect me with people in different parts of the world. I have so many memories, but the most unique is that he was convinced that I am a tasseologist (someone that reads the fortunes in tea leaves). At first I thought it was a joke, but then I realized he was probably serious. He gave me tea leaves as gifts to encourage the craft. His fortune was that he would do a lot of traveling. The most important lesson he taught me was the power of bringing people together and of generosity. I baked cookies in his honor. David will be missed and always cherished in my heart.

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**Danielle Jarkowsky** - December 13, 2020 at 12:13 PM

NP

“ *Dear Pat & Family*

*I have just heard from Prof. Bill' e-mail with Prof. David. I was shocked by the sad news of the loss of him with deeply regret of the death. I and my family are sorry to hear about him. We were remember his feeling, warm person, friendly and kindness with us when you and him came to Thailand. We are very happy and very exciting in that time. Because, my family are never meet and party with forenier person. For me, he look like my Dad and my teacher in same time. He is warm person, helper, suggest, guide, support me especially in Oregon, USA. We will always remember him.*

*I and my family would like to offer our condolences to you and your family. Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss. Our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Jimmi & family*

*(Patchara Nithirojpakdee, RGJ-PHD Program, Thailand)*

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**Nithirojpakdee, P.** - December 13, 2020 at 05:23 AM

MM

“ The first time I met David, he asked me if I wanted to sign a birthday card for David Attenborough followed immediately by the somewhat tongue in cheek question, "So what do you want to be when you grow up?". I was a graduate student in the History of Science program at Oregon State University at the time and one of my advisors had recommended that I consider working with David on a new volume about the study of cichlid fishes that he is an editor on. It was both one of the most challenging and most rewarding projects I have ever worked on. In my experience it is rare to meet someone with such a broad and detailed knowledge of so many areas of both history and science, who is so active in their field, and simultaneously so willing to take the time out of their busy schedule to offer help and guidance to a student from a completely different program of study.

*I still remember with great pride the day that David returned my rough draft with his seal of approval, and thinking about him now and how much he cared about the project I can't help but feel the weight of his place in that history. I also cannot help but reflect on the inability of anything that could be written, academic or otherwise, to capture the value of a life well lived and the small moments of kindness that make all the difference between someone who is a great thinker and someone who is a great teacher.*

*Thank you for everything, David. Your legacy will be cherished and you will be missed.*

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**Matthew McConnell** - December 10, 2020 at 08:24 PM

NA

“ It's very difficult to know what to say here. I have so many thoughts about David. I really wanted to learn how to make pie so he would be proud of me. He shared his recipes but they were never as good as when he made them. David was the most considerate, generous, knowledgeable, interesting person I've ever known. He never failed to acknowledge everyone's birthday (including Darwin and Attenborough) with a card and a cake. If he was in town on Fridays there would always be something from his kitchen or a local bakery at our Fisheries and Wildlife coffee club. He even stocked the freezer with Monkey Bread for the days he couldn't be here. He offered books, calendars, CDs, travel brochures, recipes (one for puffin) and a loon foot to Dan Roby, daily fortunes, and jokes a plenty. He even gave me miniature fondue pot and a block of chocolate because he couldn't bear to dip his prized homemade shortbread in chocolate the way I liked it. I love that man, my friend, and it's clear from reading these other messages how much he was loved by so many.

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**Nancy Allen** - December 10, 2020 at 06:42 PM

“ David Lloyd George Noakes- a few thoughts of his contributions and our friendship.

*David contributed so very much to my life , personally and professionally over a span of about 50 years. I trusted David with my thoughts. I relied on his wise counsel. David was fun to work with and to be with- he looked and was a little serious but not at all like he was sometimes perceived. He had a great sense of humor. We were colleagues in a number of research projects in Canada, Thailand and, I think, in another one or two places. We shared serious and not so serious, even funny, issues and moments. We also shared the occasional bad word and beer. I came away from each collegial venture feeling I learned more than I contributed. David convinced me to do things I would not have otherwise undertaken but, on completion, appreciated.*

*Throughout our long friendship David was ahead of his time in understanding and respect for many societal issues - gender equality, racism, disabilities and others. David was usually soft spoken, characteristically injecting tidbits of dry humor into conversations. Unknown to many was his toughness. He was a strong defender of good over evil. I have not known David to be intimidated in his defense of someone he felt deserving of his assistance. He was not one to be played with.*

*A few years ago, I was honored to have David and Pat visit us in Thailand. David was an external examiner for Patchara Nithirojpakdee, a PhD student. While in Thailand we also visited some research sites and had a generally great time exploring sites along the border with Myamar, and other places. Students were thrilled to be able to talk with a 'real' science journal editor. He gave a talk on Hints to Help Publication Success to the Faculty of Science at Burapha University, in Bangsaen, Chonburi, Thailand. A few years later we watched the Oregon Beavers lose a football game on a cold but fun afternoon in Corvallis, Oregon. These were good times with good company. David travelled widely as Editor of*

*the journal, Environmental Biology of Fishes, to encourage broad scientific input from throughout the world. Scientists, young and old found him easy to talk with, once over his initial stern appearance.*

*David, was a strong promoter of others, particularly young emerging students and scientists. Throughout his busy schedule David was generously supported by his wife, Pat and son, Jeff. I miss and will continue to miss David a great deal.*

*Sincere sadness*

*Bill*

*F.W.H. Beamish, Adjunct Professor,*

*Environment Science Program,*

*Faculty of Science, Burapha University,*

*Bangsaen, Chonburi, 20131, Thailand*

*and*

*3177 Mutter Road, Mill Bay,*

*British Columbia, VOR2P3,*

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**Bill** - December 09, 2020 at 05:19 PM

CS

*Bill, it's been so long! I so appreciate your sharing these memories.  
Sincerely, Cristina Soto (Tina)*

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**Cristina Soto** - January 22, 2021 at 11:03 AM

JO

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Davids death. David and I worked side by side for more than 10 years. His impish laugh and dry humor always brought a smile. His eclectic knowledge base brought endless surprises to our conversations. He added so much to my life and the life of my 2 children. We miss him greatly.  
Joseph O'Neil

Joseph O'Neil - December 09, 2020 at 11:32 AM

MB

“ My condolences to Dr. Noakes' family. He was an incredibly bright, friendly, and inclusive person who was a pleasure to work with. ORAFS annual meetings just won't be the same without him. Cheers, Dr. Dave.  
-Melissa Brown



Melissa Brown - December 08, 2020 at 03:27 PM

EB

“ Dear Pat and Jeff, I am so sorry to hear about David's passing. There is a huge empty space that can never be filled. David was what the rest of us can only aspire to be. I cherish all the years we were friends, colleagues, and collaborators at Guelph. My sincere best wishes to you both. Ed Bailey

Edward Bailey - December 08, 2020 at 10:55 AM

KP

“ I first met David back when I started as an MSc student at Guelph and have many fond memories. He was on my committee and the rumour going around from other students was that at some point, in annual meeting, he'd ask you what a fish was. This was trickier than it sounds, there were a few criteria to get right, but I 'cheated' and got some insider info on what these were. David did eventually ask me what a fish was and was disappointed when I could regurgitate what he was looking for (I can't remember the specifics now). His eyes told me he knew what I'd done, but without a pause that just meant another more challenging question came.

He was a great mentor and introduced me to a number of people in the fish world. He knew I was a cichlid geek and got me into a lunchtime conversation with George Barlow I'll never forget when EEEF was in Quebec City. When I heard he was leaving Guelph I was very disappointed but it turned out that I got to spend more time with him in Iceland than I would have otherwise. My whole summer of 2003 was spent there with David and Pat which certainly made things funnier and more comfortable. He actually came out to see the field work we were doing on charr, and while we were probably too exhausted to think straight, he took a picture of the ecomorphs side by side. I've used that picture dozens of times since in talks and lectures and already think of him being there every time I see it.

My condolences to Pat, and thank you for everything David, I'll miss you.

Kevin Parsons

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Kevin J Parsons - December 08, 2020 at 10:22 AM

FW

“ Deeply saddened to learn of the passing of David. Time spent with David was always good and working with him always a pleasure. David was tremendously loyal to his network, making opportunities to keep in touch just for the pleasure of it. He was a true scholar who loved his animals, loved knowledge, and pulled pure joy from the research process that created it. I have fond memories of our last meeting as he passed through Halifax. While he definitely wanted to catch up with me, various family members including at least one grandkid were in the hotel room and he could not wait to get back to them. Truly a life well-lived at all levels. Goodbye old friend. Fred Whoriskey

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Frederick Whoriskey - December 08, 2020 at 08:33 AM

GM

“ So very sorry to hear of Dave's Passing. He was a “fish guy” and I was a “mollusc guy” but we shared the same milieu in the Department of Integrative Biology (formerly Department of Zoology) at the University of Guelph. Dave was the complete package, an elite educator, scientist, and administrator, well respected by undergraduate and graduate students, internal and external faculty, and the national and international ichthyologists. He had a very dry sense of humour, demanding your attention when starting a meeting, then slips in a “zinger”, with the usual response, “I think he just zinged me”. I will always fondly remember him. My sincerest condolences to Pat and his entire family  
God Bless,  
Gerry (Mackie)

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Gerry Mackie - December 07, 2020 at 03:52 PM

ML

“ I would like to extend my condolences to David's family. I first met David when I was a graduate student at University of Toronto. I was a newly minted M.Sc. student starting to work on ecology of minnows. I was given the task of inviting speakers for our Zoology Seminar series. I really wanted to meet David, so I took the opportunity to invite him to give a talk to our department. As expected, he gave a great talk. It took a while for the audience to warm up to his mode of delivery (deadpan) but by the end of the talk all were giggling and learned about something about fish. That was a great memory, but to me what was way better was the opportunity to sit down and have a chat with an exceedingly witty and incredibly kind "fish guy". From that point forward David always looked out for me. First as a mentor and then as a colleague. Most recently he sent me a terrific graduate student, Margi, to work on sturgeon in my lab. What a great gift. My friendship with David lasted over 35 years. I know I am not alone when I say I will miss him.

*Matt Litvak*

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**Matt Litvak** - December 07, 2020 at 03:01 PM

MB

“ I'm so sorry to hear about David. He was an important colleague who always treated me and everyone else around him with respect and encouragement. I loved his dry sense of humor, and the stories he would tell during meetings. I appreciate that he was so passionate about the mission of the OHRC. David was also really nice to my little boy. We still have the manual typewriter that David gave my son after he expressed interest in typewriters at David and Pat's house. David was instrumental in supporting my work with salmon over the last 10 years. His passing leaves a big hole in my professional life. Please know how much he was respected and appreciated.

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**Michael Blouin** - December 07, 2020 at 01:48 PM



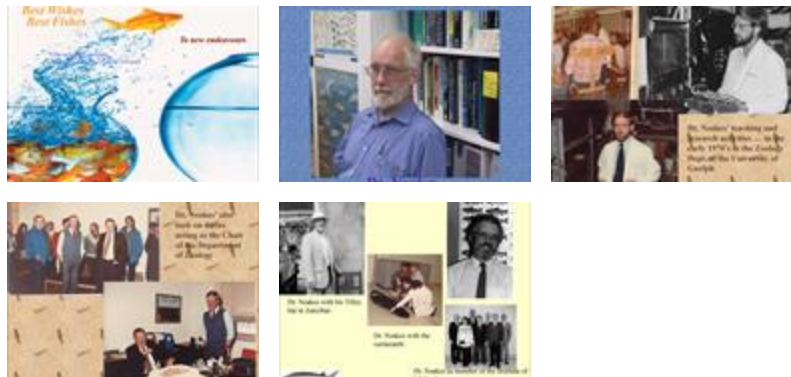
“ David was very special to me as the husband of my best friend, Pat . He and Pat hosted Rehearsal Dinners for both of my daughters, Karen and Connie. He took me with them to Garage sale in Hensal as he visited his Dad. He always willingly batched it when Pat and I travelled to Nova Scotia , Ottawa and New Hampshire . He greeted us with great relief when I dropped Pat off safely. David was truly very special to so many,many people. .!Thank you for sharing him Pat. He loved you and Jeff with his whole being. Barb

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**Bob Hanes** - December 07, 2020 at 01:12 PM

MR

“ 9 files added to the album Memories Album



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**marie Thérèse Rush-Smyth** - December 07, 2020 at 01:11 PM

MR

“ I became aware of Dr. Noakes’ teaching and research skills in the 1980’s when I switched from being a lab instructor in Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy to Ichthyology and Environmental Biology of Fishes (U. of Guelph). He took an interest in me (as he did for each student, worker, visitor, researcher, anyone and everyone), and encouraged me to continue my dreams in the realms of teaching. My continuing education (Masters, seminars, workshops, multimedia development, website development, Animal Care, Safety, Statistics, Fish & Fossil Presentations...) were enabled by his ability to help others to see their potential and go for it. I am forever grateful for a wonderful mentor, professor, and compassionate human being. He always saw the best in others and was respectful to everyone.

My children and I were invited to Pat and Dr. Noakes’ home. My sons still recall the fun times catching tadpoles with nets and boots in his large pond at the back of his home. His Friday morning coffee sessions with graduate students, undergraduates, visiting professors and researchers, and the many fish & fossil presentations that we jointly gave to school children, are forever burned into my joyful memories.

Dr. Noakes inspired me to do my best for our students (as written in my 2004 M.Ed. thesis).

Pat and Jeff, I am so sorry for your loss.

marie T. Rush now marie Thérèse Rush-Smyth

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marie Thérèse Rush-Smyth - December 07, 2020 at 01:01 PM

PC

“*Dr. Noakes (and I could never bring myself to call him David) was an extraordinary person. As an undergrad at the University of Guelph, Dr. Noakes was largely responsible for my love of fishes. He always made himself available to chat. His wit was unmatched (e.g., giving a presentation about fish produced in hatcheries Dr. Noakes said "you want to manage growth & maturation...it's like when you have teenagers in the house.").*

*Our paths crossed every few years, and I would cherish these moments to talk with him. I will remember him as a warm person that cared for so many people through his words and actions.*

*My sincere condolences to his family and friends.*

*Paul*

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**Paul Chittaro** - December 07, 2020 at 12:57 PM

DM

“*My deep sorrow and condolences to Pat and family. David always made everyone around him better, not just professionally but also as a person. He knew history (lots!) including my personal history with Bev Scott, and in the months before Bev passed, he stopped by every other day to ask if I had called Bev. I finally did and was so grateful that David egged me on. We're all little islands and we all need a Gulf Stream David to keep us connected. He did that so well.*

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**Doug Markle** - December 06, 2020 at 08:26 PM

SB

“ David was the EEEF godfather and he cared deeply about all of us in his own unique way. His heart of gold was matched only by his wicked sense of humour and love for all things fishes. He taught me many things and most of all about how to be a mench which he was 30x over. I will miss him and send my condolences to Pat, to his family and to his friends and colleagues.  
Sigal Balshine Dec 6th, 2020

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**Sigal Balshine** - December 06, 2020 at 07:03 PM

YS

“ Dear Pat and Jeff  
I am so sorry for your loss.

*David is my lifetime mentor since I worked with him as a post-doc at Guelph between 1997 and 1999, and has been a part of my family for more than 20 years.*

*I and my family appreciate his instruction, intelligence, humor, meticulous attention, kindness, and love.*

*My two children really got attached to you.*

*Yesterday, Ken, your Japanese grandson, washed your Nike sneaker with lots of tears.*

*They were left for us with your promise to play catch with Ken during your next visit to Nagasaki. They were too big for my son actually, so we will keep them with affection.*

*Your passing is a great loss not only to the scientific community but also to my family.*

*Thank you for everything, David.*

*With my best Fishes,*

*Yoshi Sakakura*

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**Yoshi Sakakura** - December 05, 2020 at 09:46 PM

“ I met David as an undergrad student working for Bob Scott (his former post-doc). I had applied for a MSc position with Rob McLaughlin at the University of Guelph, but I don't think I knew at the time if I was accepted. In this meeting David commented on my attire and said "you are going to wear that to the University of Guelph"? I asked him why, he said I would have to talk to my chauffeur. Not having come from money, I told him "well my chauffeur drives a big orange vehicle with about 30 students. He laughed. I showed up on the first day at UofG in a shirt and tie and made a point to walk by his office. He laughs and recalls that often.

David was a mainstay during my time at the University of Guelph. He taught ichthyology and is mentioned in the book 'A Fish Caught in Time' about one of the first coelacanths coming to Guelph for analysis. After reading the book, I walked up to him and said "you're mentioned in this book, why didn't you tell me?". He said "Mark, I'm in a lot of things". I TAed Animal Behaviour with David, and in one year the class average for a midterm was < 50% (can you imagine that today?). He would ask open ended questions in his exams and have the students apply their knowledge. One question I remember was, 'How would test the hypothesis that lightning bugs are communicating?'. He had a line up of students around the hall. I asked him if I was marking it incorrectly, he checked about five of them and he said 'oh probably' in his typical deadpan manner. He enjoyed messing with me, yet he met with every student, and in that time actually identified two students who had learning disabilities (he said thanks to Pat). David moved to University of Oregon when UofG decided to stop teaching the ologies (or so I understand it), like Ichthyology and Herpetology, it was one of a few schools in Canada that did. He also organized a weekly lecture called "Loaves and Fishes" which every fishhead would go to, even people from other universities attended. I was lucky enough to change my office from the Biology building to the Centre for Ichthyology, where David was the director, I spent two years there. It was a great decision. Every Friday morning at 10 (or 11), we would bring in baked goods and meet together. We had visitors from Iceland, Japan and lots of

*Ontario universities. We would meet throughout the day when we would bump into each other, always worthy of a laugh. I remember towards the end of my MSc, when I was on another draft of my thesis, he walked up to me and said "what are you still doing here, I thought you were done". After my time at Guelph, I kept up with him as best as I could. He would actually come to my friend Josh's Labour Day bbq every year and I would sit with him and Pat. I brought my kids to meet him back in 2013 in Oregon, a side trip when picking up the fishing boat. We watched a football game together. I also got to see the universities' field research centre. They had a huge contraption that changed the polarity (e.g. north pole became south pole), to test the effects on fish homing behaviour in artificial streams. It is one of the coolest things I've ever seen. I also brought the kids to London, Ontario for CCFFR in 2018, and we spent some time catching up. I always check CCFFR abstracts to see if he is going and will send him an email, it filled me with great excitement to know he was going. David actually introduced me to Bev Scott (of Scott and Crossman) at a CCFFR in Ottawa. I am so saddened by the loss of David. I wish Pat and the family the very best. I would describe my relationship with his as a mentor and hopefully a friend. I will miss him a lot.*

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**Mark Poesch** - December 05, 2020 at 09:11 PM

KS

“ I can never look at fish, whether in a stream, an aquarium or in the fish department at a grocery store without thinking of David. Once he told me that salmon swim half way to Japan and then return to the stream from where they came. I am still thinking about that. Whenever you were in his good company you learned something. His curiosity and brilliance were endless. To be in the good company of David was like reading the encyclopedia- only funnier.

Once when my husband Sam and I, and friends, attended the hatchery's open house David took us for a walk along the stream. We were all looking across the water trying to spot a fish. After awhile I looked down and there was a big salmon just resting under the cover of branches along the bank. David saw my reaction and I realized he had known the fish was there all the while but he let us find our own way to it, and that was David.

With love to Pat and Jeff and the family,

Kristen Siemon, a cousin

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**kristen siemon** - December 05, 2020 at 02:14 PM

HU

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Hiroshi Ueda** - December 05, 2020 at 06:18 AM

HU

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Hiroshi Ueda** - December 05, 2020 at 06:16 AM

HU

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Hiroshi Ueda** - December 05, 2020 at 06:13 AM

YS

“ Dear Pat and Jeff  
I am so sorry for your loss.

*David has been my best mentor and kept my family in mind more than 20 years.*

*We deeply appreciate his instruction, intelligence, careful consideration, kindness, and love.*

*I and my family were looking forward to seeing David at some conferences and also here in Nagasaki.*

*His contribution to the scientific community was genuinely great.*

*Thank you for everything, David.*

*I will always remember you.*

*Best fishes,*

*Yoshi Sakakura*

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**Yoshitaka Sakakura** - December 04, 2020 at 08:52 PM

TG

“ I'll miss so many things, but mostly I'll miss hearing his voice every day in the office next door. His dry delivery of everything from a joke to an invitation to an introduction has been such a constant in my professional life at OSU. The Dept. won't be the same without him and my heart goes out to Pat and his family.

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**Tiffany Garcia** - December 04, 2020 at 07:59 PM

HE

“ Condolences from Hillary Egna and Marty Fitzpatrick. Hillary remembers David especially from the Boston fish ecology conference she co-sponsored with him over a decade ago.

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**H Egna** - December 04, 2020 at 07:29 PM

MM

“ I was so saddened to hear about David. He was such a spark of humor and wit in an otherwise dry and dusty world of fish research and management. He and I always had a bet going about something and I think I still owe him an ice cream cone after losing the last one. Next time I have a double decker cone I will think of him and all the amazing contributions he made to science, and, most of all, to his fellow scientists and students. My condolences to Pat and the whole family, my thoughts are with you.

*Mary Moser*

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**Mary Moser** - December 04, 2020 at 07:22 PM

CM

“ So many wonderful memories. David's humor, ability to connect people and science, tireless support, and trivia have meant the world to so many of us. I feel so, so lucky to have known him.



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**Christina (Chrissy) Murphy** - December 04, 2020 at 07:12 PM

SW

“ David's passing has really shook the fisheries community to it's core. I overlapped with David in my time in at Oregon State. He always a helpful bit of helpful advice and good cheer (even if he didn't seem cheerful at first, with his dry humor). One time at a presentation in the community I asked the speaker an overly complicated question and David, who was sitting in the row of seats in front of me, leaned over and whispered to Pat, "Typical grad student question"!!! His humor, advice, expertise, and friendship will be missed.

*My condolences to family and friends.*

*P.s. Attached are a couple of pics of David from a trip to the Warm Springs Indian reservation in May of 2019. As always David was asking good questions, taking pictures, and curious about everything.*



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**Seth White** - December 04, 2020 at 05:39 PM

CA

“ I didn't know David very long, but we immediately found we had a common love of blues music. I failed terribly at his subsequent trivia on the topic but even so he generously shared cds and books on the topic. His presence and unique humor was always welcome in my office and his genuine decency and thoughtfulness was apparent even in these small interactions. Clearly a man who has touched many and will be missed.

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**Christina Aiello** - December 04, 2020 at 11:39 AM

IS

“ I heard from my parents that David treated me and my brother like a grandkids. I know that I received a lot of love from David.

*I remember the time when I met David and Pat in Portland as if it was yesterday. David and I cooked many cupcakes, then we brought them to University. We had a great time. David took me to the Museum. I played the piano on his birthday. He celebrated my birthday and we ate chocolate cupcakes and raspberry ice cream. I have a lot of memories with him.*

*I was really looking forward to meet him again but it's a wish can no longer be fulfilled. I am going to live with the memories of him.*

*Pat, I cannot help but wish your happiness. Please be healthy and well. I will meet you soon.*

*Izumi Sakakura*

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Izumi Sakakura - December 04, 2020 at 08:05 AM



“ Dear Pat and Jeff,

*I have known David for the whole 27 years I have had the fortune to live in Canada. I worked with him closely during my undergraduate years in Guelph and had the fortune to do my masters degree under his kind supervision. He was always kind and genuinely supportive not only during those formative years, but also during the rest of my career as a fish ecologist and educator. I have always looked up to him and for the overwhelming majority of those years he was always "Dr. Noakes" for me. He never demanded but always deserved my respect through his genuine and witty ways as a person, educator and true fish enthusiast. Our paths diverged yet he remained caring, supportive and kind towards me. He took the time to send me and my family Christmas cards from Oregon and encourage me to visit him and Pat. It hurts me deeply that I have never taken him up on his kind offer and show my appreciation for him more often.*

*He was a great man. I will always remember him.*

*Please accept my heartfelt condolences for your loss. I am thinking of you and please know that I am happy to help in any way I can.*

*Istvan*

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**Istvan Imre** - December 03, 2020 at 09:37 PM



*Hello Istvan. Dr. Noakes was indeed a wonderful mentor. Those undergraduate days seem like yesterday. I hope you are well. Best,  
Paul Chittaro*

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**Paul Chittaro** - December 07, 2020 at 12:41 PM



*When Noakes first came to OSU (2005?) I was asked to interview him about the newly built Hatchery Research Center and write an article in an OSU research magazine. I thought he was really serious and introverted. Little did I know.....*

*My fish biologist husband and I had the good fortune to be invited on a trip to Iceland with David and Pat..maybe 2015?. It was for a week long (?) smoltification workshop. Even though we were newbies, David was inclusive, funny, welcoming and fun. We saw a lot of country and experienced many amazing things. I'll never forget the evening at the Holar Field Station Icelandic Beer Cave, drinking shots of ale with 50 other scientists from around the world). . And the smell of the fermented shark he served up. And the 5-course elegant dinner at the Reykavik Opera House, where we ate horse meat as appetizer. Fish biologists are treated like rock stars in Iceland. No wonder he liked it there.*

*David recommended great books and turned me on to a now favorite Icelandic author - Haldor Laxness. Kirk and I are so grateful for his generosity sorry for his passing. Carol Savonen and Kirk Schroeder*

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**Carol Savonen** - December 09, 2020 at 10:24 PM

LT

“ *Sending deepest condolences to Pat, Jeff and the entire Noakes family on the passing of David. We are just so very, very sorry for your loss. Of course, he was brilliant , but I fondly recall the gentle teasing of an older cousin. In particular, I recall a picture he drew of me (as a little elephant) in my ballet tutu. :) I also remember when he was taken prisoner, during a field trip to Nicaragua / En Salvador. He was on neither side of the civil unrest. There were lots of prayers for his safety, then. Our prayers, to-day are for Pat & Jeff in their grief...wishing them peace and love.*

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**Linda (Sangster) Traquair** - December 03, 2020 at 09:26 PM

AG

“ *Dr. Noakes was one of my favorite people in the FW department. He loved students and always made me feel so welcome. I will miss his humor - I will never forget him heckling me at an OR AFS meeting! He was so kind and easy to talk to.*

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**Alexa Glenn** - December 03, 2020 at 08:01 PM

JH

“ *What a LOSS! I will miss him in so many ways. His subtle humor, his baked goods that he brought occasionally, Christmas parties that he held early in his time in the department. But all these pale before his powerful mind! Prolific publications, editor of two journals, generous with helpful reviews of faculty manuscripts.*

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**James Hall** - December 03, 2020 at 07:01 PM

BG

“ *David was such a nice guy. We got to know each other because his office was across the hall from the lab I work in. I really liked David's send of humor and his sharing of obscure facts that you didn't know you wanted to know.  
I will miss him.*

*Bill Gerth*

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**Bill Gerth** - December 03, 2020 at 06:56 PM

SG

“ Dear Pat and Jeff,

*Since David arrived in our Department, Kathryn and I have admired his unique ability to share his science, experience, professional contacts, and personal concern with students, colleagues, and friends. Generous beyond words, his door was always open to anyone seeking his advice and knowledge. While his notable accomplishments and awards attest to his amazing creativity and scientific contributions, we will always remember him as a dear friend with a twinkle in his eye, an unusual bit of knowledge to share, and a caring heart. He brightened our lives and made us a better community of friends and scientists. We look back and cherish each moment with David and you.*

*In the spirit of David's ability to support others with sensitivity and respect, please accept our condolences and reach out to us if we can help in any way.*

*Stan Gregory and Kathryn Boyer*

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**Stan Gregory** - December 03, 2020 at 06:41 PM

CP

“ I met David when I took his class. He went out of his way to make the class not only physically accessible for me and my wheelchair, but worked with me through an extended medical absence. He didn't just ensure that I made up the work, but he spent countless hours working with me in his office to make sure I understood the material. He went far beyond what most professors would out of the shear kindness and caring for his students.

While I never knew David well on a personal level, he was one of the nicest and most genuinely helpful professors I have ever met. He was a brilliant man, on top of being witty and just genuinely caring.

---

**Cody Piscitelli** - December 03, 2020 at 06:15 PM

DT

“ What a loss. For each of us individually, for OSU, and for everyone who loves and studies fish.

I will remember David for his enormous generosity (and his quirky humor). Even as an engineer, he was forever welcoming me onto his research trips, his journal, his conferences, his research programs, and even his home. I regularly found a package from him in my campus mailbox. He noticed when I was tired (and dryly pointed it out). He stretched my thinking about so many things, from fish behavior, to animal consciousness, to Icelandic horseback riding, to Darwin's birthday. He shared so much of himself and his time with me. I wish I had taken more time to let him know how much I appreciated him.

Pat, I can't imagine how difficult things must be for you right now. Please know that we are all thinking of you and happy to help in any way we can.

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**Desiree Tullos** - December 03, 2020 at 05:34 PM

MJ

“ I first met David when he arrived in Oregon to direct the Oregon Hatchery Research Center. Soon after, he agreed to participate as member of my doctoral committee. Later, we collaborated on numerous projects and publications. As for so many, David was my mentor, colleague and friend. He kept us all on our toes, so as not to miss his quick, dry wit. He was an untiring advocate for science and young scientists. He will be deeply missed and always remembered.

*Offering my sincere condolences to Pat and all of the Noakes family,*

*Marc Johnson  
ODFW, Liaison to OHRC*

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**Marc Johnson** - December 03, 2020 at 04:59 PM

JA

“ I will miss David's bone-dry humor that combined so wonderfully with his kindness and generosity. I could always count on David when I had a question about fish ecology, and he would answer my emails not just with his own insight, but usually a subsequent email introducing me to one of his friends who was an expert in the field. Though David was an exceptionally accomplished scientist, he was among the most approachable members of our faculty and he made the department feel more like a family.

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**Jonny Armstrong** - December 03, 2020 at 04:06 PM

BC

“ Back in 2000 David was instrumental in helping me make a key connection to begin my Masters degree at the University of Guelph. Since then, David has been a terrific mentor, teacher, guide, and friend for me through my Ph.D. at Oregon State University, and into my career with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. I've personally benefited from David's moral and intellectual support, keen wit, and wicked humor. The number of people David knew, the connections he made for colleagues and students, and the mentorship he provided for hundreds of students and faculty was a huge gift to the professions of ichthyology, behavior, ecology, evolution, and fisheries management. David was one-of-a-kind person who knew a tremendous amount about many different topics. He was a true sage and scholar of the first order, and his deep care and concern for people made you feel lucky to know him.

*I wish the best for the entire Noakes family in this challenging time.*

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**Benjamin Clemens** - December 03, 2020 at 04:05 PM

RD

“ Dear Pat and Jeff,

*I am so sorry for your loss. Prof Noakes (I still can't call him David) was my first and most influential mentor. I started working for him at UoG as a high school student - topping off preserved specimens in the Ichthyology lab. Throughout my undergrad years I worked for him in the Killifish room, keeping his favorite critters breeding and happy. Dr. Noakes was always my advocate, helping me attain a meaningful career and always ensuing I was included in Friday morning treat time at the Ichthyology lab. I will cherish those times and the many happy memories I have of his dry humor, persistence, baking, and the way he introduced me to people: "This is Rebecca. She is small, works hard, and doesn't eat much. You should hire her". I will also remember your home - a fish enthusiasts dream - I am still aspiring to collect as many fish decorations.*

*One of my favorite memories is the first time Dr. Noakes showed me (and Milena Palka) the preserved Coelacanth. He told Milena and I to lean as close as possible to the crate so we would be able to get the best view. He opened the box and we were nearly blown off our feet by the smell. I believe I saw his beard twitch into almost a smile.*

*Thank you for letting me visit your home in Oregon in 2005. The tour of Oregon State and the fish research lab will be memories I cherish, along with our evening dinners and getting to peak into the private life of a man who was so important to me in those formative years.*

*My sincere condolences to you both.*

*Rebecca Dolson*

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Rebecca Dolson - December 03, 2020 at 03:56 PM

SH

“ David was a wonderful colleague, mentor, and faculty member in Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State. We are heartbroken to lose him. So knowledgeable, compassionate, funny, quirky, and supportive to students, staff and faculty. His professional legacy is tremendous, and we will honor and remember his professional and personal contributions.

*In peace -*

*Selina Heppell, Department Head, Fisheries and Wildlife at OSU*

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**Selina Heppell** - December 03, 2020 at 01:45 PM

LF

“ So sorry to hear about David’s passing. I worked with him at the University of Guelph as well and he always seemed very serious but I knew better. He shared some of his baking and favourite recipes with me as well. My deepest sympathy to you and all his family ❤️

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**Lori Ferguson** - December 03, 2020 at 11:45 AM

PW

“ Dear Pat,

*I was a colleague of David's in Zoology at U of G. David was very kind to me, and started my long research program on his favourite fish (at the time), mangrove killifish. He donated his fish colony to me when he left for Oregon, and it is still thriving, many students have benefitted! David as delightfully deadpan and funny. In particular, I remember a visit to your place in 2008, where David took us out to see the salmon research station in the mountains, then back to enjoy a dinner out with you both. I brought my friend Suzie, another fish researcher, and David had invited a very serious and earnest Canadian female ?mathematician. David mqqk very funny jokes which sent Suzie and I into gails of laughter, but the mathematician never cracked a smile! We had a very fun evening, and I am sorry I did not crossed paths with David more often after that. He was a great guy!  
Sending my heartfelt condolences,  
Pat Wright*

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**Pat Wright** - December 03, 2020 at 10:51 AM

JA

*Dear Pat*

*I am so sorry for your loss. Although I only interacted with David for a short time before you guys left Guelph, I still have fond memories of our interactions, especially the opportunity to pun and share trivia, and also the visits to your home. He brightened the halls I and our students walked through and I remain grateful for those times.*

*Sincerely yours  
Joe Ackerman*

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**Joe Ackerman** - December 03, 2020 at 12:16 PM

GK

*Pat:*

*Sorry to learn of David's passing. David was a very valued colleague and friend. His passion not only around his science but also around community will stay with me. I recall seeing the two of you at a meeting in Racine WI and having a wonderful time reminiscing about the past but also the excitement for the future. I frequently see one of David's colleagues, Carl Schreck, and often get updates on the coming and goings of you and David. My children remember many an afternoon chasing frogs around your pond in the house near Erin. Those were simple times but really enjoyable. Debbie and I share our condolences and are grateful for the fond memories. Glen Van Der Kraak*

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**Glen Van Der Kraak** - December 03, 2020 at 01:21 PM

JM

*I worked at ohrc with David*

*Best person I ever new. It's going to be very hard to find someone to take his place so sorry for your lost pat*

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**Joyce Mahr** - December 03, 2020 at 08:15 PM

JM

*Pat I'm so sorry for your lost.*

*David was one of the best man I New I worked with David at ohrc very happy person if you ever ask him for anything he'll get and more*

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**Joyce Mahr** - December 03, 2020 at 08:22 PM

MH

*Dear Pat and Jeff,*

*I am so sorry for your loss of your husband and father. I hope you feel his presence all around you and see signs that he is watching over and protecting you. Your love bonds will never be broken. I hope you find peace in your grief.*

*Margaret Hamilton*

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**Margaret Hamilton** - December 04, 2020 at 10:18 AM

CA

*David was the opening scientific speaker at the International Charr Symposium in Scotland in 2009 - the meeting was officially welcomed to Scotland by the Environment Minister who had agreed to stay for the first talk. As she finish her "welcome to Scotland" she sat down next to me as David stood up to speak and whisper "am I going to spend the next 30 mins being bored by a crusty old academic?" I whispered back "just wait and see" - She left 30 mins later with a laugh and smile on her face - David's brand of wit interwoven around his wisdom could and did entrance the most resistant of characters. You will be very sadly missed. Colin Adams*

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**Colin Adams** - December 04, 2020 at 10:56 AM

PL

*David will be missed as a friend and colleague. It is with great sadness that we see another of one of the world leaders in Ichthyology depart. My sincere condolences to Pat and the Noakes family, Peace. Phil Lobel*

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**Phillip Lobel** - December 06, 2020 at 09:05 AM

MS

*RIP David - you will be missed by a great many. My deepest condolences Pat. Melanie Stiassny*

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**Melanie L Stiassny** - December 07, 2020 at 01:19 PM

JO

*I am so sorry for your loss Pat and Jeff.*

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**Joseph O'Neil** - December 09, 2020 at 11:41 AM

KR

*I too am so very sorry for your loss Pat and Jeff. David was a great scientist and mentor. As an undergrad at UofG he generously took me under his wide wing, a happening for which I will be forever grateful. IBIO was never the same after David's departure and I've seen how our loss was OSU's immense gain.*

*Yes, his dry humour was legendary. He once responded to an article the Globe and Mail had published about "Ictyhlogoly". As I recall, David's brief letter to the editor read something like: "Although my family and friends have been telling me for years to get the "h" out of ichthyology I would think that the Globe and Mail would know the correct spelling for the branch of zoology that deals with fishes."*

*My sincere condolences to David's extended family and his many friends and colleagues. He was a very special human and will be deeply missed by many.*

*Kevin Reid, Guelph, ON*

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**Kevin Reid** - December 09, 2020 at 06:25 PM

DH

*I have such warm memories of David from my stint with him as the Administrative Assistant for the Institute of Ichthyology at UofG. In fact, I believe it was Pat who put in a good word for me when they were hiring. I knew absolutely nothing about Ichthyology but with David's guidance and patience, I soon became comfortable in the role. At that time I shared an office with Dr. Rob McLachlin in a little house on Gordon Street It soon became a beehive of activity. David would walk across the road several times a day checking in. My fondest memories are of the "Friday morning coffee and goodies" in the little kitchen, jammed full of students and colleagues to share stories, network and try to be the first to answer David's trivia question. It became a ritual that everyone looked forward to.*

*My condolences Pat and family. I hope your warm memories give you peace. Dorothy Hills*

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**Dorothy Hills** - December 09, 2020 at 06:32 PM

DB

*Dear Noakes Family Members, while attending an ASIH Zoom meeting last night I learned of David's passing, and was greatly saddened to learn of it. As a professional colleague and friend of mine, I will miss him very much. First met David at the Ecological and Evolutionary Ethology of Fishes meetings. He, along with Gene Helfman, provide much needed support and information as I set up the EEEF meetings at Lamar University, Beaumont, TX, and greatly appreciated his help as setting up the conference would have been much more difficult without his support and input on what I needed to do to successfully carry out the meeting. Wish you all the best as you deal with your loss of such a wonderful man.*

*Dave Bechler, retired biologist.*

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**David Bechler** - December 20, 2020 at 08:57 AM