



Julie Catherine Wrazel

January 12, 1952 - March 9, 2015

Julie Catherine Sikich Wrazel passed away March 9, 2015, in Corvallis after a long and valiant battle with cancer.

She was born on Jan. 12, 1952, in St. Louis, Missouri. After completing a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Missouri, she earned a doctorate in inorganic chemistry from the University of Wisconsin. Julie began working for Hewlett-Packard Co. in the San Francisco Bay Area, then moved to Corvallis, where she retired from HP in 2009.

She continued to be active, teaching at Willamette University and internationally for the INSEAD Business School in France. In addition, Julie was the chief technology officer of the Home Dialysis Plus Company and mentored Corvallis High School students in robotics challenges. She remained active as an industry leader in technology, and as an educator and mentor for others until she passed.

Julie is survived by her siblings, Linda Dillon and husband Barry of Stafford, Virginia, David Sikich and wife Brenda of Columbia, Missouri, Pete Sikich of Corvallis, and Carole Sikich of St. Louis; as well as six nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, Steve Wrazel, she was preceded in death by her parents, Milton and Joanna Sikich of St. Louis.

A memorial service will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 18, at McHenry Funeral Home, with a repast at Julie's home following the service. All friends of Julie are invited. The family would like to express their appreciation to the medical staff at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, to the staff at Corvallis Manor, and to the many friends and neighbors who cared for Julie with such compassion during her final days.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy can be made to the American Cancer Society.

Tribute Wall

JM

“ I was a friend and a fellow chemistry major during Julie's undergraduate years at the University of Missouri-Columbia in the early 1970s. We also attended the same high school in the St. Louis area, though we were a year apart. I was greatly saddened to have just now learned of her death. Of course, she was always very bright and analytical in her thinking. She was also a leader back then, serving as a residence hall assistant. One thing I'll always remember was her rather dry sense of humor. She also introduced me to classical music. During the summer of 1972, she took me to see an outdoor concert of the St. Louis Symphony at the St. Louis Arch. They played Dvorak's New World Symphony, and from there I was hooked. To Julie, all I can say is: "pax."

John Marshall - May 19, 2015 at 07:25 PM



“ I met Julie when she first started working at HP in San Jose. She always had a smile on her face, a kind word to say and was always ready to laugh. I will always remember her with her warm smile as she walked through the doors and into the lab to greet everyone with a "Good morning".

Cassandra Perez-Archer - April 18, 2015 at 02:48 PM

MH

“ I worked with Julie occasionally through the years. She had always been warm, kind, and inquisitive. She had a way of making everything seem so much easier when I worked with her. Thank you, Julie!

May Fong Ho - April 16, 2015 at 10:51 PM

GB

“ I first met Julie in 1994, when joining her R&D lab in Corvallis. I will always remember her as a great role model for working collaboratively with others. She was fascinated by the cultural differences in countries and corporations across the globe... and a master of bridging those differences. [She shared those experiences as an instructor in Oregon and France]. She was highly intelligent, but not intimidating; inquisitive (always learning), and she had real compassion for those around her. Even while battling cancer, she worked for some time to bring better dialysis treatment to folks with kidney failure... and, as Carole describes further below, provided leadership - in between chemo treatments - to a high school robotics team! I am very thankful to her for being such a great role model and friend. The attached photo is one of my favorites; it accurately captures the radiance and intimacy that made Julie so unforgettable!



Greg Burton - April 13, 2015 at 01:12 AM

NS

I still remember the day Julie welcomed me in Corvallis almost 20 years ago. She was the one who made possible that great experience for me to spend time at HP and learn about TIJ, Corvallis and the beautiful Oregon. This picture really tells from her eyes how much Julie enjoyed learning Italian language and Italian culture. I will never forget the great person she was and I miss her.

Nino Santoruvo - April 16, 2015 at 10:50 AM



Jill
Peters

“ Although I worked at HP, I met Julie when I was a student in the MBA for Professionals program at Willamette University. She was a fabulous professor and I loved her class because of the way she engaged with the class, making the subject of IT/operations both educational and interesting. My sympathy and prayers go out to her friends and family on the loss of such a special person.

Jill Peters - April 09, 2015 at 09:41 AM



DC

“ Julie had a wide and wonderful career. The areas of which I am aware ranged from materials and devices for optical communication, to inkjet materials and devices, to partnering with outside companies for inkjet wafer manufacturing, to work toward commercialization of dialysis equipment that can be used in a person’s home. Common threads found in all of these areas were Julie’s vision, collaboration and teambuilding skills, and cheerful “can do” approach to success for all involved. Julie was a master at bringing people together. This included partners across different functions in HP to partners in Italy, Japan, and even Texas, in order to make the business and personal relationships a win for all involved.

I’ve added a photo of members of the HP inkjet wafer outsource team who attended a reunion picnic in July 2011. Julie launched the outsource program and built this team. It was her vision and leadership that made this program so successful. People came from near and far to attend the reunion. Julie lives on in what she taught us by example.

Doug Collins - April 05, 2015 at 02:29 PM

DC

“ 1 file added to the album Julie W. photos



Doug Collins - April 05, 2015 at 02:25 PM

ET

“ *I had the good fortune to know and work with Julie for years and to see her occasionally after both left HP. Although we didn't work directly, our paths often crossed. Julie was brilliant, had wide ranging knowledge and interests, was a wonderful partner. She had strength, love of life, an infectious laugh, a positive attitude and a willingness to reach out and help others. I feel truly blessed to have known her. I am sorry I can't attend her memorial, but she will be remembered.*

Ellen Tappan - April 03, 2015 at 05:48 PM

GH

“ *Julie and I were in the same group when I started at HP many years ago. I have very fond memories of those days and her. She will be missed but not forgotten!*



Glen Hopkins - April 01, 2015 at 11:08 AM

KB

“*Julie was a remarkable woman, truly one of a kind, and my husband and I have cherished her friendship. We loved her exuberant approach to life and vibrant personality. We loved the enormous range of interests she held – travel, science, animals, cooking, fine wine, teaching, robotics, art, politics – the list goes on and on. We loved her kindness toward others. We loved the patience she displayed when some of us simply couldn't keep up with that prodigious intellect. And we loved that even as slowly and surely her cancer took hold, Julie remained Julie, positive, outgoing, interested and interesting, full of laughter, asking about others, and yet still determined and willing to advocate for what she needed. We miss her, and we will not forget her.*

Kathleen Baker - March 29, 2015 at 08:44 PM

DS

“*Julie was such a wonderful person, who lived her life exuberantly, with strength and purpose. It was such a pleasure to get to know her and learn from her.*
My sincere sympathy to her family
Deb Sikich

Deb Sikich - March 22, 2015 at 07:14 PM

QS

“*With sincere sympathy--- May you find comfort in God' promise to soon swallow up death forever, the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces. --Isaiah 25:8*

QS - March 17, 2015 at 07:13 AM

SM

“ Julie was the most amazing person and so strong! I met Julie in 2007 at HP while I was the health and wellness director at HP in Corvallis, OR. My favorite person to workout with and train. Julie was so positive in everything she did even at the most challenging of tasks. She had a gift of always smiling and always looking forward. My heart and deepest sympathy's go out to her family. She will be so missed. Rest well without anymore pain my friend, love you.

Shandra Milstein

Shandra Milstein - March 13, 2015 at 10:23 AM

CP

“ I met Julie in May 1993 when she interviewed me for a position on her team. She met me with jeans and sneakers with her positive, informal nature. I appreciate the years I worked for Julie - she provided an environment of trust and expectation that I value. Fast forward 19 years - I see Julie at the Farmer's Market and talked to her about coaching the CHS Robotics Team - to my surprise, she said yes! The team created one of the most robust robots ever. I appreciate her willingness to get involved and providing the leadership the activity needs. I will miss Julie - I will treasure her contributions to me professionally and personally.



Carole Petersen - March 12, 2015 at 07:00 PM

JA

“ Jayne lit a candle in memory of Julie Catherine Wrazel



Jayne - March 12, 2015 at 05:09 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to Julie's family. I had the great pleasure of getting to know Julie initially from working in the HP - ST relationship and in the years since shared some wonderful Italian meals and enjoyed her laughter, big smile and incredible insight and stories from her experiences throughout. What I admired most about Julie - in addition to be so darn positive - even in times of big challenges - she seemed to always wanted to seek and learn more about people and cultures! She will be missed... I am deeply appreciative to have had the opportunity to have got to know her and had her in my life! Big hug to all of Julie's family and friends...
From Ole A. Olsen*

ole olsen - March 11, 2015 at 10:30 PM



Julie was my first woman manager. She was so smart and patient, soft-spoken yet clear in her expectations, generous with her guidance. She leaves behind a legacy of capable engineers, scientists & other professionals not to mention her own great work. And that ready smile & wonderful laugh - what a great role model.

Shell Whittington - March 22, 2015 at 08:33 PM



Students, faculty members, and administrators at the Atkinson Graduate School of Management, Willamette University benefited from working with Julie. She was a committed instructor--clear, direct, high expectations. Julie's love of her subject and zest for life made every interaction a learning, loving experience.

Debra Ringold

Debra Ringold - April 07, 2015 at 03:59 PM

DH

Is difficult to express in a short message the envelope of first learning of Julie through her resume', then during interviews and wonderfully as a member of the HP community once she decided to accept an offer to join the activities here at HP Corvallis. Then, discovering that she had rather randomly elected to become a near neighbor! We had many occasions to visit her through the years, knew her great affection for a variety of four footed as well as human friends and colleagues. Travels and interactions on HP Business ventures including a very memorable, delightful Singapore occasion will never ebb. We will strive to remind ourselves to honor the memory of her in our actions unto others, as she indeed brightened our world.

David & Deb Hackleman - April 12, 2015 at 03:09 PM

KS

I have many happy memories of working with Julie, especially as our fab manager and as the manager of the Sanyo relationship. She liked to recall the time when she was sitting at a Sanyo dinner in Japan, the only woman among 30 men in kimonos! I would often see Julie at our local market, always with a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye.

Ken Saul - April 17, 2015 at 06:18 PM

AM

“ 1 file added to the album Julie W. photos



AM - March 11, 2015 at 10:37 AM