



Marion Keith Kaufman

September 14, 1959 - November 2, 2018

Dr. Marion Keith Kaufman, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 2, 2018, at his home in Corvallis, Oregon, surrounded by his family.

Keith is survived by wife, Cheryl; daughters, Kelsey and Hayley; dogs, Lucy and Genny; brothers Trent and Al; sister-in-law Debi; niece Devan and nephew Zeke; mother-in-law JoAn and father-in-law Wayne King. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Keith was born on September 14, 1959, in Cheyenne, Wyoming, to Alfred and Mary Claire McNeill Kaufman. He graduated from Michigan Tech University with a BSCE in 1984. He continued his education at Purdue University and received a MSCE in 1986 and a Ph.D. in 1989. He was the Chief Engineer at Knife River in Harrisburg for 19 years and previously a Senior Bridge Engineer at CH2M HILL in Corvallis.

He was also an Adjunct Professor at Oregon State University, teaching Prestressed Concrete Design for 26 years and leading his student teams in the North America annual Big Beam Contest. His OSU teams won the Big Beam National Championship in 2006, 2009, 2011 and 2014. Under his leadership, OSU dominated the northwest region for almost 20 years. He will be remembered for his remarkable record and legacy of sustained achievement. His students greatly respected him and benefited from him as

an instructor, mentor and team coach.

In 2018, he was named PCI Fellow for his outstanding contributions to the prestressed concrete industry. He was also recently elected to the Michigan Tech Civil Engineering Academy, the highest honor bestowed to alumni, for his passion and advancement of the profession.

On December 9, 1989, he married Cheryl Davis in Duncan, Oklahoma. In 1990, they welcomed their first daughter, Kelsey, and in 1993 their second daughter Hayley was born.

Keith will be remembered for his love of cooking, woodworking, hockey, golf and gardening with his wife. Every Sunday you could find him and Cheryl riding their bikes at the Willamette River with their beloved dogs. He loved to teach and mentor students and colleagues. His friends across the country will remember his humble presence, excellence in his field and the humor and joy he brought to his profession. He enjoyed road trips to observe and photograph his bridge designs or the work of those he admired, especially Conde McCullough. He loved his daughters unconditionally, was at every sporting event and never missed the chance to cook his family their favorite dish. There was no recipe or style of cooking that Keith couldn't master.

A memorial service is scheduled at 4PM on Thursday, November 15, at First Presbyterian Church at 114 SW 8th St, Corvallis, Oregon. The Reverend Sharon Edwards will lead the service and a reception will follow.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the National MS Society <https://www.nationalmssociety.org/Donate>.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 15. 4:00 PM (PT)

First Presbyterian Church
114 SW 8th St
Corvallis, OR 97333

Tribute Wall

MM

“ Feels silly that only today I learned of Keith's passing. Only yesterday I told co-workers that I had a connection with just the right person in the prestress industry. It's been over 23 years since I sat in his office as a young structural from the water group and he quizzed me on virtual work. "Just wanted to make sure the water group was sending me their dummies to work in the bridge group." was his comment after the quiz. About 8 years behind Keith we often laughed about our common experiences at MTU undergrad and Purdue graduate work. So I called Knife River and they told me he was no longer with them and I sent a message on LinkedIn but today I had a return call from Knife River letting me know about Keith's passing. Cheryl and family I hope you know his memory and stories of Keith continue to be passed along in engineering offices and conference calls to this day and on. His mentoring was invaluable and his attitude, sense of humor, and wit a pleasure in what could at time be a dry office engineering environment. I do hope that he and Sue Frey are engineering away and continuing to mentor and mold people in a better place.

Mark Merklein

Mark Merklein - June 02, 2020 at 03:48 PM

CW

“ I also met Keith thru PCI many years ago. As brilliant as he was at engineering, he was an even better person -- always with a smile and a pleasant disposition. It was impossible to be in Keith's presence and not have it affect my own disposition in a positive way.

Farewell friend and my condolences to your friends, students and loved ones.

Chris White, Volkert, Inc.

Chris White - November 26, 2018 at 12:21 PM

AM

“ I met Keith through our mutual involvement in PCI. His ever present and infectious smile greeted everyone he met, and his intelligence and engineering savvy made him an invaluable contributor. I will miss him as a friend and colleague, and the entire engineering and precast concrete community will as well.

Andy Mish, Summit Engineering Group

Andy Mish - November 15, 2018 at 05:53 PM

RF

“ Keith and my late wife, Sue Frey were both brilliant structural engineers who excelled at teaching. They both passed away too young-59 years old. My fondest memories of Keith are the many years when Keith and Cheryl and Kelsey and Hayley would meet Sue and me and our children Jamie and Patrick at McGraths in Corvallis on Christmas Eve to share dinner and exchange gifts and enjoy our friendship. Keith will be missed greatly. My deepest sympathy to his family.

Rich Frankenfield

Rich Frankenfield - November 14, 2018 at 09:55 PM

CT

“ It was a privilege and a pleasure to work with Keith over the 19 years he was with Knife River. His creativity and "can do" attitude made the jobs and lives of everyone he worked with better (and easier!) My thoughts and payers are with Cheryl, Kelsey, Hayley and all your family. He is sorely missed. Craig Totten, KPFF Consulting Engineers.

Craig Totten - November 14, 2018 at 06:42 PM

EF

“ We had the pleasure of being neighbors with Keith and his family for 8 years. I have fond memories of him always having a smile, cheery attitude and very funny! We all became fast friends. When I would be out in the yard he would come out and always acknowledge me with howdy neighbor. How he loved to barbecue! He was a great cook! He loved his dog Cheyenne! What a great dog she was! He will be missed! May his family, friends and colleagues find comfort and peace in knowing what a great father, husband, friend, brother and son he was. May God rest his soul peacefully to soar high in the heavens.



The Faustina family

Elissa Faustina - November 13, 2018 at 12:29 PM

MS

“ Dr. Kaufman was my professor for Prestressed Concrete Design at OSU. Every Wednesday night he'd show up and talk for 3 hours straight. My hand would cramp from the speed and intensity of my note taking. He gave us a take-home midterm that took me 27 hours to finish. And to this day, he is still one of my favorite teachers. I learned a lot more than just prestressed design from him. His stories and passion is what kept me coming back every week, and what I'll remember most.

*-Matt Smith
Philomath, OR*

Matt Smith - November 13, 2018 at 11:44 AM

TR

“ My wife and I were fortunate to know Keith at First Presbyterian Church in Corvallis, especially as we volunteered to serve dinners at Stone Soup together. We'll forever remember his soft smile and quiet voice, which were both in full measure even as he sweated away in the steam, operating the dishwasher... loving every minute of it. Keith was one of the very few who requested that duty -- washing dishes. We thank God for Keith's life, as he touched so many in ways that will not be forgotten.

Vivian & Tim Roach
Corvallis. OR

Tim Roach - November 10, 2018 at 11:20 AM

MT

“ Maher Tadros sent a virtual gift in memory of
Marion Keith Kaufman



Maher Tadros - November 08, 2018 at 03:21 PM

MT

“ Keith was my dear friend. I will sorely miss him. He was my partner in writing the PCI Bridge Design Manual in the mid 1990s. He traveled to Nebraska to give a seminar with me to the DOT engineers. His famous joke about not being able to pump your own gas in Oregon without training was hilarious and remained engraved in our memories. He liked my grandson so much, he put his photo at the start of some of his presentations, calling him Alex the future bright engineer. Keith and I share stories and technical discussions openly, and as such we both were better off for it. The genius of Keith was reflected in how he beat full time professors, including me, many times in the Big Beam Contest. He was National Champion at least four times and second or third the other times his teams entered the competition. If this is not one smart structural engineer, I do not know where one can find a smarter one. More importantly, he was a most generous, pleasant and kind person anyone can hope to find. It is a sad day for me. I hope his family and friends are comforted by his legacy. May the Lord rest his soul in the paradise of joy where there is no pain or suffering.

Maher Tadros
Nov. 8, 2018

Maher Tadros - November 08, 2018 at 02:34 PM

GG

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Glen Gallamore - November 08, 2018 at 11:16 AM

TR

“ I met Keith in August 1982. Keith was my college roommate and best friend for my first two years at MTU. We shared a set of bunk beds. He gave me the top bunk. (It worked for me.) It is interesting to read others postings, as I experienced the budding of his future life.

He loved to cook. As college students, we loved to eat. What a match. His favorite was trying new bread recipes, and we enjoyed trying his creations.(Pumpernickel, not so much).

He was an athlete. Hockey was his passion! As a prior goalie, out due to injuries, he longed for the sport and filled the longing by refereeing youth hockey games at the Dee stadium in Houghton. It was fun to watch him.

He took me skiing. Not having skied before, I was ill prepared (jeans, light leather driving gloves). With literally frozen stiff gloves at the bottom of each run, Keith would put on my frozen gloves on the ride up. I'd get thawed, warm gloves to wear while skiing back down.

Keith was a math and physics wizard. He frequently tutored (taught) me both. I probably would not be a physician today had Keith not helped me through those engineering calculus and physics courses!

He really loves bridges. While driving, we would have to stop and walk under every major bridge we crossed. Maybe an exaggeration, but I saw more and learned more about bridge construction than any non-engineer ever has. Prestress concrete was his new passion. He loved the labs where he could stress the concrete to breaking. He was born to be an engineer!

He loved to talk and joke around. He had a beautiful sense of humor.

Due to my many years overseas and our very different careers, we

only saw each other sporadically. I truly regret that. I think of Keith frequently, and his passing is a loss to humanity.

God bless all who loved him. Count yourself blessed if he loved you.

Tim Robinette - November 08, 2018 at 08:13 AM

JF

“ *I met Keith at Oregon State University, where I took a prestressed concrete design class he taught. We developed a bond of sorts there - I would like to say from our love of engineering, but I think it was more from our mutual love for sophomoric humor.*

He later brought me to CH2M, where I was privileged to have him as a mentor (he would say he was my “tormentor”, a line I have commandeered and still use today). I owe Keith a great deal for my career, not only did he make me a better engineer, but he was a model human being - intelligent, genuine, selfless, and a loving husband and father. He doted on his wife and daughters.

Keith - I miss you already, and dream of the day we will meet again in that Better Place. Because it seems with every passing day I have less and less of it, I would love one more time for you to call me “Do”.

John Ferguson - November 06, 2018 at 06:07 PM

KG

“ I can't remember when I met Keith, but it has been some years. We knew each other professionally, and I have always admired Keith. He had a wealth of knowledge, and he was always willing to answer questions and help other engineers. We also managed to play the odd round of golf together. You can judge a lot of a man by the way he plays golf. Keith was always happy, even during bad rounds, and I never saw him move a ball or try to improve his lie.

Keith was always talking about his family. I could tell from the way his face lit up when he spoke of them, that he loved his wife and daughters more than anything else in the world.

I will miss seeing Keith at conferences, Knife River, and on the golf course. The world, or at least our small part of it, was a better place for having him.

Kevin Groom - November 06, 2018 at 03:56 PM



“ Deepest sympathy to Cheryl, Kelsey and Hayley, you are in my thoughts.

I met Keith for the first time shortly after I landed in a permanent position with the Oregon Dept. of Transportation Bridge Engineering Section. Keith had been a Bridge engineer with CH in Corvallis for several years and as such worked with our department, particularly in his professional specialty area, Prestress Concrete. At one point I became the training coordinator for the Section and among my first arrangements was to contract with Keith to provide his prestress class to the department personnel. His presentations at any conference were a must attend, entertaining and if you weren't careful you might learn a thing or two.

Through this relationship I became pleased to count Keith as a friend.

As we all grow older it becomes ever more clear that we are so much a collection of those that we have shared our lives with. Keith made me a better engineer, a better friend, and a better person. Knowing him I am sure my story is not unique.

Here's to you Keith, Doc... I'll never be able to do so many things without your memory coming to my mind, rest in peace, and I look forward to seeing you again on the other side.

Scott Nettleton - November 06, 2018 at 03:09 PM



“ Doyle and I are deeply sadden with the passing of Keith. The world has lost an amazing , intelligent, funny, humble man. Our hearts go out to all of you.

Doyle and Janet Leek

janet leek - November 06, 2018 at 01:25 PM

BC

“ Please accept my sincere condolences on your loss. I didn't know Keith extremely well, but I got to know him as part of an annual golf trip to central Oregon. Keith was a generous, fun loving person with a great heart. He will be missed greatly by his fellow ODOT Invitational golf buddies.

Respectfully,

Bryan Cosgrove

Bryan Cosgrove - November 06, 2018 at 09:15 AM