



Dr. Norman L. Braasch

July 29, 1928 - June 30, 2016

Dr. Norman L. Braasch, 87, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri died Thursday, June 30, 2016 at Southeast Hospital in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

He was born July 29, 1928 in Norfolk, Nebraska to Alfred and Marie Kortje Braasch.

He and Kathryn Garrett were married August 6, 1953 in Lincoln, Nebraska. She passed away in December of 1993.

Dr. Braasch was a professor at Southeast Missouri State University, joining the biology department in Sept. 1963 until his retirement in June 1994. In addition to his work in the classroom, he also held the position of pre-dental and pre-medical advisor to many students. He was interested in each of his student's whole learning experience, not just the science of his profession. That being said, he was an expert in wood-boring wasps and bees of the Southeast Missouri region - though he was always eager to "discourage" carpenter bees drilling into his house.

He had a deep love of learning and books and a dedication to enhancing the university library holdings with items he would recommend to students and faculty. He read anything he could get his hands on, and had a keen appreciation for literature and the written word.

Norman was also a cultured man. He loved cooking, eating and sharing good wine with his family and friends, trying new recipes and learning more about food. Occasionally, he would bring food to class to let students see how zoological subject matter interacted with everyday life. He loved classical music - symphonic, opera and ballet, and traveled the world from his humble beginnings growing up on the family farm in Nebraska to the Netherlands, Spain, Australia and beyond.

Although he had a small family, it was one filled with nothing but love. Our Po was a great storyteller and conversationalist with a sharp wit and a dry, devious sense of humor. But more importantly, he was always kind and good-natured, and he put the concerns of those closest to him above his own. And even well into his old age, he had a boyishness about him, in the way he smiled, how he explored the world around him in his own way.

Norman was fond of saying, "See you when I see you," as a way of saying goodbye to anyone. So, he would likely say it now as his final farewell.

He will be deeply missed.

Survivors include :

Daughter - Ann (Timothy) Zimpfer, Saint Louis, MO

Grandchild - Ryan Zimpfer

Grandchild - Travis Zimpfer

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife.

No services are planned at this time.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Norman Braasch Foundation

Scholarship Fund at Southeast Missouri State University, #1 University Plaza,
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 or Team Activities for Special Kids (TASK), 980
Horan Drive, Fenton, MO 63026.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall

KK

“ I am truly sadden by this news. Changed my life plan due to this man. Started with Biology in 1978 at SEMO and after his Zoology class, had to change my major to this. Due to the direction, he help lead me to, I made it to dental school. I am sure I am not the only one that owes a bit of gratitude to him for that. Enjoyed our time together during my four years at SEMO, especially our Gulf trip to Mississippi. They just don't have advisors that take a personal interest in their students success like he did. I did have the chance to thank him a few years ago. May the memory of your father give you peace, he will always be in my thoughts and prayers.

Kevin M. Killian,D.D.S.
BS Zoology 1982

Kevin M. Killian,D.D.S. - July 09, 2016 at 02:39 PM

DA

“ I will never forget Dr Braasch. He was a friend of my parents but my first memory was when he hosted one of the dinner courses on a St Andrews Lutheran youth group progressive dinner. He taught silly teenagers how to eat artichokes (which I had never had before) and helped me discover that scraping the pulp off the top of the leaf with your teeth was tasty and fun.

When I went to SEMO I took his General Zoology course and he helped me realize that I wasn't paying close attention to the material. I did very poorly on a test and I felt that I knew the material better than the test showed. He let me take an different version of the test for that material and after that test I realized he was correct and I should have noticed the obvious differences he wanted us to see for ourselves in the Zoo Lab. His kindness was greatly appreciated. He could have told me to just deal with it but he helped me learn a valuable lesson. Never blame the test for your results.

I became a much better student because of his guidance and as my Pre Med advisor I know his recommendation helped me get into SLU Med School. I can't thank him enough for being the great man and Professor he was for me.

Dan Alyea MD
BS Zoology
SEMO 1980

Dan Alyea - July 05, 2016 at 11:57 PM

KJ

“ *Dr. Braasch (you begged me to just call you Norm, but that habit was too hard to break):*

You were truly one of the most influential, informative, intelligent, and interesting individuals I have ever met and had the honor to call a dear friend. While the Zoology classes were great, to be sure, the most enjoyable times spent were in the racquetball courts, enjoying dinner and the ever present bottle of wine, or even talking on the phone. You were thought of often and I wish your family much peace.

All the best,

*Ken Pemberton, Jr.
443 Ridge View Ln
Jackson, MO 63755*

Ken Pemberton, Jr. - July 04, 2016 at 03:16 PM

WM

“ Dear Ann,

I was saddened to learn of the passing of your dad. I met your dad in January of 1971 as a student in his Zoology Class. He became my teacher, mentor and friend during my years at SEMO. I could fill up several pages about how your dad influenced my life and career path. Certainly I can, say Dr. Norman Braasch is the reason I am a practicing dentist today. I last saw your dad in November of 2014,

he was a guest at The Cape

Girardeau Dental Study Club. There were nearly a dozen of his former students at this meeting, it meant a great deal to your dad to see so many of his "pre-dental students. He made the comment, "To me I still remember all of you in your early20's!" That made all of us over 60 feel great! It has been such a privilege to have your dad's influence and

presence in my life. Your dad was the perfect Renaissance Man. His life impacted so many, I will miss him., and always be grateful for his mentoring.

*William T. Kane, DDS,
wtkane@newwavecomm.net*

William T Kane, DDS M - July 04, 2016 at 09:58 AM

AJ

“ It was with great sadness that I learned from Vickie Howell of the passing of my beloved friend and colleague. As we walk through life, there are a few individuals we meet of whom we will say: it is an absolute honor, privilege and pleasure to know this person. For me, Norman was exactly such a person. Not only was Norman a great friend and mentor, but I was also lucky enough to share space with him - firstly as a cubicle neighbor in Magill Hall and then as a pod-mate in Rhodes Hall. Over the fourteen years of such proximity, we shared many a story and laugh with nary a cross word.

I was consistently impressed by many of Norm's attributes - not the least of which was his amazingly clean and tidy office and uncluttered desk. But most memorable were his love of books and music. It is testimony to Norman's humility that he always wanted to share and talk about music - and accorded me the honor of treating me as equally knowledgeable about music - even though I insisted to him that my seeming Musical Meander expertise came largely from reading liner notes on albums and, latterly, CDs.

Norman was - and will always remain in our hearts - as one of the most genuine Renaissance men and gentlest of men of the Age. I will cherish his friendship and memory as long as I live.

My deepest condolences are sent to his family - about whom he was always so willing to talk and for whom his every word demonstrated so much love.

*Alsn Journet
7113 Griffin Lane
Jacksonville OR 97530-9342
541-301-4107
alanjournet@gmil.com*

Alan Journet - July 03, 2016 at 12:18 PM

LH

“ My deepest condolences to Norm's family. I have always felt so fortunate to have had him for a professor. He taught me Zoology back in the early 1980's and had such contagious enthusiasm for the subject matter. I admired his intelligence, looked forward to his smile, delighted in his sense of humor, and appreciated his GENTLE nature. And yes, he did prepare "steak tartare" for us one day in class! A sweet, sweet man...a dear human being.

Lisa Jensen Hinni - July 02, 2016 at 04:45 PM

GQ

“ Dear Ann,

I was so sadden to hear of Norm's passing. I have been thinking about him a lot lately and wanted to get over to see him, but time passes too quickly in my old age. I will always remember how supportive he was with Kay and us League of Women Voters people. He always had a special treat for us when we met at the house or at Christmas gatherings. I especially remember his carrot cookies, as he gave me the recipe.

I still miss Kay a lot. She was a great friend and always wonderful support to me with League projects. She is a yearly reminder as I decorate my Christmas tree with the crystal ornaments she gave me one year.

Please accept my condolences and help if there is anything I can do for you as you go through the next several weeks journey. God Bless you Ann and your family. You were dearly loved by your Mom and Dad.

*Glenda Quinn
573-335-6149*

GLEND A QUINN - July 02, 2016 at 10:28 AM