

Obituary

Dr. Joseph Edward Dunn III

Jan. 25, 1946-Aug. 2, 2019

Raised in Durango and Bayfield, CO, and Arnold, NE

Joe showed his academic strength as a young boy. As a high school junior he was selected to represent Arnold at Boy's State.

Joe won a four-year Regents Award scholarship to University of Nebraska Lincoln and became a Cornhusker.

While pursuing his Master of Science degree in microbiology and biochemistry, at the Lincoln campus, he received a National Science Foundation Research Award. At the age of 21 as an undergrad Joe married Kathy Ludlow and had his first daughter. His young family moved to Corvallis Oregon, in 1969, so Joe could earn his Ph.D in Microbiology from Oregon State University. He followed that with a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Department of Medical Microbiology & Immunology at the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation in La Jolla, California. While in San Diego he was with his mother Dr Dacia St. John, and step father Dr Pax Nidorf. He also served four years on the Medical Microbiology and Immunology faculty at the University of Arizona Medical Center in Tucson.

He met Vickie Rochelle in 1980, they married and raised three children, Andrew, Caitlin, and Evan, in Carlsbad & Vista, California. Along with raising a family they were business partners in real estate and remained life-long friends and support for each other.

Dr. Dunn is the author of more than 25 patents. He invented the use of pulsed light for packaging sterilization, he was a primary developer of pulsed electric field processing in the United States, and authored numerous refereed publications, eight book chapters, and has been a speaker at over 100 international conferences on

technological and regulatory issues of sterilization science. While traveling the world he also categorized all the best pastry shops.

He worked with and became life-long friends with a fellow Nebraskan Chuck Sizer. While working together as professors at the Illinois Institute of Technology, they oversaw graduate student research that elucidated the chemical mechanism of peroxyacids as sterilants and defined the mathematical equations describing high pressure processing of foods. Joe had the ability to analyze microbiological data and transform it into mathematical equations that describe High Pressure Processing. If you ever eat guacamole or lunch meat, the safety of the product is a result of his contributions to the basic research on microbial inactivation.

His executive experience included president and CEO of NanoMed Technologies, Geneva, Ill., and laboratory director and chief safety officer of Pilot Aseptic Technologies also in Geneva. Dr. Dunn was also the director of technology assessment for The National Center for Food Safety & Technology at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, in addition to serving as the chief scientist for research and development for Automatic Liquid Packaging in Woodstock, Ill.

Throughout his career, Dr. Dunn worked closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on regulatory acceptance of new food processing technologies. His work encompassed a spectrum of products from high pressure processed military rations, energy drinks, other beverages used by the military and medical foods.

Joe most recently lived and worked in Florida and married a fellow



Arnold High School Graduate Marilyn Sheets, who stayed a supportive friend to the end of his life.

Joe stayed connected to his family and close friends for his entire life. If he loved you, you knew it. He was a writer of short stories, basketball playing fanatic, 4x5 large format & 35mm format black and white photographer and loved the outdoors. While in graduate school he built a forest green drift boat so he could fish for Steelhead. If Joe had something in his mind it was hard to alter that vision. He was a dreamer, inventor, avid joke teller and could whistle like a country boy with operatic vibrato.

He left behind many family and friends who loved him: Helen Dunn Rutz, step mother; Diane and Mo Sanford, sister and brother-in-law; Pax Nidorf, step-father; Heather, Cait and Evan Dunn, children; and six grandchildren; Chuck Sizer, George Sadler who with Joe made up the three musketeers; high school friend Calvin Joy; wives, Kathryn Ludlow, Vickie Rochelle and Marilyn Dunn. Preceding him in death: Joseph E. Dunn, father; Dacia St John, mother; Mike Dunn, brother; and Andrew Michael Dunn, son.

Thank you to all who supported him in his life of science and exploration and to those who loved him and his eccentricities. He loved you too.

Graveside memorial planned for September.