



Derek Lile

June 24, 1943 - July 25, 2008

/* Style Definitions */ p.MsoNormal, li.MsoNormal, div.MsoNormal {mso-style-parent:""; margin:0in; margin-bottom:.0001pt; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:12.0pt; font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-fareast-font-family:"Times New Roman";} p {mso-margin-top-alt:auto; margin-right:0in; mso-margin-bottom-alt:auto; margin-left:0in; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:12.0pt; font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-fareast-font-family:"Times New Roman";} @page Section1 {size:8.5in 11.0in; margin:1.0in 1.25in 1.0in 1.25in; mso-header-margin:.5in; mso-footer-margin:.5in; mso-paper-source:0;} div.Section1 {page:Section1;} --> Derek Lile died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 65 on July 25, 2008, at his home in Fort Collins, CO. Derek is survived by his wife of 37 years, Christine Lile, his children, Aaron Lile, and Micah & Jessica Lile, his grandson Isaac Lile, his mother, Sylvia Lile, Uncle Roy Franklin and Aunt and Uncle Joyce and Vernon Franklin, mother-in-law Marie Wilbur, sisters-in-law Connie Bush and Jeanne Wilbur, and brother-in-law Peter Wilbur. He is also survived by a cousin and several nieces and nephews. Derek was predeceased by his father, Lawrence Lile. Derek was born in Cardiff, Wales, UK on June 24, 1943. He received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from University of Wales in 1964, his M.S. in Solid-State Electronics from University of Wales in 1965, and his Ph.D. in Materials Science from University of London in 1968. He moved to California in 1968, where he worked as a civilian for the Department of the Navy from 1968-1984,

where he finished as the Head of the Device Physics Group at the Naval Ocean Systems Center, San Diego, CA. In 1984 Derek accepted a position as Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Colorado State University, in Fort Collins, CO. In 1993 Derek accepted the position of Head of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and held this position until 2003. In 2005 Derek retired from the University. Derek was a member at First Baptist Church, Fort Collins, CO from 1984 until the time of his death. While a member, Derek had the opportunity to serve as a long-time leader of the Keystone Adult Bible class, the College and Career Bible class, as well as an usher. Derek was much loved for his dry sense of humor, his British accent, his passion for teaching, and his love for those he taught. He was a very loving husband and father, and he will be greatly missed. Derek's family appreciates everyone's support and prayers during this time. A memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church, 900 E. Prospect Road. Pr Mark Hanke will officiate the service. A private burial will occur on Friday morning. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Derek Lile Memorial Fund in care of Goes Funeral Care, 3665 Canal Dr. Fort Collins, CO 80524.

Tribute Wall



“ *Derek Lile*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Derek was a fine friend and colleague and I enjoyed our interaction while we were both department heads at CSU. Derek had integrity and a sense of fair play. He was able to do the right thing even when it was not always easy. He had a team spirit and helped promote engineering education across the boundaries of the departments. He was a good teacher and had a sincere interest in students. We are going to miss him.*

Neil

Neil Grigg - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *I worked for Dr. Lile when he first arrived at CSU for many years and we became very good friends. He was a very good Christian man and he loved his family very much and was very dedicated to his position at CSU. I haven't seen him much since I retired and he also retired from CSU but I will never forget him. He taught me many things and he loved his church and church family. God Bless all the family and my prayers are with you. I'm so sorry for the loss of a very good man.*

Betty Hutcheson - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KU

“ There are times in our lives when we are fortunate enough to meet someone extraordinary. They touch our life in a certain way that you'll not forget. Dr. Lile was that kind of person to me. I had the opportunity of working with him for 6 years in the ECE office. I witnessed first hand his caring and dedication to students, staff and faculty. I had tremendous respect for him. I also took pride in the fact that I was one of few people in our office who could interpret his unique handwriting! I will mourn his passing, and celebrate his life at Thursday's memorial service.

Karen Ungerer - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ I was an undergraduate student during the first few years of Dr. Lile's tenure at Colorado State University, graduating from the EE dept. in 1987 before working with NCR Microelectronics (now LSI Logic) in Fort Collins.

Dr. Lile was my senior advisor, and was very gracious with me when I realized I had bitten off far more than I could ever dream of chewing (much less swallowing), and had to switch projects mid-year to something more manageable. I'm actually working NOW on a project similar to what I had proposed in 1986 ... funny how that works out.

Dr. Lile was a joy to be around -- took his teaching seriously, but didn't take himself or his students too seriously. I always enjoyed my association with him, and wish that we had connected as Christian brothers, beyond the student/teacher relationship.

My prayers are with you all (his family) as you mourn his passing -- my sister saw Dr. Lile's obituary in the paper today and remembered me mentioning him many times.

Scott Richardson - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Dear Christine,

I have the fondest memories of Derek!

In 1984, when Derek joined the Electrical Engineering Department at Colorado State University, I had little opportunity to interact with him directly. But I got to know him through the eyes and comments of my advisees. For the Civil Engineering students the required EE class was invariably a headache, until Derek started to teach it. From that moment on students quit to complain and they had only the most positive things to say about Derek as a person, him as a teacher and even found the subject matter interesting.

By the time Derek became Department Head in 1993 I had moved into the Associate Dean's office. That created ample reasons to work with him directly one-on-one. In my position, interaction with department heads was not always easy: I had to ask them for their help, their favors. But whenever I walked into Derek's office I felt truly welcomed. I loved his wonderful sense of humor. And when I left his office, I knew I had his full support.

Our interactions changed one more time when I was appointed Interim Dean. A number of key hires in Derek's department fell into this time period and the big remodel of the engineering building required intensive cooperation. But thanks to Derek's personality it was always very positive and easy.

I treasure these many memories.

I wish you and your family all the strength for the coming days, months, and years. I know that your own memories will help carry you through these difficult times.

Johannes and Seraina Gessler

Johannes Gessler - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ *Derek Lile*

Tom Aurand - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ *Derek was a good, kind, compassionate man. I admire his honesty, gentleness, intellect and resolve. He was a pleasure to work for and delight to know as a friend. I have missed him since he left CSU and I will miss him profoundly as time goes on. What a blessing it was to have him here.*

Tom Aurand - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

WB

“ *As an CSU ECE alumnus '97 and student of Dr. Lile, I must say that Dr. Lile was probably my favorite professor/advisor. While there are many fine professors at CSU, none came close to Dr. Lile's caring, non-intimidating personality when you spoke to him, person to person. Even in the position of department head, he was very approachable and made you feel comfortable. He will be sorely missed as a member of this community.*

W. Gilbert Bates - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ *Dr. Lile was awesome, if you ever got a chance to talk to him, his door was always open, and he genuinely cared about his students, not just about their schoolwork, but rather about them as a person. He will truly be missed and my prayers will be with his family.*

Donald Cherry - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RZ

“ While I am deeply saddened and mourn Derek’s passing, I cannot help but feel immensely fortunate and blessed for having known and worked with Derek for over thirteen years. He was my first (interim) department head when I started my career at CSU and he was my department head when I left. Derek showed me, by example, what it means to be honorable, genuinely caring and compassionate towards all people. Derek was one of those rare administrators whose word was good enough for me and I never needed to get it in writing and never had to. He was indeed a man of honor and integrity. I often heard from his students how much they loved and respected him. Since he never acted like a boss, but a colleague and a friend, I sometimes used to tease him by going to his ever open-door office and address him as “hey boss”, and he would always reply “hey, son” while giving me his trademarked gentle and warm smile. In all my years at CSU, I cannot recall having seen Derek angry at or say anything bad about anyone. He was a true gentleman and a great colleague who taught me a lot simply by being his wonderful self. Derek, you will be missed. Mary and I wish Chris and the family much inner strength and peace and our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Reza and Mary Zoughi - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

NC

“ I am saddened by this news. Dr. Lile was always kind, indeed had an open-door policy and greeted you with a smile and twinkle in his eyes. He was the head of the ECE Department the whole time I was at CSU and I also took a class of his my senior year. Even after I graduated he was nice enough to write a letter of recommendation for me. I remember I got to deliver ECE Thanksgiving drive food boxes with him one year in that SAAB car (had never seen seat belts like that before!). And another year he was so generous and let us pack the food boxes at his house. He was the person that talked to those of us who came to school on Sept. 11. It was so important and helpful to have someone talk to us on a one-to-one basis like that. Even though he was head of the department, he treated each person, regardless of status/age as a friend on the same level. He was gentle guy, so friendly and had a quirky sense of humor. I send my condolences to his family and friends.

Neeta Jonchhe (Shrestha) - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

EW

“ Derek was a wonderful, kind, caring and compassionate person. He had a remarkable open door policy for one in a position as demanding as his as Department Head was. I have missed him greatly since his retirement but learned much from him. I only hope that I can offer half as much as an adviser to students as his example taught. I am unable to attend his service but I mourn his loss deeply and extend my thoughts and prayers to his family, friends and all who have been touched by him.

Elisabeth Wadman - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ Dr. Lile was my EE101 professor in the late 90's. His first day of class he told us about himself and told us about his relationship with Jesus. I was so thrilled to know he was a brother in Christ. Because of this I am assured of where he is now...with our Lord. This brings much comfort, even though the pain is still raw for those close to him.

Dr. Lile was a man of integrity. He was also an excellent teacher. He was definately one of my favorite teachers. I highly respected him and loved his humor. He had a positive perspective on life and seemed to always be wearing a smile. He will be greatly missed.

Thanks Dr. Lile for being a light and teaching others about light in this dark world! I pray many lives will be changed by your example in God's strength.

Elisha Rentfrow - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ I had the privilege to work with Derek for a number of years in the EE department where I worked as a research associate with Carl Wilmsen. Derek was one of the good guys: everyone he had contact with was better off for it! The way he shaped his students into good men and women as they gained their education was the thing that always impressed me most. All of his students graduated as much better people than when they began!

Derek always strove to do what was right and to treat everyone with respect. He left a wonderful legacy to CSU with his dedication and intellect that each of us who knew him will always remember.

We are saddened by his passing but joyful to have shared in his life. Thank you for sharing him with the University for so many years.

Kent and Colleen Geib - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ *What an honor it was to work with Derek when we were both in the College of Engineering at CSU. He was always so upbeat, ready to try anything and great convinving donors that Electrical and Computer Engineering was the best place for them to invest.*

It's my hope that your happy memories of Derek will help you during this difficult time.

Jean Lamm - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ *Chris, Aaron, and Micah,
We are so sorry and shocked to hear of your great loss. Derek was such a wonderful husband and father...just a very nice person. Take care to know that he is in a better place now and you will all see him again.*

*God bless,
Keith and Pam*

Keith and Pam DeArmond - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *I remember the 1st meeting with Derek as he and Chris came to Oak Grove Church to see Larry in action. Derek and Chris came over to our home and we loved their honesty and delightfulness. When we moved to Fort Collins, we became friends!! I LOVED hearing Derek teach, I loved the way he encouraged ME to learn and to share. I loved his smile and his humor!!! I loved that he even learned Scripture verses as I taught on Sunday nights. He and Chris had a great knack for hospitality, also!! Something funny...I was tickled at the way he let Chris keep her Christmas tree for months and months...and I loved how he supported her as she took art classes. I missed them like crazy when they stopped coming to our life group.*

Shari Rydman - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ I was very sorry indeed to hear of Derek's death. I was a fellow research student at Imperial College and we first met in 1965.

He was fun and had a quick intelligent wit. On his way to California he stayed with my wife, Sheila, and I in Pittsburgh and bought an old car to continue his journey westwards. Throughout our careers we shared similar technical interests and he established a reputation as a world leader in his field eventually becoming a popular head of a university department.

Sheila and I remained in touch with Derek and Chris throughout, exchanging news of our growing families. We will miss him.

Prof Garth Swanson - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Knew and was a very close friend of Derek from his early days in Cardiff, went to the same high school (Howardian High). Knew his family in Cardiff very well. There were 3 of us, Derek, Tony Ribton and myself (and latterly Phil Sidebottom). Maybe he mentioned me. We were the 'lads' in high school. Lost touch when he went to the US. Spent many happy days in school and in Cardiff together. He will be sadly missed. If you e-mail me with your e-mail address I will forward some photos I have of Derek (including a photo of Derek as an 'Usher' at my wedding) and the rest of us which you may want to see and have.

Very best wishes to you all at this sad time. Kind regards. John Keymer

John Keymer - July 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM