



## Oren P. Anderson PhD

October 11, 2022

Oren P. Anderson, Ph.D., passed away peacefully at his home in Ft. Collins, Colorado, on October 11, 2022, after a 30-month battle against Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). Oren was 80 years young.

Born in Iowa City, Iowa, on June 19, 1942, to Rangnar “Andy” G.W. Anderson and Arlene N. Anderson (Nellor), Oren was the older brother of Owen Anderson. Oren attended the Sioux City Public Schools, where he established himself as an accomplished scientist, mathematician, and voracious reader. His lifelong love of music as a pianist, trombonist, saxophonist and guitarist began and flourished during these foundational years. After graduating from East High (1960), Oren attended Carleton College, where he majored in Chemistry as part of their Honors program. At Carleton, Oren met his friends of over 60 years, Gerhard “Ger” Nowack, William “Bill” Libby, and Craig Dean. Oren graduated from Carleton in 1964 and immediately entered doctoral studies at Northwestern University, where his research interests focused on physical and inorganic chemistry. At Northwestern, Oren met the love of his life, Jennifer E. L. Anderson (Bates), and, after a 9-month courtship, they married on March 20, 1967.

After Oren graduated in May 1968 with his Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry, he and Jennifer embarked to Bergen, Norway, where Oren was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Bergen. Oren and Jennifer taught themselves

Norwegian and discovered their love of cross-country skiing, hiking, fishing, and enjoying seafood during their two years in Norway. It was also in Bergen that their oldest son, Craig R. Anderson, was born. In 1970, Oren and his young family moved to Leicester, England, where he continued his research studies at the University of Leicester. He was a proud member of the Royal Chemical Society. During these years, Oren drew close to Jennifer's English family and enjoyed English ales, English history, and hiking in the Peak District and Norfolk Coast. Oren also became a fan of English football (soccer), and his stories of watching Leicester City, Nottingham Forest, Norwich City, and Tottenham Hotspur games are legendary. In 1972, Oren and his family left England to become a faculty member and continue his research at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Oren's youngest son, Neil O. Anderson, was born in Ann Arbor in 1973. In 1974, Oren, Jennifer, Craig, and Neil made their final move to Ft. Collins, Colorado, after Oren accepted a tenure track faculty position in the Department of Chemistry at Colorado State University (CSU).

Oren loved his research, but he loved teaching even more. During his 37-year career at CSU, Oren insisted on teaching freshman general chemistry in addition to honors chemistry and inorganic chemistry while guiding many graduate students in obtaining their master's and doctoral degrees. During his tenure at CSU, Oren published research articles focusing on small and macromolecular structures with particular emphasis on protein crystallography. In doing so, Oren became known as a pioneer in this field of chemistry, leading him to present at conferences across the United States and internationally. Former students have called Oren "the first and greatest 'old master'" while praising his ability to be an influential chemist and a humble and thoughtful mentor. Oren also served as department chair for ten years where he successfully expanded the chemistry building, guided the department to a top-10 national standing, and championed the development of Yates Hall. However, of Oren's accomplishments in higher education and

academia, he was most proud of receiving the award for Teacher of the Year & Outstanding Graduate Faculty Instructor, as voted on by students, and the Pennock Award honoring his service and dedication to CSU. Oren's passions for teaching and CSU were evident in a 2016 interview when he said, "I always used to remind people that there are really only three things that matter: the students, the faculty, and the library ... Everything else is spinning off of that."

As a father, Oren patiently and consistently introduced Craig and Neil to his love of the Colorado outdoors. As a family, they hiked throughout Rocky Mountain National Park, picnicked along the Poudre River, learned to ski (alpine and cross-country), camped along mountain lakes, and learned to fly fish on the Poudre and North Platte. Oren also became an avid cyclist, where he enjoyed the Poudre River Trail and the roads around Horsetooth Reservoir, Lory State Park, and northern Colorado, culminating in Oren proudly completing 10 consecutive Ride the Rockies with his good friends Steve Reid and Ray Bailey. Oren's love of travel allowed him to remain connected with Jennifer's English family and his Norwegian and Australian friends. He enjoyed many trips to his uncle's farm in Iowa and the northern lakes of Minnesota. He championed his sons' interests and activities, never missing an event or opportunity to celebrate Craig or Neil's efforts academically, musically, or athletically throughout their Poudre R1 education and their collegiate experiences at St. Olaf College.

In 1996, Craig married Sara Flint, and in 1998, Neil married Martha Pederson. As a father-in-law, Oren was a constant steady presence celebrating the careers and milestones of their lives. He eagerly engaged in conversations about books, collaborated on crossword puzzles, recapped television series, was a fierce game player, and shared articles of interest with them all. When the grandchildren arrived, beginning with Claire (1999), and followed by

Catherine (2004), Leif (2005), and Sina (2010), Oren was ever-present. He never missed a grandchild's birthday, significant event, or holiday festival, and made it a priority to acknowledge their effort and the efforts of those around them. Ever observant and patient, "Grandpa" and "Baba-O", as he was known to his grandchildren, would be found reading, creating music, playing, and supporting all their interests. Oren was always ready to lend a hand, offer guidance, give a hug, and celebrate milestones. He was exceedingly proud of each grandchild and who they were as individuals and loved to be present in their lives.

Oren retired from CSU in 2011 and filled his post-career years traveling with Jennifer to Oregon, Hawai'i, Japan, South Korea, Australia, South Africa, England, France, Italy, Israel, and Jordan. Oren stayed engaged at CSU by serving on multiple committees, including the Faculty Benefits and the Retired Faculty and Admin Professionals Committees. He also served his community on various local governing boards. Oren actively participated in two local book clubs and one at Carleton College, attended Ft. Collins Symphony concerts and the OpenStage Theater, started playing the piano again, took organ lessons, served terms on his neighborhood committee, and enjoyed fine wine and food with friends. Unfortunately, Oren was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in March 2020, but, true to Oren's spirit, he tackled his cancer by educating himself on the science and treatment plans. Though the treatment took a toll on his energy, Oren maintained his various community commitments and attended the grandchildren's events even when they were virtual due to the pandemic. In partnership with his team of doctors and with the compassionate care from Jennifer, Oren became the longest-living person with his AML mutations, and he took great pride in being patient #1 in various clinical research trials. He hoped to further scientific research through his efforts so others may overcome their AML diagnosis.

Oren's spirit and lasting legacy will be with those that knew him. His impact

has been felt locally, across the United States, and internationally. Oren was a loving husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, uncle, and dear friend and mentor to those who knew him. He will be missed but never forgotten.

Oren is survived by his wife of 55 years, Jennifer E. L. Anderson, his two sons Craig (Sara) and Neil (Martha), and his four grandchildren, Claire, Catherine, Leif, and Sina. A memorial service is scheduled for Friday, October 28, 2:00 PM, at Trinity Lutheran Church.

The family has established the Oren P. Anderson Memorial Fund so that his legacy can continue throughout the community. The family would ask that you send contributions made payable to the "Oren P. Anderson Memorial Account" and mailed to:

Elevations Credit Union  
PO Box 9004  
Boulder, CO 80301.

Please access the following link to watch a recording of Oren's service:

<https://vimeo.com/764747820/bb0997e8eb>

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **28**. 2:00 PM (MT)

Trinity Lutheran Church  
301 E. Stuart  
Fort Collins, CO 80525  
info@goesfuneralcare.com

*Live stream: <https://vimeo.com/event/2522896/c1db2fdf43>*

# Tribute Wall



“ Goes Funeral Care & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Oren P. Anderson PhD



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**Goes Funeral Care & Crematory** - October 29, 2022 at 10:28 AM

PL

“ I was the first undergraduate exchange student to participate in the Leicester University-CSU chemistry program in the early 90's, which was set up, in part, because of Oren's connections to that city. Oren was a real mensch, guiding a baffled Liverpudlian 19-year old's first time in the USA, through culture shock in the front range and at CSU - in chemistry and beyond.

*In Chemistry, I had a rough time academically due to mis-calibration of expectations for students in both my taught courses and summer research. If it wasn't for Oren's kindness and mentoring, I might have left chemistry and research altogether; needless to say his impact on my life was profound and positive! I hope to live up to his example with my own students.*

*I agree with Dan Derr below. I was lucky to have known him briefly. He left the world a better place by his efforts in life.*

*Phil Lukeman*

*Associate Professor of Chemistry, St. John's U, NY.*

*CSU Exchange Student*



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**PHILIP S LUKEMAN** - June 05, 2023 at 10:30 AM

DD

“ I was sorry to just read in C&EN that Prof. Anderson, generally referred to Oren around the CSU Chemistry Department, passed last fall. He was, I believe, head of the department when I was a chem grad student in the 90's. He was always a pleasure to be with, both in professional capacities and social interactions. But we had a history before CSU.

While I knew from early in my stay at CSU Oren went to Carleton College, it somehow never occurred to me he might have known my parents, who also went to Carleton. Only as he was signing my dissertation did I think to ask what year he graduated. When I told him my parents were in the same class, he correctly intuited "Well then, your dad must have been Dave Derr." The next time I was in my childhood home I dug out their senior yearbook and found a picture of just the two of them together. Somehow that extra connection struck me.

Oren was an important influence in my and many, many other grad students' educations and he will be missed. He made the world a better place with his quiet grace and equanimity. But that doesn't stop with his passing. The world will continue to be bettered by his having passed on some of his lessons to so many of us.

With sympathy,  
Dan Derr, CSU Chemistry Ph.D. '98

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Dan Derr - April 17, 2023 at 05:38 PM

AW

“ Four years ago, Oren, Jennifer, A-Young and I decided to book a tour of South Korea and Japan with Road Scholar. Oren and Jennifer had not been to either country, and A-Young and I were always game for an opportunity to visit. A highlight of the Korean tour was a visit to Gyeong-Ju, the ancient capital of the first dynasty to unite Korea. This, combined with the introduction and flowering of Buddhism, led to a Golden Age in Korea. Gyeong-Ju is famous for its royal burial mounds and for the temples and shrines in the surrounding mountains. We visited Bulguksa, the largest and most famous temple. The tour also included cultural experiences such as calligraphy (we learned to write our names in hangul, the Korean script) and a lesson at a culinary school (cooking bulgogi). In Japan, one of our first experiences was riding the bullet train, an unforgettable experience. We also had a lesson in sushi-making from a sushi master, and a lesson in meditation from a Zen monk. For Oren, the meditation session was especially meaningful. Oren and Jennifer both reveled in the experiences and sights of Korea and Japan. One last highlight was discovered by Oren. On our last day in Tokyo, Oren discovered, near our hotel, a stationery shop with seven stories of fine writing equipment and supplies. Our tour was truly a memorable experience. And now, to Oren: Farewell, Dear Friend. You will be missed terribly, but never forgotten.

*A-Young and Bob Woody*

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**A-Young and Robert Woody** - October 29, 2022 at 09:47 PM

FB

“ Dear Jen, Neil, Craig and Family,

*We were so pleased to share with you the memorial service over the live stream. We all have such fond memories of you visiting us at home and feel so lucky to have had you be such an active part of our family.*

*All our love,  
Flora, Hattie and Wilf Bates*

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**Flora Bates** - October 28, 2022 at 05:29 PM

ZS

“ So many years of friendship and leisure times with Oren, we have great memories. Our visits to Colorado and Fort Collins and his to Reigate UK. On both sides of the pond we finally settled on how to avoid arguments about who would pick up the meal tab, it would be us in the UK and him on home turf!

From skiing and walking in the Rockies at Frisco and Winter Park, generosity and thoughtful planning were Oren's trademark. Always making sure we were looked after in every considerate way.

The year our Daughter, Sam, spent in Fort Collins was only made possible by Jen and Oren's help, exceptional generosity and support for which we are all very grateful.

Our lasting memory is being with Jen and Oren on a cinnamon bun crusade driving through the mountains singing along to John Denver's ' Rocky Mountain High'. A favourite of Oren's. His enduring love of being in Colorado and ours of spending time with him there. We shall always feel privileged to have enjoyed such a long friendship with this man.

With our love and thoughts to all the family as you celebrate Oren's life today and share in that tribute here in the UK thanks to technology

Zena and Bob and family



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**Zena Stevens** - October 28, 2022 at 08:13 AM

RJ

“ When I arrived at the CSU Chemistry department (in about 1975), Oren was the senior of we three Inorganic assistant professors - all vying for tenure. We discussed Chemistry together and shared teaching assignments. During one of our discussions, Oren informed me that i had a 'knack' for Chemistry. By 1980, Oren had achieved tenure and it had become obvious that the other 2 of us would not. Around that time a former postdoctoral associate, working for Shell Development Company in Houston, informed me that Shell had need of a senior research chemist that had a 'feeling' for Chemistry. Remembering what Oren had said informed him that our senior Inorganic Chemist had told me that I had a 'knack' for Chemistry. That must have qualified as a 'feeling' because that same Thursday Shell flew me to Houston to give a couple of seminars. By Monday I had a job offer from Shell. Thank you Oren for providing me a good word.

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**Robert Job** - October 28, 2022 at 01:58 AM

LJ

“ When Bob and I moved permanently to Colorado in 2006, Oren and Jennifer were quick to take us under their wings and show us the ropes, including all the good restaurants and all the best breweries. We'll always be thankful for Oren's insights, guidance and most of all - his friendship.

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**Louise Job** - October 27, 2022 at 08:24 PM

BJ

“ When I arrived at the CSU Chemistry department (in about 1975), Oren was the senior of we three Inorganic assistant professors - all vying for tenure. We discussed Chemistry together and shared teaching assignments. During one of our discussions, Oren made a statement that I would never forget. He informed me that I had a 'knack' for Chemistry. By 1980, Oren had achieved tenure and it became obvious that the other 2 or us would not. Around that time I heard from a former associate, working for Shell Development Company in Houston, that they had need of a senior research chemist that had a 'feeling' for Chemistry. I informed him that our senior Inorganic Chemist had told me that I had a 'knack' for Chemistry. That must have qualified as a 'feeling' - because the next Thursday Shell flew me to Houston to give a couple of seminars. By Monday, I had a job offer from Shell. Thank you Oren, for the right word.

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**Bob Job** - October 27, 2022 at 08:18 PM

CD

“ Oren and I met as residents of the same dorm at Carleton along with Bill Libby and Bob Kopelman. Oren was already a figure on campus as part of a small group who had polished off three semester-long classes during the summer (before we had even gotten our frosh beanies). He sustained that leadership for the next four years, organizing concerts by everyone from classical artists to rising folk groups, and playing a key role in campus politics. (I am saving the really good stuff for a private message to family.). Senior year he gave up rooms in a posh senior dorm ( with fireplaces) to pioneer an experiment in housing frosh with more senior folks. No surprise he later served as a dept chair and insisted on teaching beginners as well as graduate students.  
Craig Dean. Carleton 1964

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**Craig Dean** - October 27, 2022 at 07:50 PM

LB

“ Dearest Auntie Jennifer, Neil, Martha, Craig, Sara and families, We will all miss Oren enormously. We will remember the many happy times we spent together and treasure our visits to see you in the US. Oren was always so kind, generous and thoughtful, spending hours playing games with our children and encouraging them with endless patience and always showing such an interest in our lives. Ben remembers fondly sharing craft beers with Oren in Winter Park. We remember Oren demonstrating a chemistry experiment in our London kitchen (something involving a wine bottle, vinegar and a lot of bubbles!) much to the amazement of our children! We enjoyed your visits to stay with us on your travels too. Both Oren and Jennifer will forever be an inspiration to us, always travelling and making the most of every moment with family and friends.

We are thinking of you all and are so sorry we can't be with you in person.

With all our love Laura, Ben, Delilah, Basil and Allegra xxx



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**Laura Burch** - October 27, 2022 at 04:50 PM

JB

“ Oren was a fantastic guy -and to all us nephews and nieces, he was always alive to our world and was responsive and extremely aware and alive to our interests without interfering in them -unless we asked for advice...

*When I finally got to come to Colorado -only for 3 days at the end of April 2011, Oren & Jennifer thoroughly spoilt me with an amazing breakfast each day, and then I was chauffeured around the wonderful state of Colorado, like I was royalty - starting at 'Garden of the Gods'... They were three magical days... and my host (J & O) just wanted me to have the best time ever...*

*Ever open to good music, wine, conversation, interesting ideas and humour, I especially remember when we used to go to the Thai restaurant in Beeston, where he was charismatic and spontaneously witty (I have to keep on my toes to catch everything!)*

*A very well-rounded and healthy man indeed!  
I feel sad as I write this - I will miss you!  
Go well, Kind and amazing Oren!*

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**Julian Bates** - October 27, 2022 at 03:27 PM

CV

“ Oren was the perfect gentleman and a great neighbor! So kind & thoughtful. I especially liked the admiration he had for Jennifer. We will certainly miss him. May God Bless your family. The Voggesser's

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**Corey Voggesser** - October 25, 2022 at 11:05 PM



“ Oren P. Anderson PhD

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October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM

TJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tom Jubin - October 25, 2022 at 06:01 PM

EG

“ So much achieved and yet a life too short. May we live our own lives so well. Please accept our deep sympathy. With love from Elizabeth and the Griffith family

Elizabeth Griffith - October 25, 2022 at 02:37 PM

PK

“ Remembering Oren, visiting your home and skiing together. Knowing how big of a part of your life he was and is. Thinking of you all and appreciating your family.

Peter Kaseman-Wold - October 25, 2022 at 09:12 AM

HC

“ When we think of Oren, we think family, friends, life. A gentleman, caring and generous. His Professor's voice. Encyclopedic knowledge of chemistry, but especially how chemistry and science makes the world and nature work, but also of the arts. Hardly ever found a book he had not already read (and gleaned more than we ever would!). But mostly when we think of Oren we see a friend, someone to have a walk or a conversation with, share a story or a glass of wine or beer or a meal. Oren's passing has left so much emptiness in our hearts and lives. The world will miss Oren.  
Howard & Cindy Coopersmith

Howard & Cindy Coopersmith - October 22, 2022 at 01:58 PM

MP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Marguerite Parliment** - October 22, 2022 at 11:49 AM

DA

“ Hello Jennifer and family. My name is Dave Ansel. I first met Dr. Oren Anderson when I was a “naive” first year chemistry graduate student at Colorado State University. It was autumn quarter of 1974. I was assigned to Dr. Anderson as his first ever graduate teaching assistant as this would be his first term teaching at Colorado State.

*I would never have a formal course through Dr. Anderson. I would never perform research directly supervised by Dr. Anderson. However Dr. Anderson would play a significant role in my graduate chemistry education.*

*I asked Dr. Anderson to serve on my degree granting committee. Desiring to be an inorganic chemist I found Dr. Anderson most challenging whether it be my speaking through the then Inorganic Division group meetings, my giving required graduate formal seminar presentations, my writing his “cumulative” inorganic chemistry examinations or defending my preliminary doctoral oral examination.*

*Circumstances ultimately arose requiring me to resign my doctoral candidacy in 1979. Yet I chose to obtain my Masters Degree in Inorganic Chemistry defending my thesis under my full five membered Ph. D degree committee. Regardless of what was going to happen, I knew I would get a fair shake under Dr. Anderson because he was always teaching!*

*From 1980 through 2011 (retirement) I would readjust my professional priorities and become a successful technical service representative for a German based chemical company. I became involved in a variety industries requiring silicone chemicals. And through it all I would visit Dr. Anderson when I returned to visit Fort Collins, CO. Oren always welcomed me and took an active interest in what I was doing. Oren was not always teaching but always learning as well!*

*I recall the thrill he had as the physical expansion of Yates Hall*

*began and proceeded. I was most pleased to donate to Colorado State Chemistry during his time directing the chemistry department. Oren Anderson: Simply a good man and a great chemist and administrator.*

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**David Severin Ansel** - October 22, 2022 at 04:38 AM

NH

“ I met Oren & Jennifer as fellow members of Trinity Lutheran Church. We became friends when they ordered my cinnamon rolls delivered to their home during Covid. As restrictions were lessened we began our Friday afternoon visits on their front porch. I saved their delivery to last so we could have a chat. It was so hard to watch the toll this disease take its toll on this wonderful man. He was so kind and gentle and always caring. I'll never forget one delivery when Oren handed me the check saying “I'd like to trade this worthless piece of paper for the delectable rolls you have in that box!” I'll miss him and our Friday afternoon visits very much. I've lost a very special friend



**Nancy Harrison** - October 18, 2022 at 05:12 PM

TS

“ As a new faculty member in Biochemistry in 1975 the first person to welcome me from outside the department was Oren Anderson who came to my lab, introduced himself, asked about what i was interested in research-wise, and offered his assistance in getting adjusted to CSU. From that time to his passing that kind of concern and friendliness was and will always be my lasting memory of a wonderful human, a scientific colleague and scholar, a committed educator, and a selfless contributor to the advancement of Colorado State University. Judy and I send our deepest condolences to Jennifer and all his family. Oren was a special person who will be missed by them as well as by all of us who were privileged to have known him.

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**Thomas Sneider** - October 16, 2022 at 03:27 PM

JS

“ Hello family of Oren Anderson. You don't know me but my parents were very dear friends of Oren's parents, Arlene and Andy. They were Jeanne and Hank Simpson. They always spoke very highly of Oren and Jennifer. They admired the devotion within your family. They told me of many visits with Oren and Jennifer and they were so impressed by them. Just a bit of a memory that I hope you find comforting. Jery Sigl

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**Jeryna Sigl** - October 16, 2022 at 10:14 AM