



Thomas M. Sutherland

May 3, 1931 - July 22, 2016

Tom Sutherland died Friday evening, July 22, 2016, at home and with family.

Tom was born May 3, 1931, to William Grainger and Helen McNee Sutherland, and was brought up on the family dairy farm near Grangemouth and Falkirk, Scotland, milking cows and working the farm with his five brothers and sisters. School was first in the village of Skinflats and then in Grangemouth and Falkirk where he graduated from high school in 1949. His love throughout was soccer, and he was picked first for the Scottish Youth team, then for the Scottish Youth International team, and in his first year of university at Glasgow University, for the Glasgow Rangers, where he played for one year before he was let go, "the saddest day of my life ." He turned to his studies, however, and graduated in Agriculture from Glasgow University in 1953.

Following a post-graduate year in Reading , England, in Animal Breeding, Tom then followed a dream to Iowa State University where he did Master's and Ph.D. degrees under Dr. Jay Lush, informally known as "The Father of Animal Breeding." It was at Iowa State that he met and married Jean Murray in 1956 and from there came to Colorado State University at the invitation of Dr. Howard Stonaker in 1958 to teach Animal Breeding, Genetics and Statistics in the Department of Animal Science. It was in Fort Collins and at CSU that he built his teaching career and lived his life with Jean and their three daughters. Together they spent a sabbatical year in France in 1966-67 near Versailles at the Centre Nationale de Recherche Zootechnique, making many lifelong friends. A two-year secondment to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, followed from 1976-78 as a member of the staff of the International Livestock Center for Africa guiding junior African Scientists in their studies to improve livestock production in their home countries. Tom felt especially honored to work with these students and travel to their countries and be involved in trying to better animal production and lives there.

His next overseas involvement came in 1981 when he was offered the post of Dean of Agricultural and Food Sciences of the American University of Beirut in Beirut, Lebanon. Because of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the year following he did not join the faculty until 1983 when there was hope of peace finally and a chance for the University to flourish

again. The chance was not allowed to develop then and civil war with outside participation was the norm. With the tragic assassination of President Malcolm Kerr in January of 1984, Tom and Jean needed to make their life's decision to leave or stay. They stayed and Tom spent the next year and a half guiding his faculty and students as he could under wartime conditions until he was abducted in June, 1985, and retained by a group called Islamic Jihad for six and a half years in various parts of Lebanon and with a number of hostages, mostly American and British. Released in November 1991, he returned to Fort Collins to a most overwhelming welcome. For the next 25 years until his death, he and Jean traveled and spoke of experiences, wrote their book entitled *At Your Own Risk* recounting those years, enjoyed their home and family, and received an award from a suit against Iran for Tom's years in captivity. From this, they were able to enjoy giving philanthropic return to the community of CSU and Fort Collins. Tom was always most humble and thankful to his extended community there and in Iowa, Scotland, and France. He and Jean celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June of this year.

Surviving Tom are his wife, Jean; his daughters, Ann (Ray Keller) of Charlottesville, Virginia; Kit (Scott Kintz) of Fort Collins; Joan (Mike Sears) of Boring, Oregon; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Tom's Life will be held in the CSU Student Center Ballroom at 2 p.m. on August 20, 2016 in the best Scottish tradition. It will not only celebrate Tom's life but will be a thanks to his extended community. Parking will be in reserved lots behind and in the library parking lot in front. For confirmation and directions follow this link, <http://source.colostate.edu/celebrate-the-life-of-thomas-sutherland-aug-20/>. Friends may send condolences to the family at bohlenderfuneralchapel.com.

Events

AUG **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM

20

Lory Student Center of CSU

1101 Central Ave Mall, Fort Collins, CO, US

Comments



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Thomas M. Sutherland.



August 24, 2016 at 10:33 AM



“ Jean, it is with great sadness that we heard the news. You and Tom have been so kind to me while I was studying in Fort Collins and I have such fond memories of the time spent with you. It was a privilege and an honour for Jeremy and myself to spend time with you and Tom, who meant so much to so many.
Our hearts and thoughts are with you and your family during this time of loss.
Our deepest condolences,
Sonia & Jeremy O'Brien and Jean Boyazoglu



Sonia O'Brien - August 24, 2016 at 09:12 AM



“ From the entire Robert S. Everitt family we would like to say how much we loved Tom and watched his life at many events. He and Bob are now enjoying one another's company.
A humble man who loved many we are indebted to him for all that he gave.

With great fondness,

David and Ann Everitt

Ann and David Everitt - August 22, 2016 at 05:20 PM



“ Tom and Jean Sutherland kindly accepted my invitation to speak at a Mortar Board Breakfast held at CSU many years ago. Tom brought several copies of his book, "At Your Own Risk" and gave them to those who attended. He and Jean graciously signed my copy, which I still have.... Both are such amazing people, and it was an honor to hear him speak with Jean at his side. He spoke in a Scottish brogue so we could hear how that sounded, and I still smile when I remember him doing that. He's so proud of his Scottish heritage. I also watched Tom in a play about a year later. He'd found another calling, as he did a magnificent job. I tried to stay in touch with Tom & Jean, both, but busy lives took precedence. But, I'll always remember a special time when Tom & Jean graced our Motor Board breakfast with their presence allowing us to share part of their lives. My condolences to Jean, their daughters & all who knew and loved Tom.

Beverly Hill - August 21, 2016 at 11:56 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. I met Dr. Tom Sutherland through my mother...Shirley Mitchell was a secretary at animal sciences for more than 10 years. I got to chat with Dr. Tom several times and he was curious about the deaf culture. I am deaf and proud of it. I worked at microbiology department at that time. With deepest sympathy. My mother and I send thoughts and prayers to you and your family. Lee Ann Mitchell

Lee Ann Mitchell - August 21, 2016 at 08:27 AM



“ In 1962 Tom and Stoney convinced me to go to graduate school at VPI, which was the best advice I may have ever received!! After we ended up back in Ft. Collins, I became a colleague in both the statistics and animal science departments working in research and with students. I think Tom and I always felt a strong bond due to our Scottish heritage.
I was able to use the "Sutherland Garage" to replace the water pump in my 66 Ford PU - with Tom's lead it was a fun project and it still is working!!
Jean and Family, Alice Faye and I want to send our heartfelt condolences - we will miss him and his wit!!
Our Love,
Alice Faye and Gary Richardson

Alice Faye & Gary Richardson - August 20, 2016 at 01:51 PM



“ I was not one of the privileged ones to have Mr. Sutherland as a professor at CSU. What I do remember about him is his time in captivity and how the people of Fort Collins prayed for him to be released! I remember the many yellow ribbons around trees in the community during this time. What a grand day it was when he released at last and finally able to come HOME to Fort Collins. What a celebration that was at Moby Gym :) Well Mr. Sutherland, you are FINALLY HOME. Well done good and faithful servant! You fought the good fight. You finished the race. May your legacy of love live on through your wife Jean and your daughters and grandchildren and great grandchildren!

Debbie Hard - August 19, 2016 at 10:45 AM



“ I met Tom when a graduate student at CSU through one of my professors, Jim Johnson. Tom and Jean generously allowed me to use their cabin on Long's Peak for our wedding in the late 1970's. I was able to get Tom to agree to record his recitation of Robert Burn's poetry for KCSU radio station (don't know if they kept it). The poetry was lyrical and beautiful in a wonderful Scottish brogue. I was in Ft Collins the day of his return but one of those unable to get into Moby Gym. I waited at the exit to see him and when he came out he recognized me and shook my hand. He was a wonderful man and an inspiraton who will truly be missed.

Steve Sapareto
Apache Junction, AZ

Steve Sapareto - August 18, 2016 at 11:20 AM



“ Oh Jean, So many years, yellow ribbons tied on trees, prayers, and waiting, waiting, waiting. You and Tom have been such a blessing to our community for decades. I can't hear bagpipes without thinking of Tom and my own Scottish heritage as a Maxwell. There's comfort in knowing that Love never dies. Indeed, your generosity and civic support will live on here. Or is it Love On here? I'm so privileged to have known you both.

May Peace and Joy fill your heart and bless your extended family. Martha Swift-Maxwell

Martha Maxwell - August 17, 2016 at 07:19 PM



“ It was such a privilege getting to know Tom, and all of you, Jean, Ann, Kit and Joanie! Over the years, our families developed a special friendship that transcended time and distance. I love that Tom and my Dad shared May 3rd as their birthdays! Tom was such an extraordinary storyteller, and with his amazing history, I remember many of those moments that he would describe - in the very colorful and witty manner that only Tom could! He was always interested in what was going on in our lives, and always asked about our parents and how life was going for us all. I will never forget giving Tom my 6 year old tattered yellow ribbon that I had worn all those years he was in captivity. I remember learning to make real Scottish Shortbread in your kitchen, and all the while, listening to Tom's stories that often made their way back to his homeland!

What all of you have become, as adults, parents and as friends - is one of the most wonderful tributes I can imagine, to Tom! He will always be in my heart, as are each of you.

Fondly, NINA (PANEPINTO)

NINA - August 16, 2016 at 01:54 PM



“ 6 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bohlender Funeral Chapel - August 15, 2016 at 01:41 PM



“ My condolence to you and your family Jean.
Paul Frank, Centennial Class of '77.

Paul Frank - August 14, 2016 at 09:42 PM



“ My family and I send our love to Jean and family. Thank you for being there for us when we needed you too. I am sorry I had to leave my neighbors on Garfield street. I just today read Tom's obituary on the Internet so I am a little late in sending love, but there is always a time for love and caring.

I never saw this site when my Tom passed away so I don't even know if you read this. Joseph sends love and thanks to you Jean and Tom for being so kind to him. He felt so welcome in your home and will probably come by to visit you Jean. His talks with you mean so much to him. God bless all of you and may he provide what you have need of today.

Katherine Norrie, Ft. Collins, CO

Katherine Norrie - August 14, 2016 at 11:33 AM



“ What a great "light" and warm person. Thank you Tom, for letting me to get to know you.

Rest in peace.

Wolf

scott wolf - August 13, 2016 at 08:24 AM



“ It seemed like I had known Tom for years before I ever met him. As a reporter for 9News, covering the anniversaries of his capture year after year, with the bagpipes and the yellow ribbons, interviewing Tom’s family and friends time and again, I soon learned that Tom was a well loved and highly respected man. But when I finally did get to meet him, to shake his hand at the US Army Hospital in Wiesbaden, it was immediately clear that this was an exceptional human being. He was warm and witty, intelligent and inspiring as he dazzled the international press covering his release, quoting Robert Burns in his Scottish brogue and recounting his ordeal without a hint of hatred or bitterness. On his return to Fort Collins I’ll never forget the electrifying scene at Moby Arena as he walked to the podium greeted by cheers that rattled the rafters. That then, followed by a quiet moment that brought everyone there to tears as Tom and Jean joined in singing a tender ballad. It was astounding. In the years to follow I had many other opportunities to talk to Tom as he reveled in his newfound freedom and shared his experiences and his exuberance with school kids and civic groups. One memorable story was following Tom to the Colorado Boy’s Ranch where he served on the Board and taught the troubled teens there that they too could overcome adversity. From that first handshake on, Tom always treated me as a friend and I am pleased and proud to call myself that, Tom’s friend. One of thousands. We did not spend a lot of time together, but when we did he was someone I could talk with for hours about anything and everything. I will miss his warm smile, his sparkling eyes, his hearty laugh. And I will always cherish my memories of this extraordinary man, his courage and character, his resilience, and his love of life and his family.

Sincerely,
Roger Wolfe

Roger Wolfe - August 12, 2016 at 05:45 PM



“ Right after Tom came home after his 6 years in captivity he came to Caninos to eat lunch. I don't remember who he was with, maybe Frank Vattano, anyway, the back room downstairs had been set aside for him and his party. No one else was to be seated in the room and he was not to be disturbed. I was supposed to make sure he had a quiet private lunch. Hahaha, we are talking about THE Tom Sutherland. No one was allowed in the room, but he could see that people wanted to say hello and offer kind words, he literally walked through the whole restaurant and greeted and shook hands with and/or hugged everyone in the restaurant before sitting down to even look at the menu. Finally about an hour after his arrival he made his way to his table and began to look over the menu. More people coming in to the restaurant heard he was there and stopped by his table. He was not bothered one bit and encouraged people to come into his dining room. What a wonderful memory.

Lorraine Archer - August 11, 2016 at 08:44 PM



“ An amazing man who contributed in so many ways to the strength and reputation of our country. Thank you so much, Tom, for all that you accomplished and all that you endured.

Andy Casiello - August 11, 2016 at 06:00 PM



“ Devin Bass sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas M. Sutherland



Devin Bass - August 11, 2016 at 05:45 PM



“ Paula Bass lit a candle in memory of Thomas M. Sutherland



Paula Bass - August 11, 2016 at 05:43 PM



“ 104 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bohlender Funeral Chapel - August 11, 2016 at 05:10 PM