



## C. Michael Elliott

August 1, 1949 - July 2, 2014

C. Michael Mike Elliott departed this world abruptly on July 2, leaving a huge hole in the universe. Professor of chemistry by occupation, Mike was also a loving husband, extraordinary friend, and mentor. Mike never did things in a small way. He burst into life on August 1, 1949, and began a journey of accomplishment. His bachelor of science in 1971 from Davidson College in North Carolina, was followed with a Ph.D. in 1975 from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He completed his postdoctoral work at Stanford University under JP Collman, and was an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University of Vermont Burlington prior to joining Colorado State University in 1981. He served as the chemistry department chair from 1999 to 2003 and was the CSU Co-Director for the Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory, Center for Revolutionary Solar Photoconversion since 2008. His contributions to the literature in his field span close to 40 years, covering a variety of topics, most notably in the area of materials for solar energy applications. He also held U.S. and international patents on the novel materials he developed. After coming to Fort Collins, he met Elizabeth Elliott in 1982 and married his first and only true love in 1984. They celebrated their 30 year anniversary just before his passing. But that's only part of the story. His friendships spanned decades and especially notable was his continued relationship with a loyal group of beach friends from Davidson College. He loved his family, his job, his students, his gardening, his cats, the cabin, his friends and most of all, his Elizabeth, who took his life from black and white to Technicolor. Mike loved

spending time with students, and through his contributions to student education, he graduated over 30 Ph.D. and M.S. students and mentored countless others, including undergraduate research students as well as high school students who often spent time in Mike's labs. He was well known for spending countless hours in the lab, performing experiments of his own alongside his students. He was always willing to talk to anyone about their science or his. Virtually every member of the department sought Mike's scientific guidance at some point or another. His amazing passion for teaching and research has been recognized by numerous distinctions and awards including American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow, College of Natural Sciences Professor Laureate, Outstanding Science Mentor Award, National Academy of Science Inter-academy Exchange Fellow, and Phillips Petroleum Award for Excellence in Research and Teaching. In addition to his many contributions to science, education and service, Mike was well known for his forthright and honest approach to all things in life. He was not one to suffer fools with grace and aplomb but, rather, would point out foolish behavior or thinking as quickly as he would supply "ly" to poorly used adverbs. His wry sense of humor, intense dedication and no-nonsense attitude endeared him to those around him. And then, of course, there was that talent with a potato cannon. Mike's style belied his content. While he exhibited a gruff exterior, his internal make-up was built on kindness, a great ability to love and appreciate those around him. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, who feels a great void with his passing. He also survived by his step-son, Trey Tanner Jackie, grandsons Alex, D.J., and Nathan; and sister, Sally Sasser Bill. A memorial service will be held on 3:30 p.m., Friday, July 11th, in the Lory Student Centre Theatre with a reception to follow in the University Club. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the C. Michael Elliott Scholarship Fund on line at <https://advancing.colostate.edu/CNS/CHEM/GIVE> or with a check made out to the CSU Foundation, and mailed to P.O. Box 1870, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1870. In both cases be sure to list C. Michael Elliott Scholarship Fund in the memo lines. Donations can also be made in Mike's

name to Opera Fort Collins at P.O. Box 503, Fort Collins, CO 80522 or [www.operafortcollins.org](http://www.operafortcollins.org). Friends may send condolences to the family at [www.bohlanderfuneralchapel.com](http://www.bohlanderfuneralchapel.com). Please be aware there is construction in progress at the Lory Student Center. Additional directions are below.

Parking: Parking is available in the 425 LOT on the South side or the 310/315 LOT on the North side of the Lory Student Center LSC. Additional parking is available in the 412, 505 and 515 lot at no charge, with no permit required.

310/315 lot closest to University Club

Take Laurel and turn SOUTH onto Meldrum Street. MAX Shuttle <http://www.ridetranfort.com/max>

Stops at the corner of University and Mason. Head West on University and the LSC Theatre entrance will be on the North side of the walkway. The LSC Theatre access point is located on the south side of the building. The University Club is located in the NW corner of Lory Student Center on the second floor, in front of the Aspen Grille and next to the Cherokee Park room. As you leave the LSC Theatre, head east and north around the LSC to gain access to the University Club. Greater CSU map: <http://maps.colostate.edu/>  
Lory Student Center map: <http://www.sc.colostate.edu>

# Tribute Wall

ML

“ Dear Elizabeth, I truly am sorry for your loss. Michael was a brilliant man and a great person in your life. Living in France since 2009 I had lost touch and just found out today the sad news.

*Marc from Canada*

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**Marc L.** - April 29, 2015 at 01:38 PM

RO

“ Dear Elizabeth, I am very sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He will truly be missed.

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**Rob** - August 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ I've had the pleasure to work with Mike since 2008, as Mike served as one of CSU's leaders in the Colorado Energy Research Collaboratory, an organization that links CSU, CU Boulder, Mines and NREL. Mike was Co-Director of our solar research center, the Center for Revolutionary Solar Photoconversion, and he contributed greatly to the success of that organization. Despite his best effort to maintain a crusty exterior, his passion for science and students - and his sharp wit - always shone through. My thoughts are with Mike's family and his many, many friends at CSU. David Hiller  
*Executive Director Colo Energy Research Collaboratory*

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**David Hiller** - July 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Dear Elizabeth, Mary and I were out of town when Michael passed away. We were distressed to get the news. We always enjoyed his upbeat presence at Opera Fort Collins events. You have our sincere condolences. We have made a contribution to Opera Fort Collins in his memory. Robert and Mary Kelman

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**Robert and Mary Kelman** - July 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Please accept my condolences. Thinking of you and yours.

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**Jeanne Giberson** - July 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mike's death. He was one of my favorite people in the world of science. I met him as a summer undergraduate research student in Vermont when he was beginning faculty member UVM's Chemistry Department. I have admired Mike as a scientist and, even more so, as a person for many many years. Please accept my condolences.

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**Joe Hupp** - July 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ Dr. Elliott was a fantastic professor as well as one of my favorite people at CSU. I was very sad to hear of his passing and my deepest condolences to his friends and family.

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**Andy Koppisch** - July 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FR

“ Elizabeth. was only recently chatting with Irish colleagues about that mad straight-talking no non-sense prof in Fort Collins called Cecil, proudly stepping on that pile of farm dong in C108, overseeing group meeting where home-made brews were being tested, selflessly rushing into a lab on fire after a nasty chemical incident, and giving us the opportunity to see you for those Champagne brunches; and was looking forward to catching up with him as we did every 2 years or so. Not to be, what a gruffy b...! A big gaping hole is left behind. All my thoughts and Laura's are with you.

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**Francois** - July 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Mike will be greatly missed. He was a warm and caring person. I remember him asking me to get a large number Christmas cards for the office. Within a couple of weeks, I received a wonderful card with a handwritten message of the contributions I had made to the department. I soon found out that he had written a personal card to each and every staff member that year. Each person was touched by the care and effort - very nice. This kindness of this gesture has stayed with me and I have carried on the tradition in my current job. He was special.

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**Debbie Sheaffer** - July 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Elizabeth, I was so shocked to see that the wonderful, friendly, full of life Mike had passed from our Ft Collins community. His energy will be very much missed. John & I send our sympathy to you as you begin this next journey of yours with all Mike was in your heart. We will send a donation in his name to the Geller Center.

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**Cheryl & John Beckett** - July 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ I was sincerely saddened by the news of the sudden passing of Mike, whom I met each year at the DOE contractors meetings. His energy and his smile will be missed, particularly at the upcoming Gordon conference that he was co-chairing. We all lost a great scientist, a friend and a good, warm person. My sincere condolences to the family.

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Elena Galoppini - July 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Hello Elizabeth and family, The news of Mike's death came as a shock to me as I'm sure it did to many. Mike and I often shared rooms together at various conferences because we both snored loudly and we shared many interesting conversations over the years. Back in the late 1990s I was staying at your house before going to a conference at one of the ski places. Mike noticed that I was reviewing a paper that matched one in his pile. We resolved to play a prank on the author by collaborating to write a single review, but submit the review individually so that the author received two identical reviews. The editor, a rather humorless custodian of the journal, caught the identical reviews and attacked Mike I was left unscathed as the young scientist who had been led astray...Mike is six years older than me. I will miss Mike tremendously. Please do give us a call if you find yourself in New Orleans. Take care.

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Russ Schmehl - July 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Dear Elizabeth, I was shocked and saddened to learn of Mike's sudden passing. He was one of my all time favorite students and also a friend. He had so many special qualities as a young person and those were retained and enhanced as an adult. He will be so missed. My heart goes out to you, and you have my love and sympathy. Daisy

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Daisy Waldrep - July 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Dear Elizabeth, Our hearts break to hear this sad news. Deepest sympathy to you and your dear family.

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**Melba & Carl Reuth** - July 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Mike and I were High School classmates. I lived in Colorado Springs for 10 years, and my daughters attended CSU, but they shied away from chemistry. Wish I had known Mike was there, I would have loved to have seen him again. Now he will be missed.

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**Joe Baker** - July 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Our thoughts go out to the family and friends of Mike. I remember Mike fondly as even though he wasn't my advisor, he was always there to help me when ever I needed it. Dave Roth and family

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**Dave Roth** - July 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ My favorite memory of Mike is when he would come to the main office of the Chemistry Department at CSU to warm up his lunch or his coffee and would sit down with all us admins for a chat or a laugh or a puzzle. It was great fun! When I returned to work after my first chemo treatment, there on my desk was the biggest bunch of zinnias from his garden! Each treatment, more zinnias until I was blessed with a whole bag of seeds, which are growing proudly in my garden. And when they bloom each year I will always remember Mike. Kathy Gibson Colorado State University

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**Kathy Gibson** - July 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ My deepest sympathies to Mike's family and close friends. Mike was one of my favorite profs at CSU and part of my dissertation committee back in the late 80's. May our memories enable his spirit to live on.

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**Denise Rutherford** - July 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ As a kid and throughout my life Mike Elliot always made me feel like someone very special. He and Elizabeth were always warm, funny, and vivacious. I'll cherish the memories I have and the connection we shared. With Love, Jono

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**Jonathan Edwards** - July 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Dear Elizabeth, Our most sincere thoughts of sympathy are sent to you and your family and friends. The huge number of those friends and the impact you have had on the Fort Collins community is a true testament and legacy to you and your husband. Thinking of you and yours, Jeanie And John Aronson

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**John and Jeanie Aronson** - July 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Dear Elizabeth, truly sorry to hear the news and thinking of you at this time. You hosted Paolo'/Ulrike's wedding reception at your and Michael's home in the 80's where we met. Lots of wonderful memories! Love, Lynne

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**Lynne Warner** - July 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Elizabeth, I just got the news about Mike. I'm devastated to hear about his sudden passing--so vibrant and alive and giving so much to his family, colleagues, students, and community. You both have been such special friends to us--showing our whole family so much support over so many years. Words cannot express my sadness at your loss....My deepest heartfelt love goes out to you during this difficult time.

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**Sarah Gray** - July 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SI

“ Dear Elizabeth I am very sad to hear about the sudden passing of Mike. He was a wonderful colleague and smart and warm human being. I am in France and won't be able to attend the funeral so I wanted you to at least receive this message and my heartfelt condolences across the miles

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**Silvia** - July 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ Elizabeth, Sarah and I are very sad for Mike's passing and offer you our sincerest condolences. While Mike's intellect was top notch, it was his character that set him apart. Generous, honest, sincere, caring, humble, humorous. These are just a few of the traits he had that made him perhaps the person I respected most in this world. He was a wonderful advisor, friend, and inspiration for how to live life fully, with meaning, and without straying from your principles. We'll miss him.

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**Jeremy and Sarah Nelson** - July 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Dear Elizabeth, I'll always remember Mike as the best Sherpa we ever had at the Flying X Opera Fishing extravaganzas'. We will miss him very much. My deepest Sympathy to you and your family.

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**Terry Cairns** - July 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Dear Elizabeth, Please accept our deepest condolences at Michael's passing. We are both stunned and saddened by his sudden departure from this life. We are grateful to have been acquainted with him. We are especially humbled by his active support for Randy's campaigns for state office. We share a deep sense of loss at his passing. With sympathy,

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**State Representative Randy Fischer and Kathy Fischer** - July 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Losing Mike will leave a big hole in our lives. What a wonderful, caring person. Our hearts go out to you during this difficult time.

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**Bettie and Duane Wygant** - July 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ Dear Elizabeth and family: Our fond memories of Mike will remain with us forever. We appreciated his humor and warm friendship over the years, and he will be greatly missed. Though we are out of state at this time, we send our love and warmest thoughts on this day.

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**Phil & Marie Risbeck** - July 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ As much as we are truly heart broken by Mike’s passing, we are very happy to have had the opportunity to know him not only as our electrochemistry professor, but also as a mentor, a colleague, and a friend. In many ways, Mike reminded me Shannon a lot of my dad—intimidating and tough on the outside, yet caring and compassionate on the inside. His door was always open, and he was always willing to chat about science or simply to offer career coaching and life lessons. He had a sense of humor like no other—there are few who can use a hippopotamus’ tail to describe a chemical structure. â?° Mike was an inspiration to many and will most certainly be missed but never forgotten. Elizabeth, our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family during this tough time.

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**Shannon Riha and Joe Mondloch** - July 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

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**Silvia** - July 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Our deepest condolences; Mike was one-of-a-kind. He left his impression of this universe. Love, Mag Strittmatter and Marti Smith

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**Mag Strittmatter** - July 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

ED

“ Dear Elizabeth, Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. Mike was a great teacher, mentor and friend. He was always willing to give of himself and his time. I will carry many fond memories of Mike and the times we spent together. He will be missed! Eric and Kirsten Dodson

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**Eric Dodson** - July 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Dear Elizabeth, I am so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my prayers. Bless you, Pam

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**Pam Short** - July 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ Mike gave me a place to live when I had none, a job to start a new life, and a friendship that I will hold with me forever. He was a gruff but kind, tough but caring and simply the best. I will miss you. Rest in peace.

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**Timothy S Arthur** - July 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ It brought me sadness to hear of the loss of my instrumental analysis teacher, Mike Elliott. Mike was warm and patient, but also serious and passionate. He was approachable and yet challenged me. I remember still the question he asked the class about a man, who was a smoker, and his wife who was not. He said there was a fire and only the wife died. I tried to make a funny comment but he turned it into a learning lesson that allowed me to understand a chemistry concept. I will miss Michael and I appreciate the time I spent with him. Rolando Castaneda

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**Rolando Castaneda** - July 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ Michael was a very nice person, and was always willing to help with anything. When I needed help bringing my brother to come here, Michael helped me bring him to the US. After my brother was brought here from Iraq, they did a month's worth of research in the labs, enjoying spending time together. My major wasn't chemistry, but his door was always open to sit and talk with him. He is an angel here, and in the afterlife, I hope he will be an angel as well in the afterlife.

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**Amer & Huda Taqa** - July 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ Dear Elizabeth and Family: Please accept my condolences at this time of great loss for you and CSU Chemistry. I was an organic chemistry student in Bob Williams' group 1986-1993 and got to know Prof. Elliot during my stay in Fort Collins. Great guy and a great scholar! Always polite and friendly, with a sharp sense of humor. Professor Elliot will be dearly missed. Sincerely, Glenn Fegley

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**Glenn J Fegley** - July 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ I write this message with deep sadness for his passing, and incredible happiness to have known him. Elizabeth, words cannot describe my condolences. Im pretty sure the entire community is here for you! Mike was an amazing man, a king among men as Tyson would say. As my graduate adviser, he taught me everything I know about electrochemistry - which is quite a lot, but I wish it could have been more! But he taught me so much more than chemistry! How to load and shoot a potato cannon, building an outdoor fireplace, limitless hospitality when he offered his basement to me for 2 months, and how to board like a boss at steamboat are just a few of my favorite memories! I shall carry your lessons and memories with me for the rest of my life!!

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**Daniel Bates** - July 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ We have all lost a great friend and scientist. I will certainly miss all of the wonderful times we had together, especially at conferences, as well as our developing collaboration. You will be missed by the many people you have touched throughout your life and I am really grateful to have known you.

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**Phil Castellano** - July 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

US

“ Dear Elizabeth, to be abruptly and shockingly stopped in a phase of intense scientific cooperation, as Mike and I have been in, once again during the last months, is one thing, to be bereaved of a loving husband certainly quite another, and I am sending you my sincere condolences for your great loss. I have enjoyed collaborating with Mike since I first visited him in FortCollins in 1994 and have been delighted by his character from the beginning. You will also remember the nice time we had when you joined him during his visiting professorship in Konstanz in 1996. Whenever we are now crossing the Lake from Wallhausen to Überlingen we like to remember your almost daily cruises at that time. During his several visits in my group, my students and I always loved his company and we are grateful for the wonderful science we could do and publish together. Be sure we will keep his memory alive. Ulrich Steiner and former students University of Konstanz, Germany

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**Ulrich Steiner** - July 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ I am deeply saddened to learn of Professor Elliott's passing. My condolences to his family and friends. You will be greatly missed Professor Elliott!

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**Lisa Lindburg** - July 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Incredibly sorry to hear about the passing of Mike. I took his grad. electrochemistry course last spring - his talent to distill complex concepts to accessible ideas was nothing short of remarkable. His energy and vitality as a scientist was just a great example for us all.

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**Sheryl** - July 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ *The world lost a great man in Mike. He was on my dissertation committee and I remember him for helping me to understand electrochemistry and his great scientific insights. He was always willing to help out and was generous with his time - thanks for everything Mike, you will not be forgotten.*

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**Ben Nolan** - July 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ *We wish you peace and strength in this difficult time. And, although I only ate one meal with him, I think of him often when I use an adverb.*

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**Dan and Mary Riordan** - July 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DR

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**Dan and Mary Riordan** - July 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ *I can't find the words to express the sadness that I have been feeling. Mike Elliott meant so much to me on so many different levels. I will always treasure the special moments I've shared with Mike, Elizabeth, Trey and Jackie. My heart is with all of you right now. I will see you soon.*

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**Kay Tindall** - July 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ We wish you peace and strengtH in this difficult time. And, although I only ate one meal with him, I think of him often when I use an adverb.

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**Dan and Mary Riordan** - July 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ As a PhD student CSU 1991 I wish to thank Dr. Elliott for his teaching and help to complete my education. Thank you!

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**Kathleen Nelson Juneau** - July 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

ND

“ Our deepest sympathy to Mike's family. I admired Mike's research,teaching. and personality. I retired from the Chem Department in 2004. After retiring, I and our retrieverdropped in to see Mike now and then. No matter how busy he was, he always had time to visit with me. I valued his friendship and his wonderful jelly. I will miss seeing and visiting with him. Ned and Kathy Daugherty

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**Ned Daugherty** - July 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ My deepest condolences. I was just thinking about Dr. Elliott this weekend and that I should stop by and say hello when I was in town next month. He was a man full of character and he will be missed by many. My thoughts are with you. Sherry Chavez

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**Sherry Chavez** - July 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PV

“ *The world of electrochemists will miss this solid and accomplished researcher and teacher. I was introduced to Mike by Prof. R. P. Buck Chapel Hill in 1983, who thought of Mike highly. And when he moved to Menlo Park and gave me his address on Elliott Dr., he stressed: "Elliott, just like Mike Elliott." We laughed about this with Mike just recently, at a dinner during the ECS meeting in Orlando, May 2014. And there were many interactions we had, between 1983 and 2014, which I remember fondly. And this will be the same for anyone who interacted with this true gentleman.*

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**Petr VanÅ½sek** - July 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ *A star shines brightly in our heavens, as Mike adds his unique and wonderful addition to our universe. He will always be honored, missed and remembered with love. Our deepest sympathy to you, Elizabeth and the entire family. Susan and Bruce McGill*

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**Susan McGill** - July 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *Dear Elizabeth, We are stunned and so saddened to hear of Mike's sudden passing. A light has gone out in the world. Please accept our prayerful thoughts and heartfelt condolences. May you find the strength to endure this incredibly difficult time. We are with you in spirit and prayer. You will not leave our thoughts. Our love, Michael & Jane Gitter*

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**michael & jane gitter** - July 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ God bless Mike and Elizabeth. I was struggling with a lab synthesis, and he must have known I needed a second wind in my sail. Turns out he made some of the chemical product over the holiday break, and went ahead and placed it in a vial on my desk for my return and wrote on the label in his unmistakable handwriting 'Merry Christmas!' How special that made me feel. I still have the empty vial for good luck. Another thing I appreciated about him was his love of cats including his 'Mr. Earl.' Mike knew how to have fun too. Baseball, fishing, never a day wasted. Mike, I will try to honor you the best way I can in my actions towards others.

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**Joseph Kremer** - July 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ One of Mike's most wonderful attributes was the way he treated younger people in his field of electrochemistry. He was already a big shot when I started as an assistant professor, but he was really nice to me, treated me with respect, and was always a lot of fun to be around. He was a really nice guy, who I always enjoyed running into at meetings, and I will miss him very much.

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**Richard Crooks** - July 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Remembering Mike and a life fully-lived with purpose, vigor, intelligence, humor, and kindness. He has left a large footprint in his field that will not be easily replaced. And, a void in the hearts of those he touched that in time will be filled with the memories of his friendship. Our thoughts and prayers are with Elizabeth and her family. May the upcoming celebration of Mike's life bring comfort to all who loved him.

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**Don Mykles & Vicki Fogel Mykles** - July 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Mike's passing, Elizabeth. Mike was a good friend at Stanford and through the years when our paths crossed I always enjoyed him immensely. He will be dearly missed. --Ken*

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**Ken Suslick** - July 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ *Dear Elizabeth and Family, So sorry to hear the sad news about Michael. He was kind, compassionate and caring. He was never too busy to show wide-eyed elementary students some awesome science experiments in his CSU laboratory and always made sure a young man with terminal cancer received a Rockies' Opening Day ticket. With deepest sympathy, Ken & Mary*

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**Ken/Mary Seaman** - July 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM