



Jacob Daniel Kimel Ph.D.

August 11, 1937 - November 12, 2020

It is with great sadness that the family of Dr. Jacob Daniel Kimel, Jr. announce his passing on Thursday November 12, 2020 at the age of 83 in Tallahassee Florida from complications due to Covid-19.

Born August 11, 1937 in Winston-Salem, NC, Dan was the oldest child of Jacob Daniel Kimel and Emily Nell Davis Kimel. After earning a Bachelor of Science in physics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1959, Dan continued his studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he earned a Master of Science in physics in 1960 and a Doctor of Philosophy in physics in 1965.

Dan moved to Tallahassee in 1966 and spent his professional career as a professor of physics at Florida State University, educating students for nearly four decades. Dr. Kimel contributed a number of articles to professional journals and co-authored books in relation to his areas of expertise, including "Superconductivity Revisited," which was published in 2012. He was a fellow of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and the National Science Foundation. A High Energy Physics Research Grantee of the United States Department of Energy, he was also a recipient of an Excellence in Teaching Award in 1991. Throughout his career, Dr. Kimel was recognized for his contributions, including having had the J. Daniel Kimel Professorship of Physics named in his honor and ultimately retiring from FSU as Professor Emeritus in 2003. Dan was also a lifetime member of the United Faculty of Florida union and served as their president from 1996 through 2002.

Dan enjoyed a very full life outside of his career. He had many talents and hobbies that he pursued with enthusiastic vigor. A love of music led him to membership in several bands throughout his lifetime. In later years, he enjoyed playing the tenor saxophone in The Thursday Night Music Club and the Capital City Band of TCC. He enjoyed sharing his love of music with others and deeply cherished the friendships he made.

Dan was also an avid cyclist, birdwatcher, gardener, and prolific conservator of family genealogy. He was a patron of Birdsong Nature Center, where he spent many hours walking, observing, and relaxing in nature's serenity and beauty. He was especially fond of growing camellias and heirloom roses and rarely missed a show or the opportunity to add to his collections.

He is survived by his children Leslie (Rob MacGrogan), Kris, Jacob (Skye), and Karen (Matt Sugrue), and grandchildren Sophie and Jake Coppage, as well as his friend and companion, Ernestene Dreyer. He is also survived by his brother and sister, Michael Kimel and Joan Casey.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Birdsong Nature Center, 2106 N Meridian Rd, Thomasville, GA 31792.

Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (www.bevisfh.com 850-385-2193)

Tribute Wall

WM

“ Dr. Kimel was a kind man who helped me in my "freshman" year of graduate school at FSU, and he was a member of my committee. I just learned of his passing, several years after the fact. I extend my condolences to his surviving family and friends.

William Mendoza - February 11, 2023 at 12:15 AM

MT

“ I met Dan on July 14th, 1986, this was when i joined Dan on a spiritual journey that we shared for 34 years. It has ended on this earth, in this realm with his death... which I am so saddened by... but, I know that in many ways his friendship will stay with me always and beyond.



Dan was a real friend to me, someone who could be counted upon. He helped me in so many ways. I will never forget him and will always treasure our friendship.

I am so glad that our paths crossed many years ago and I had the pleasure of knowing him.

With sympathy to Dan's family, most sincerely, Marsha Turner

Marsha Turner - November 30, 2020 at 02:25 PM

BF

“ It has been some years since I last saw Dan as I moved away from Tallahassee. During my years in Tallahassee, I had met Dan through a mutual friend, Jim McMichael. The two of them were the best of friends and always up for an interesting lunch and conversation. Wednesday was their designated lunch date and I dropped in from time to time. Dan was an incredible human being and gifted in so many ways. As a social scientist, I was interested in his knowledge about quantum physics and he was most patient with translating it into understandable sound bytes. Dan was quite the Renaissance man; his range of interests and knowledge were inspiring and exceptionally profound.



I send my heart felt sympathy to all of Dan's family and friends. May you find peace and comfort in your memories and experiences with Dan.

best, Barbara French

Barbara French - November 29, 2020 at 04:12 PM

SK

“ I was very fortunate to have Dan for my father in law. He always made it a point to take us to special Florida places when Jacob and I would visit. Being an Oregonian, I am not familiar with a lot of the risks of living in Florida, but Dan (and Jacob) always remained calm in the face of my panic about Cottonmouths, tics, pygmy rattlesnakes, alligators and interesting Southern food like Mullet. We enjoyed many days bird watching at St. Mark's and Birdsong, riding the boat at Wakulla Springs and peddling around Tallahassee's great mountain bike trails. I will especially miss watching Dan and Jacob interact and enjoy each other's company.

Skye Kimel - November 25, 2020 at 08:57 PM

MK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Michael Kimel - November 24, 2020 at 09:39 AM

MK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Michael Kimel - November 24, 2020 at 09:36 AM

JP

“ *My heart is so heavy to hear about Dan's passing. He was one of the kindest men I had ever met, warming a room with his smile. His love of gardening and playing music was so evident once you started in conversation. I was always so impressed with how he played that sax with such ease. Several years ago I went to one of his concerts with some friends and remember thinking, "Dang! That's what I want to be doing at his age!!" I'm glad that he did enjoy life to the fullest.*

Dan will be missed dearly. I'm glad I had the pleasure of knowing what a cool man he was.

JULIE PANIUCKI

Julie Paniucki - November 23, 2020 at 03:11 PM

LK

“ Dan told me playing music together was what he valued most about our relationship. When we met, I played folks songs for Dan on my brother’s hand-me-down Alvarez guitar. I knew Dan as a physicist; I did not know he was also a musician. Dan enjoyed the folk music so much that he went and bought a harmonica, and learned how to play it. Over the years we were together, Dan acquired a set of harmonicas in almost every key, and he accompanied me on the guitar to so many songs we both loved, “Five Hundred Miles,” “This Train,” and “Shall We Gather At the River” to name just a few.

The year we went to the Florida Folk Festival to sing with Doug Gauss’ folk group, I said to Dan he needed to find his own music gig. After all, he had played in a Union jazz band in Washington, D.C., when he was a young man in college. It was time for Dan to pick up that saxophone once again and play it like the pro he really was. And that’s exactly what he did! Around that time, I inherited a piano from my grandparents which was a welcome addition to our music, and from then on, we played piano-saxophone duets for years. On occasion, my son Timothy would join in with the fiddle, and near quitting time Dan would always ask for just one more song, “Can we do just one more.” I knew he loved making music. He said it made practicing more enjoyable for his Thursday Night Music Club jazz band. Play on, Dan! Just one more We love you,

Laura and Timothy

Laura Gale Kimel - November 22, 2020 at 12:19 PM

JK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



jacob kimel - November 21, 2020 at 11:16 AM

LK

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Leslie Kimel - November 20, 2020 at 08:34 PM

LK

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Leslie Kimel - November 19, 2020 at 07:09 PM

“My brother was and is bigger than life for me. Because he was much older than me, 10 years, my fondest memories as a child and teen center around when Danny was a college student and the early years after his marriage to Carol. When Danny would come home from Carolina to visit, I was so excited to see and be with my older brother. And when he left, I actually would get sick, I was so disappointed. I wanted to be with him always. As a child I heard of his achievements and what he was doing. He was my idol, my beacon. I tried to emulate him, both in academics and as a young man. Here are a few stories. Danny enjoyed flying kites. He would make them from scratch. We would go down to a nearby creek and pick hollow reeds from the creek bank to make the frame of the kite. He would use newspapers and flour paste to cover the frame. Then he would convince Mom to give us an old sheet to make a tail. He and I would ride over to Hanes Park in Winston to fly the kite. I was just amazed at his talent to fly a homemade kite so high. Danny loved to go hunting for crows. He and his buddies would go to a local farm and get permission to hunt crows. I guess the farmer was happy to get rid of them. Anyway, Danny came back from one of his hunting trips with a hawk attached firmly to his forearm. Now, this was probably in the late 50's. So, you can imagine how hard it was for Danny to drive his straight gear car with a hawk clinging to one arm. At the time we were also keeping a flock of pigeons, and we had an extra cage. So, Danny somehow got the hawk into the pigeon cage. The next morning the pigeon cage was a total wreck, and the hawk of course was long gone. Lastly, it goes without saying that my brother had a very strong constitution. He believed in treating people fairly and with respect. Now, this was around 1960, I think. The civil rights movement was emerging. Danny had the courage and determination to join other college students in a bus ride south to protest segregation.

I was a middle school student when Danny married Carol in Wisconsin. Later, for his graduation, he came down in the dead of winter in a used Ford Pinto he bought for Mom and drove us all to Wisconsin, having to navigate a couple of bad snow storms. I later went off to college, earned my degree, and entered the Army as an

officer. As a brother and uncle I watched as Danny's family grew. It was the joy of my life to be with my nieces and nephew. But my military service kept me away for many years. I guess that is the reason I remember my brother mostly through a child's eyes.

Michael Kimel - November 18, 2020 at 11:25 AM

LK

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Leslie Kimel - November 17, 2020 at 07:38 PM

MK

Thank you Leslie. A precious memory. Uncle Mike

Michael Kimel - November 18, 2020 at 02:20 PM

LK

“ When I was little and I'd visit Dad's office in the physics department at FSU, I'd marvel at the long and complicated equations on his chalkboard. They were so fascinating and mysterious to me-- important, unfathomable.

Dad had so many interests and could do so many things well. He drew beautifully and easily even though he never practiced. He took artful photos and developed the film himself in the bathroom. In the early '80s, he bought a computer and immediately programmed his own video game. The radio-controlled model airplanes he built were frustratingly perfect.

I was always hilariously awkward around Dad--partly because I was in awe of him. I wish we could have one of our awkward conversations now. He could say something that was over my head, and I could nod and try to look wise.

I love you, Dad.

Leslie Kimel

Leslie Kimel - November 17, 2020 at 05:43 PM

JM

“ Can't believe he's gone. We shared our lives for 34 great years. Our lives are not judged by wealth and possessions but by love and good works. Dan saved my life more than once, was always there when I needed him, was a true and lasting friend and I rest easy knowing he has everlasting peace and joy. Be well my friend until we meet again.

Jim McMichael - November 17, 2020 at 03:21 PM

JL

“ I’m am so saddened to hear that Uncle Dan passed away. I grew up hearing stories of his accomplishments from my dad – from his musical talent to his incredible intelligence. We only met a few times but I remember his big smile lighting up the room. My heart goes out to the Kimel family during this time of sorrow.

With Much Love, Julie Kimel Licon

Julie Licon - November 17, 2020 at 11:56 AM

JK

“ One of my fondest early memories is going with my dad to fly his remote control airplanes. We'd drive to the airfield (usually in Quincy), stopping to buy me a Nehi peach soda and a bag of Funnions. I'd then pass the day watching dad and his friends fly their airplanes overhead.

Some years later, many of our weekends were spent at the BMX races at Tom Brown

Park. Where dad tuned-up my bike between every race.

One of the most extraordinary things about my dad is intelligence. He knows something about most everything. Throughout my life, my best source of information was my dad (particularly before internet). In fact, throughout my 17 years of formal schooling, regardless of subject or level, dad always knew more about my classes than I did. So smart.

When I was in high school, dad introduced me to bird watching. A hobby he adopted in graduate school, because it was one of the few hobbies he could afford. We made frequent trips to St Marks and Birdsong throughout the years. My dad continued to birdwatch and cycle well into his eighties.

I miss you so much

Jacob Kimel

jacob kimel - November 17, 2020 at 10:54 AM

BD

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Barry Dreyer - November 16, 2020 at 08:18 PM

JM

Thanks for the pics Barry

Jim McMichael - November 17, 2020 at 03:22 PM

JK

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Jacob Kimel - November 16, 2020 at 08:12 PM

JK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jacob Kimel - November 16, 2020 at 08:04 PM

KK

“ I've spent the days since we lost Dad reliving some of my favorite memories of my childhood; following him around the yard after he got home from work while he drank tea out of that big silver cup and checked on the roses and camellias, sing-a-longs around his guitar with rousing renditions of Bluetail Fly and Irene Goodnight, listening to stories of his childhood in Winston-Salem, our annual trip to the Goodwood Rose Sale, where we bought so many roses, and so much more.

It's so hard to believe he is gone.

We love you, Dad!

Kris Kimel - November 16, 2020 at 08:00 PM

KK

“ 9 files added to the album Memories Album



Kris Kimel - November 16, 2020 at 06:27 PM

SK

I have no words. He was one of the most amazing men I've ever met. But among all of his incredible accomplishments was his sweet loving nature that made my mom literally glow with happiness. We loved him.

Sherri Kramer - November 16, 2020 at 07:52 PM

CJ

Dan was always cheerful and 'a true gentleman' to quote another friend who knew him. He so enjoyed playing soprano and alto saxophones when we gathered during the summers to read through new music and keep up our practicing. A very lovely human being. He will be missed.

Candalee Jones/Jan DeLaney

Candalee Jones - November 18, 2020 at 06:26 PM