



Dr. Ronald "Ron" J. Clark

July 11, 1932 - October 24, 2021

Longtime Florida State University chemistry professor Dr. Ronald J. Clark passed away at home October 24, 2021 surrounded by family.

Ronald Jene Clark was born to Willard and Helen Francis in Hutchinson, Kansas on July 11, 1932. Ron always said he was one of the lucky ones because he wanted to be a chemist from the time he was in grade school. Ron received a PhD from University of Kansas in 1958 in Inorganic Chemistry. He arrived in Tallahassee in the fall of 1962 and joined the department as an instructor. He worked through the ranks eventually becoming a full Professor and serving as Associate Chairman while his long-term friend Robley Light served as Chairman. Ron's true passion was teaching and was dedicated to educating graduate and undergraduate students alike. Ron was the first Cottrell Fellow, award winning lecturer and well known across the State of Florida for his Chemical Demonstration Shows.

Ron had a love for trains that he pursued most Saturdays with his good friend and one-time chairman of the department Ed Mellon. The two would usually end the morning enjoying a Whataburger with train radios in hand to make sure they did not miss anything exciting along the train yards. He belonged to local train clubs and several national historic clubs. He enjoyed international trips with wife Erica and son Eric, traveling the country side of Scotland and England by train.

Ron enjoyed playing tennis with his family and reading naval fiction novels that he would share with his chemistry buddy Russell Johnsen.

Retiring in 2004 after 42 years in the class room he still approached x-ray crystallography with an enthusiasm that was infectious according to fellow chemistry professors. Ron continued to work his craft solving crystal structures and contributing to manuscripts for current faculty into the summer of this year

Ron is survived by his wife of nearly 56 years, Erica Clark and two sons Aaron Clark and Eric Clark. Ron is also survived by three granddaughters, Elizabeth Clark, Oliva Clark, and Amelia Beaudine-Clark.

A private ceremony will be held at Culley's MeadowWood Chapels and Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Big Bend Hospice. Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193, www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

Tribute Wall

TD

“ Mrs. Clark and Eric:

I am so very sorry to hear of Mr. Clark's passing, he was a great neighbor and I really enjoyed joking and chatting with him. My families thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Thomas Diemer - November 08, 2021 at 08:58 AM

LJ

“ *Every year as a culminating activity to our 2nd grade unit on States of Matter, our classes of second graders took a field trip FSU Chemistry departments Fisher Lecture Hall. Dr. Clark, year after year, graciously set up the lab to provide an hour long presentation of whizzes, bangs and pops that enthralled our students and furthered their understanding of chemical reactions. What a gift he was to our students and the university! His was a life well-lived and I know you will find comfort in that and in the many treasured memories that you hold.*

Lynn Janasiewicz - November 07, 2021 at 11:19 AM



“ Mrs. Clark and Eric:

I am so very sorry to hear of Mr. Clark's passing. Our families thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Shannon Boyd

Shannon Boyd - November 04, 2021 at 12:37 PM

CB

Long, long ago, in the late '60s, I anchored the front desk in the Graduate Research Bldg. Dr. Clark was a pleasure to serve in whatever capacity he required. My deep sympathy to each of you.
Carol Biggs

Carol Biggs - November 06, 2021 at 08:23 PM

MB

Dr. Clark was my Ph.D. research professor when I was in graduate school at Florida State University (1969-1972). He taught me a great deal about doing chemical research. I only just learned that he had passed. So sad to hear this news.
Marianna Busch

Marianna Busch - January 08 at 11:32 AM