

KENNETH L. STEVENSON

August 1, 1939 – February 22, 2012

Dr. Ken Stevenson, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, lost his battle with cancer on February 22, 2012. Ken was a significant figure in the IPFW community, arriving as an Assistant Professor in 1968 after completing his PhD at the University of Michigan that same year. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1974 and to Full Professor in 1978. He chaired the Chemistry Department for almost 25 years from 1979 to 2003, with the exception of 1986 to 1987 when he served as Acting Dean of the School of Science and Humanities. His research focused on the field of photochemistry, in which he published over 50 peer-reviewed articles and one book, and for which he obtained 21 funded grant proposals. His career included sabbaticals at New Mexico State University, the Solar Energy Research Institute in Colorado and Veszprém University (Hungary). For his research on copper complexes, Ken was recognized as the ‘Chemist of the Year’ twice by the local American Chemical Society section and the 1994 ‘Researcher of the Year’ by the IPFW Sigma Xi chapter. He was very proud of the picture in the weekly magazine *Chemical & Engineering News* showing his light-induced production of hydrogen gas not only for its scientific achievement but also because he took the picture himself.

Ken was passionate about his family and friends. With his first wife Virginia, who died in 1991, he had two daughters – Mindy and Jill – and he loved taking trips to both Scotland and to North Carolina to visit them and their families. He also relished the time he spent with his wife Carmen and their daughter Sarah. Ken was enthusiastic about music and photography and, in retirement, he wrote a children’s story with original music entitled “Violet and the Purple Piano” and a musical play “The Bonnie Lad that’s far Awa” which was performed at the Scottish Cultural Society of Fort Wayne Burns Supper in 2010. Ken was able to combine his love of family, friends, music, photography, history and nature while travelling throughout the world both as a professor and in retirement.

Ken loved IPFW and chemistry, and it is for this reason that he asked memorial donations be made to the IPFW Department of Chemistry Scholarship Fund. He touched the lives of many chemistry students at IPFW and, through this scholarship fund will continue to do so.

We will all remember the lasting impact Ken had on our lives.