

Dr. Kurt Wiese passed away in New York on Monday August 3. Kurt would have been 69 this November. He is survived by Sandra Wiese, son Ethan, and his sister Patti Wiese Lehigh and family.

Kurt grew up in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He started a lawn mowing business that was quite successful and gave him good money when he was attending college.

He received all his academic degrees from University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Kurt had a B.S. and Ph.D. in Food Science and an M.S. in Mathematics.

Kurt had a long and varied career. He worked at Heekin Can company, held a faculty position at The Ohio State University, taught mathematics at a Junior College, was a Senior Scientist at the National Food Processors Association Western Research Laboratory, held a Vice President position at IEH, Inc., worked for two Nestle companies, spent time at the National Food Laboratory in aseptic and retort processing, worked for Frito Lay and NASA in Texas, and finished up his career at LiDestri Foods in New York.

He was a very active member of IFTPS. Kurt gave numerous presentations at IFTPS meetings, served as Conference and Symposium Chairs, and was very active on several IFTPS committees. He received the IFTPS Service award for all his contributions to the Institute.

Kurt loved teaching, and in addition to his OSU and JC instruction, he instructed at numerous thermal processing and deviation workshops at the National Food Processors Association, IEH, and Nestle, and taught over 50 Better Process Control Schools at a number of universities.

He was a subject matter expert in all areas of thermal processing with extensive experience in retort processing, aseptic processing, mathematical modeling, and container evaluation. He had a number of peer reviewed publications and authored several white papers.

Kurt's sense of humor was contagious, and he could give presentations on difficult topics and work in his sense of humor to lighten up the topic. Many IFTPS members remember some of his presentations which had 250 plus attendees at a conference laughing so hard many were crying. When Arkansas won the NCAA Basketball Championship in 1994, all of us at the NFPA

California Lab had to put up with Kurt walking around the Lab with a ridiculous Hog Hat for almost a week until a colleague hid it somewhere.

He was a friend to many inside and outside of the food industry. He was a brilliant scientist that also had emotional intelligence. Kurt knew when to not crack a joke and just listen if a friend or colleague needed a sounding board or needed to vent their frustration about something.

On a personal note, Kurt was like a brother to me. His significant support and friendship when my wife and I lost our daughter Sarah in a tragic accident helped me through the most challenging time in my life.

Dr. Wiese, you were too young to leave us. Rest in Peace my dear friend.

Mark Deniston