



George Eugene Ryschkewitsch

September 12, 2013

George Eugene Ryschkewitsch passed on September 10, 2013 at the Haven Hospice of Gainesville. He was born in 1929 in Frankfurt, Germany to Eugene and Else Ryshkewitch. He met his wife Wuni at Wright Field in Dayton Ohio where both their families were living as part of a community of German scientists brought to this country after World War II. After earning his PhD from the Ohio State University, he joined the faculty of the Department of Chemistry of the University of Florida in 1956 where he taught and performed research in the chemistry of boron until 1994. He was Teacher of the Year and left a legacy of many productive scientists and physicians. A lover of the natural beauties of North Florida and avid snorkeler, he became a scuba diver in 1967. He was an early pioneer in underwater cave exploration and a passionate underwater photographer. His wife was his dive partner as they traveled to dive sites around the world. He retired from diving at age 83. He won a number of awards for his photographs and enjoyed making presentations to share his travels and photographs. A series of his images are in the ichthyology section of the on-line collection of the Florida State Museum.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Wunhild, his children and their spouses, Michael and Caroline, Peter and Susan, Frances and Gabriel, god daughter

Dianne Grisham and their grandchildren Peter, Philip, Samantha, Kathryn, Katja and Sarah. He was preceded in death by his grandson, Jonathan Zinsli.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that any donations be made in his memory to the Daytona State College Jonathan M.R. Zinsli Scholarship Fund for photography students or to the E. T. York Haven Hospice of Gainesville.

Tribute Wall

VH

“ Remembering your kindness to us, when my mother, Ella, worked in your home.

We offer prayers for the family. Rev.21:4 "And God shall wipe all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

May God continue to give your family strength and love.

Thanks for all your kindness, and help your family has shown us.

With love,

Family of Ella M. Long

Velma Long Hughes - September 27, 2013 at 02:58 PM

BQ

“ Dear Wuni, so sorry to hear of your beloved husband's passing. I know only two weeks have passed and your heart is still very heavy. Your children must be such a comfort now but there is no way to express the loss you must be feeling. You lost not only a husband but a life long friend and partner in every way. God Bless.

Betty Queen

Betty Queen - September 27, 2013 at 12:24 PM

TP

“ Dearest Fran,

*We were so, so sorry to hear of your loss of your beloved Father.
He surely was a man of many talents and his photography enriched
so many
lives, with their incredible beauty.
We will all miss his passion for everything...*

*Our prayers are with you and your family for this wonderful and
beloved father,
husband, grandfather, friend...*

*"O Lord, glorify his station, shelter him under the pavilion of Thy
supreme mercy, cause him to enter Thy glorious paradise, and
perpetuate his existence in Thine exalted rose garden, that he may
plunge into the sea of light in the world of mysteries"...*

*Lovingly,
Toni & Bill Pike*

Toni Pike - September 24, 2013 at 01:24 PM

BD

“ Wuni,
*I am so sorry to hear of George's passing. My thoughts are with
you.*

Buddy Dugger - September 24, 2013 at 07:44 AM

MF

“ Dear Wuni,

I was so sorry to read about George. I have such memories of snorkeling with you both in the early days and of our later dive trips in the Bahamas! Betty and Mel thought the world of you and George and as I got to know you both on those dive trips, I could see why.

Thinking of you fondly and with sympathy,

Mike

Michael Fried - September 22, 2013 at 08:35 PM

SF

“ Dearest Zinslis,

It has always been our great joy and blessing in life to have met the Zinslis and the patriarch and matriarch of that family, George and Wuni. Your father had a great passion and fierce curiosity about all things in life. One of our happiest memories are the Thanksgivings when Wuni and George would engage in wide ranging conversations that could cover everything from the best way to prepare stuffing to scuba diving to botany. He informed, considered, debated, explored and laughed and loved. Thank you always for sharing him with us. We love you all deeply. Ken, Susan, Amanda, Michael, Lucas, Melissa and babes.

Susan and Ken Felt - September 18, 2013 at 01:07 PM

RB

“ Wuni - I remember the wonderful scuba diving trips we enjoyed with you and George in the 1970's. I miss those days as you both were so much fun and and helpful to scared little me. He will long be remembered as a kind, fun loving and generous person. With warmest regards, Roxane

Roxane Bleiweis - September 17, 2013 at 02:07 PM

JL

“ Dear Family,
"May you have underserve kindness and peace from God our Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may comfort those in any sort of tribulation through the comfort with which we ourselves are being comforted by God.
2 CORINTHIANS 1:2-4; God does comfort us with the grand resurrection hope when he says in REVELATION 21:4;"And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be any more the former things have passed away." What a God of tender mercies! Sincerely
Yours, Judy L.

Judy L. - September 17, 2013 at 11:32 AM

JL

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"May you have undeserved kindness and peace from God our Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may comfort those in any sort of tribulation, through the comfort with which we ourselves are being comforted by God."
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Yours, Judy L.

Judy L. - September 17, 2013 at 11:20 AM

MR

“ You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. We enjoyed knowing you at Littlewood Elementary School, North Florida Retirement Village and at Altrusa International Club of Gainesville. "Keep on keeping on." God bless. In sympathy, Margaret Rosenberger

Margaret Rosenberger - September 17, 2013 at 05:52 AM

JF

“ So sorry to hear of George's passing. We all enjoyed knowing him, and admiring the two of you together; your spirit, your energy, and your fun. Thinking of you in these days, Wuni.

Justine Fry - September 16, 2013 at 11:04 PM

EP

“ I am so sorry to learn of Dr. Ryschkewitsch's passing. I will always remember him as one of my favorite professors at UF, making organic chemistry come alive for me and my classmates. May his memory be eternal.

EM Page - September 16, 2013 at 06:47 PM

IG

“ My heart goes out to Wuni--to lose a husband of 63 years is most difficult. I first knew Wuni at the Univ. of Dayton in 1947-48 where we shared classes and happy times. We worked together at Good Samaritan Hosp. in Dayton for many years and both of us remained in the clinical laboratory for all of our professional lives. George had a fine sense of humor and was a delight to know; an outstanding student at UD! All of us who knew him will miss him. Sadly and sincerely, Irene

Irene Gilleland - September 16, 2013 at 05:55 PM

PS

“ George was a unique individual and I feel fortunate to have met him. He will be missed. I sorry that he and Wuni and their family had such a rough go at the end.

Patty Sullivan - September 16, 2013 at 04:47 PM

SC

“ Wuni,
So sorry to read about your loss. Chemistry was his passion, take it from one of his students. I live to tell the stories. My best to you and your family. My prayers and thoughts are with you.
Sincerely,
Susan Chun

Susan Chun - September 16, 2013 at 12:22 PM

PW

“ Hi Wuni,
I am so sorry to read of your George's passing. I know you two were very close and happy together. You've had many wonderful years diving and traveling with him! If there is anything I can do for you, please contact me! I would love to hear from you. I sent George's obit to Sandy....Love to you always!

Pat Walker - September 16, 2013 at 08:07 AM

AN

“ Dear Fran, so sad to learn your beloved Dad passed over. Our hearts are with you in this time of sorrow. We love you. Pls extend our heartfelt condolences to your mom and all your family. Anna Franco Valeria Michele Marco Martina with Giacomo & Alberto.

Anna - September 16, 2013 at 05:47 AM

WR

“ I love you Fran, what would I do with my family! Mom

wuni Ryschkewitsch - September 15, 2013 at 07:17 PM

WR

“ Thank you so much, Bonnie and Anil! You have always been so kind to us and helped where we needed help. I still need you, and right now I am missing George so much. But he left us peacefully and my two sons, two daughters in law nd our best friend and one of his former graduate students where there.

I'll see you soon and thank you again!

Sincerely, wuni

wuni Ryschkewitsch - September 15, 2013 at 07:16 PM

FR

“ How I miss you. You were so many things to so many people, but to me you were a great dad. I learned so much from you and will do my best to live with the same integrity and curiosity that you did. I love you.

Fran

Fran - September 15, 2013 at 04:13 PM

BC

“ Oh Wuni, We are so sorry for your loss, George was such a great person. He always smiled even when he didn't feel good. He would come in sometimes and tell us about a trip you two were taking together. He was so proud of you. Please Wuni, if you need anything please call us at the store and let us know.

Sincerely

Bonnie & Anil

Bonnie & Anil From CVS - September 15, 2013 at 05:12 AM

PG

“ We're so sorry to hear of George's passing. We've known George and Wuni for 30 years - inspired by their energy and enthusiasm - sharing their passion for diving and photography. He will be missed.

Peggy & Bill Goldberg - September 14, 2013 at 04:52 PM