



## C. "Cliff" Chancey

September 3, 1955 - October 19, 2013

Dr. C. Clifton "Cliff" Chancey III

CEDAR FALLS-Dr. C. Clifton "Cliff" Chancey III, 58, of Cedar Falls, died Saturday, October 19, 2013 in Cedar Falls.

He was born September 3, 1955, in Cincinnati, Ohio, son of Charles C. and Carol R. (Casto) Chancey Jr.

Dr. Chancey received his B.S. at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, in 1977 and his M.A. (1980) and Ph.D. (1985) at Johns Hopkins University. From 1985 to 1988 he held a postdoctoral research position at Oxford University in England. He went on to hold academic positions at Amherst College and Purdue University –Calumet. He held a Senior Visiting Fellowship in Theoretical Physics at Oxford in 1996. In 2001, he joined the faculty at UNI as professor and head of the physics department. He held numerous offices/appointments at local, regional and national levels.

A referee for a number of journals, he authored 27 research papers and co-authored (with M.C.M. O'Brien) *The Jahn-Teller Effect in C<sub>60</sub> and Other Icosahedral Complexes* (Princeton U. Press, 1997). A Life Member of Sigma Xi since 1990, Chancey was also a member of the Iowa Academy of Science, American Physical Society, American Association of Physics Teachers,

Council on Undergraduate Research, Biophysical Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Mathematical Association of America and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. He served Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, in many capacities at the local, regional and national levels.

A theoretical physicist, his interests included atomic and molecular theory, biophysical modeling and neuroscience, mathematical physics, and geophysical modeling. His most recent atomic and molecular research centered on explaining the electronic and vibrational structure of Buckminsterfullerene, the soccer ball-shaped molecule C<sub>60</sub>. He studied the physics of sand movement in sand dunes and the electrical and physical processes involved in neural transmission. Much of his research was directed toward providing a theory for sodium and potassium channel gating in excitable cells like neurons.

Dr. Chancey will always be remembered for his kindness, humility, and his devotion to academe. His research, teaching and service to the discipline of physics will impact many future Physics researchers, teachers and scholars.

Survived by: his twin brother, R. David (H. Douglas Guevara) Chancey of Middleburgh, NY; a sister, Cynthia A. (Tony) Luca of Cincinnati, OH; and two nephews, Matthew and Benjamin Guevara-Chancey.

Preceded in death by: his parents.

Services: 10:30 a.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church with burial in Fairview Cemetery, both in Cedar Falls. Visitation from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at Richardson Funeral Service and also for one hour prior to services Saturday at the church.

Memorials may be directed to the University of Northern Iowa Foundation for the C. Clifton Chancey Scholarship Fund.

# Tribute Wall

LS

“Cliff will certainly be missed at the University of Northern Iowa. I work in Educational Technology, supporting faculty in their efforts to integrate technology into teaching and learning. Cliff was always so friendly, conversational and willing to lend a hand. I am so sorry for your loss as well as our loss here at the University.

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**Lori Seawel** - December 05, 2013 at 11:23 AM

DT

“To Cliff's Family - I had the privilege of working with Cliff on the UNIRF Board. His CV speaks to a love of the sciences, but we will remember him for what he gave to all of us in the UNI family - as an academician (when he could have done so many other things!), as a mentor to students, and as a dedicated, personable, and gifted volunteer and ambassador going above and beyond at the University he loved.

*We will truly miss our time and discussions with Cliff - and especially the humor and smile with which he participated. His presence will be felt for a long time to come. Sincerest condolences,*

*Dave Takes  
Past Chair - UNI Research Foundation*

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**Dave Takes** - December 05, 2013 at 11:23 AM

LJ

“I did not know Cliff well, but I had the opportunity to work with him briefly from time to time on decisions about transfer credit for newly admitted students majoring in Physics. I enjoyed working with Cliff and felt he was a great person. I was shocked and am grieved to hear about his death. I wish his family the best.

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**Linda Jernigan** - December 05, 2013 at 11:23 AM

VD

“ *Cliff was a gentleman. He always had a kind word to offer. He made search committee experiences seem fun even while challenging us to think more critically. A trusted, good person. Glad I got to know him.*

*My sympathies to his loved ones.*

*Sincerely,*

*Victoria DeFrancisco*

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**Victoria DeFrancisco** - December 05, 2013 at 11:23 AM

NJ

“ *I am deeply saddened to learn of Cliff's passing. Cliff was one of the kindest colleagues I have ever known. We worked together at Purdue Calumet. Even though we were in different departments, he used to stop by my office and say hello. He also used to send me postcards when he was abroad. It was evident that he was not only a brilliant scholar, but he was a soft, gentle soul. May you rest in peace, my dear former friend.*

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**Nicky Jackson** - December 05, 2013 at 11:23 AM

BH

“ *REMEMBERING CLIFF. I'll treasure our friendship of 20 plus years, be it discussion of ideas or good fun -from the serious to the silly. At Purdue Calumet we were on an internet committee, discovered we shared an interest in Shakespeare. Cliff, Peggy, Roberta, Richard, & I (see picture Cliff telling a story) made an annual trek to Canada's Stratford Festival, even when he was UNI.*  
*--Bernie Holicky Chesterton, IN*

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**Bernie Holicky** - December 05, 2013 at 11:23 AM

LJ

“ Cliff was a dedicated member of the UNI community. We worked together on the Professional Science Masters programs and he was very helpful in encouraging Biology's startup programs.

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**Laura Jackson** - December 05, 2013 at 11:23 AM

TM

“ I was saddened to hear of the death of Dr. Chancey. He was one of the best instructors of a group of excellent instructors in physics at UNI. He will be missed by many of his former students such as myself. My condolences to his family.

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**Traci Maxted** - December 05, 2013 at 11:23 AM

JS

“ We were so very shocked and saddened to hear about Cliff's death. He was a wonderful person - warm, witty and smart. Cliff showed many, many kindnesses to my Mother, Peggy Moran who loved him dearly. Cliff could always make her laugh, and she adored talking with him about theater, books and his work. Their relationship was really special and it was fun to be around. Condolences to Cliff's family. I'm sure you will miss him very much. We will be making a donation in his memory.

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**Jesse Singerman** - December 05, 2013 at 11:23 AM

BA

“ To the Family of Cliff Chancey: We extend our deepest sympathies for your loss and for the loss to many of us who called Cliff our friend. Pat and I both had opportunities to work closely with Cliff--I, as a colleague and Pat on many United Way campaigns. He was a kind, generous, extremely bright and witty man. His legacy will continue through all his contributions to UNI and through the many students he taught. We will miss him.

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**Ben and Pat Allen** - December 05, 2013 at 11:23 AM