



Rex Karsten

June 9, 1950 - December 11, 2017

Dr. Rex Alan Karsten (1950-2017)

Rex Karsten, 67, passed away surrounded by loved ones on December 11, 2017 in Cedar Falls, Iowa. He was the ethical and honest man he strived to be—a loving husband, proud father and grandfather, loyal friend, protective big brother, crazy (in a good way) uncle, and a wonderful son, son-in-law, and brother-in-law. His family and friends meant the world to him. His love and admiration for his wife Laurie never stopped growing and was only reinforced in his last days. His daughters Kristen and Kali were the source of great joy. He loved their unique personalities and especially their senses of humor. Like their dad, they were funny, but only Rex could say he had never told a joke where no one laughed, because he always laughed at his own.

Rex earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and a master's degree from Central Michigan University, both in psychology. After this schooling, he started teaching at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, WY. Rex was a very popular and highly rated instructor, and his love for teaching grew each of the 14 years he taught there. At age 40, and with the unwavering support of Laurie, he left Cheyenne and moved his family to Lincoln, NE to earn a PhD degree at the University of Nebraska in what was then an almost unknown discipline—Management Information Systems (MIS). After receiving his PhD degree, Rex began an illustrious 24-year career at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) as an MIS professor.

Over the course of his academic career, Rex taught and motivated thousands

of students. Rex was most proud when he inspired students who were not MIS majors to change their major to MIS, which happened several times each semester. Rex was a highly decorated teacher, winning numerous teaching awards. He was also a gifted researcher, winning several research awards. In addition, he was a distinguished service provider, engaging in many university and professional activities. Rex's ability to be an outstanding teacher, researcher, and service provider resulted in his being named the first Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company Professor in the UNI business college. Nationwide was on Rex's side, and deservedly so! Rex retired from UNI due to health problems. He loved his work at UNI and praised his colleagues. He was not ready to retire.

Rex was also that intense little league catcher who would move a little closer with every pitch until he would catch a bat in the back of the head. Rex was an avid pheasant hunter and made 53 straight openers. He was first string on the high school football team until the coach said: "hunt opening day for pheasants, and you will be last string"—so much for football. Rex invented pet friendly hotels long before the hotels knew about it. He would let the last rooster of the year fly free, which his dogs never understood. Rex's bird dog of choice was a Brittany, and he owned and loved a long string of them. He was a golfer, a cowboy dancer, a voracious reader, and an admirer of coyotes. He once rode 2.7 seconds on a bull not named Fu Manchu. Rex was the guy we made answer all of the questions on the last card of Trivial Pursuit if he was to win—and he would. Tan khakis and a navy golf shirt was his wardrobe choice for almost every occasion. He learned to work hard from his heroes, his dad and mom.

Rex is survived by his wife Laurie; daughters Kristen (Michael) Landau, Cedar Falls and Kali (Jared) Chappellear, Cedar Falls; grandsons Jack Francis and Edward Rex Chappellear; mother Ethel Karsten, Grandville, MI; brother Jeff (Rose) Karsten, Grandville, MI; and best friend Dennis (Pam) Schmidt, Cedar Falls. He was predeceased by his father Ray Karsten.

Rex's funeral service will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, December 15, at St.

Patrick Catholic Church, 705 Main St, Cedar Falls. Visitation will be at the church beginning at 2:30 p.m. Fellowship will follow at Pheasant Ridge Golf Course, 3205 W 12th St, Cedar Falls. Richardson Funeral Service, Cedar Falls, is assisting the family.

Memorials may be directed in care of the family to Pheasants Forever.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 15. 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church
705 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-3523
<http://saintpatrickcf.org>

Funeral Service

DEC 15. 3:30 PM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church
705 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-3523
<http://saintpatrickcf.org>

Tribute Wall

GC

“ My sincere condolences and prayers to the Karsten Family. Rex was a great friend to the Cameron's and while he is now in the Lord's Heavenly Kingdom, we will look forward to reconnecting down the road. Rest in Heavenly Peace Rex and you will never leave our memory.

Gary Cameron - December 18, 2017 at 07:56 AM

BA

“ I was heartbroken to learn of the passing of Professor Karsten today. He was my friend, my mentor, my favorite UNI Professor. I began to struggle heavily in my junior year at the UNI business school. Having been in one of Professor Karsten's classes a semester earlier I took a chance on seeing if he'd listen and provide some advice. He really helped steer my college career back on course and provided a ton of encouragement when I needed it most. After changing my major, I graduated from UNI with a degree in MIS because of Professor Karsten and I remain highly engaged in this field today. Over the years I remained in touch with Professor Karsten. In 2014 I received the opportunity to come back to UNI and spend a day with the Management faculty. Professor Karsten was whom I desperately wanted to see and thank for all he had done. I vividly remember that day and I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to shake his hand, look him in the eye, and thank him for all he'd done for me.

I'm shocked to learn he's gone so soon. I pray for the family who I know he loved dearly, and I pray for his colleagues at UNI with whom I know he had such deep relationships with. He will be so deeply missed.

Brian Asmus

Brian Asmus - December 14, 2017 at 09:02 PM

DM

“ I was saddened to hear of Rex's passing today from our mutual friend Doug Zondervan. Rex was my best friend in high school and best man at my wedding. I can never think of Rex without smiling. To me he will always be "Ollie".

Don Moseler - December 14, 2017 at 08:09 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rex Karsten.



December 14, 2017 at 01:07 PM

MB

“ Dear Karsten Family,

I was saddened to hear that another great guy has left us. Rex was my boss at LCCC in the 70's. He was a joy to work for, a big teddy bear, always jovial, kind, and welcoming to everyone. His sense of humor was infectious. I could always tease, joke, and laugh with him. He "got it." One time, we were talking about the different genres of music and came up with the term "folk punk." We laughed about that for days. Now it's a thing. What a visionary! He surely will be missed.

Sincerely,

Michelle Beahm

Michelle Beahm - December 14, 2017 at 11:10 AM

CW

“ *Coke Waschkat lit a candle in memory of Rex Karsten*



Coke Waschkat - December 14, 2017 at 10:56 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Rex Karsten.*



December 14, 2017 at 10:33 AM

JM

“ *Jim and Phyllis Holtsclaw - Grandville, Mi purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Rex Karsten.*



Jim and Phyllis Holtsclaw - Grandville, Mi - December 14, 2017 at 09:35 AM

MF

“ Rex...I liked being a member of Rex and the Saddle bags. Thank you for teaching me how to swing a golf club, please know my ensuing game is no reflection of your coaching. Some of my most fond memories were the Rampage road trips. We managed to have a good time even with all those preteen girls running around! We shared an infinity for music, really good music, at least in our opinions. The thing I liked the most was calling you my friend! You always had a knack for making everyone feel important. You will be missed beyond words! Love you Rexilus.

Mary Frederick

Mary Frederick - December 12, 2017 at 04:41 PM