



Christina Lee Frazier

April 2, 1947 - March 19, 2021

Dr. Christina Lee Frazier of Saint Augustine, FL passed away on Friday, March 19, 2021. Christina was born in 1947 on April 2 in Elmira, NY, the daughter of John Frederick and Marian Elizabeth (Lee) Frazier. On October 4, 2015, she married Judith Johnson, her lifelong partner of 45 years.

Christina graduated with a Doctoral degree in Virology and Epidemiology from Yale University in 1977. Her long and productive career as a research Biologist and Educator began as Assistant Professor of Microbiology at Quinnipiac College. In her pursuit to study mosquito born viruses, she continued her career at Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) “the epicenter for mosquitoes,” where she served as Tenured Professor of Biology for over 35 years. She developed many class courses including Epidemiology, Issues in AIDS, Transforming the Female Experience, Pathogenic Microbiology, Immunology, Virology and more. Her dedication to research and education resulted in numerous publications, national and international speaking, and hundreds of community-based presentations. She was highly respected and sought after by colleagues, and as an advisor to graduate students in various medical professions.

Dr. Frazier served as the Director of Assessment and Associate to the Provost for Assessment and Data Analysis. She was instrumental in building the grant-funded Southeast Missouri Arbovirus Lab in 1994, a statewide mosquito testing lab for insect-borne diseases under an agreement with the Missouri Department of Health to conduct mosquito surveillance. She continued her work in research and public health until her retirement from SEMO in 2014, as Professor Emerita.

Chris was strong-minded, patient, compassionate, principled, and full of determination. She devoted herself fully to the academic success of her students and never missed a day of school. Her greatest joy was helping students prepare and succeed at their careers, and providing opportunities for “non-traditional” students who worked while raising children. She was a strong advocate for women’s equality and welcomed many opportunities for “teaching” in its many forms. Her work in the Athletics Department at

SEMO involved developing equity and diversity plans that led to Title IX implementation.

She received numerous citations, research and service awards for her extensive work and contributions including the University Faculty Merit Award and the Governor's Award for Meritorious Teaching.

She had many interests in her life. During her earlier years she acquired multiple certifications that allowed her to teach swimming, water safety, sailing, canoeing, and other water sports, mostly with the Red Cross and the Girl's Scouts in Connecticut. Her heart was most at home in the mountains and on the lakes of Upstate New York. Camping, hiking and canoeing were favorites throughout her life, as was spending time at dog shows and obedience training with their beloved dogs over the years. She was generous of heart and spirit, and loved cooking and gathering friends and family to share a meal. Later in life she designed and built their retirement home in Saint Augustine, FL.

Following retirement, she continued to teach webinars on behalf of SEMO. In addition, she served with the North Central Higher Learning Commission as an Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) reviewer; was active in training, hunting, showing and whelping Vizsla dogs; and participated in the tax aide program through the St. Augustine AARP.

Besides her wife Judy, she is survived by beloved cousins, Louis and Nancy (Lee) Lichtenstein, Brian and Mary (Lee) Bettinger, John and Cathy (Shoemaker) Lee, Jeffrey and Jean Lee-Mosier, Jack and Pam (DeSantis) Lunman, Tom and JoAnn (Lunman) Eduardo, David and Kathy (Heaslip) Lunman, Nelson and Diane (Lunman) Bayron, Gene and Joan (Teed) Lunman, and numerous other cousins and family members of choice.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Mary Lee (Frazier) Hubbard; grandparents, Manford and Lulu (Martin) Lee; nephew, Peter Hubbard; uncles and aunts, Jack and Norma (Lee) Lunman, Howard and Lavona (Dewey) Lee; and cousin, Dan Dewey Lee.

Memorial services in Upstate New York are pending. In memory of Chris, donations may be made to the Vizsla Club of America Welfare Foundation (<https://vcaweb.org/>), The Adirondacks Council (<https://www.adirondackcouncil.org/>), or Heifer International (<https://www.heifer.org>).

Comments



“ Judy,

Chris was more than my graduate advisor, more than a mentor for my academic career, and even more than a friend. Chris guided me through so many personal revelations during my time with her as we slogged through mosquito larvae and keyed up *Aedes triseriatus* mosquitos! There is safe bet that I am still alive today because of her. So much time together in the lab and the classroom. I still have such strong memories of sitting in her office discussing epidemiology, virus, immunology, sexuality... but most importantly, life. Simply put, I loved and respected Chris enormously.

She, along with Alan Journet, molded my first thoughts about teaching in higher education, much of which still permeates my teaching practices. Needless to say, her legacy is forwarded to thousands of my students that I have taught throughout the years. I still say KISS! Keep It Simple Stupid!

Teaching about AIDS to schools and churches in Cape Girardeau in the late 1980's was no small feat as we would go from place to place showing how to properly use a condom. Just a smattering of all that Chris has done for the community. Academic or otherwise.

I am so saddened to hear that she passed! All my love and best to Judy. The world is a little bit darkened by the loss of this amazing woman!

Make sure the dogs are all ok!

With tears in my eyes, Judy!

David Pendergrass

David C Pendergrass - April 14 at 10:15 PM



“ Oh! When the Giants win the Super Bowl, I promise I'll cheer them on, unless they are playing my Chiefs! My Chiefs managed it last year, so I was wholly satisfied at last. When next the Giants come to Arrowhead, I'll toast you!

David C Pendergrass - April 14 at 10:22 PM



“ Chris was a great colleague. I recall first meeting her at my interview at SEMO; she put me at ease. We worked together as biologists, but also on assessment and accreditation. I have so many great memories of working with her on HLC tasks. And the trips to the HLC conferences in Chicago. Our group once ate at a Churrascaria there and Chris let us know it was the most she had ever paid for a dinner in her life, but she did enjoy the meal. I was so sorry to hear of her passing. My condolences to Judy et al for her loss.

Dave Starrett - March 27 at 03:18 PM



“ My deepest condolences to you Judy and her beloved friends. I cherish the times I had with her beautiful soul and spirit. Chris always pushed me harder to be what I needed to be to ensure I served in the capacity she taught me to. I can honestly say that I am an epidemiologist today because of her. She spent time teaching me what I needed to learn to become a steward of public health following in her example. My heart is truly sad that the world will no longer have her in it because it was a better place with her here. All my sympathy and love and may all know what an amazing human being Chris was.

Autumn Bivins-Grim - March 25 at 07:24 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Shared Photos



Janean Gilbert - March 25 at 04:59 PM



“ Judy, you are in my thoughts and prayers. It broke my heart to hear of Dr. Frazier's passing. I had the utmost respect for her and will forever treasure the time I got to work with her in the Provost's Office at SEMO. I imagine she's having a grand old time with Morgan and Tonna. Hugs!

Jen Smith - March 25 at 10:21 AM



“ Dr. Frazier was my professor for two feminist University Studies classes at Southeast Missouri State University in the early 1990's. She was one of most influential and charismatic people I have ever met, and she impacted my life immeasurably. I'm a proud feminist thanks to Dr. Frazier, and I will always remember her brilliance and humility. If I can be half the teacher for my students that she was for me, I will be a happy woman. Peace and prayers for Dr. Frazier's beautiful soul and for her beloved family.

Tracy Fisher Bouslog - March 24 at 09:35 PM



“ Chris was a friend and could be counted on for anything. She had a heavy workload, but always had time for others. She had time for me and I remain grateful to her.



Patriia Ryan - March 24 at 08:29 PM



“ Chris had such a positive impact on my life - from turning me on to pathogenic microbiology as an undergraduate to pushing me through graduate programs to life/career coaching well into my thirties. I am so grateful for having been on the receiving end of all the mentoring, nurturing, and support that Chris and Judy had to offer. Big hugs Judy.

Sheila Abner - March 24 at 07:58 PM



“ Rest In Peace my dear friend! You were a bright light for all who were privileged to know you. You made such amazing contributions at Southeast Missouri State University - as an educator, a mentor, an advocate, and a colleague. You will never be forgotten!

Judy St. John - March 23 at 02:30 PM



“ So very sorry to learn that Chris is gone. A brilliant scientist, mentor, and teacher to whom I have been so grateful for the last thirty years. Deepest sympathy to Chris's family & friends from Frances & family

Frances - March 23 at 01:57 PM



“ Chris was a wonderful teacher, researcher, and colleague. I had the pleasure to serve with her in many capacities at SEMO, but perhaps I most appreciated her work when we were both in the Provost's Office. She could always be counted on to accomplish things reliably and in a quality manner. My deepest condolences to Judy and to her cousins.

Bill Eddleman - March 22 at 09:23 PM



“ Chris was one of the brightest, kindest teachers I ever knew. She was always willing to share her knowledge and help with and student or staff member.

Sallie Loos

Sallie Loos - March 22 at 08:17 PM



“ I first met Chris when she was my graduate student advisor at Southeast Missouri State University and I greatly benefitted from her wise and supportive mentorship. I will always be grateful to her for her generous gift of her time and knowledge to me then and at later times when I worked at the university. I send my deepest sympathies to Judy and all of Chris's family.

Janet Smith - March 22 at 06:38 PM



“ Dr Frazier was my advisor in college and was instrumental in guiding me on my career path in medical technology from 1983 - 1987 at SEMO. I was on the college softball team at that time and Dr. Fraser didn't miss any of my games. She always took the time to help me. When I wasn't there for class because I was away for ballgames, she allowed me to come to her house for lecture material or take a test outside of regular class time. She had no idea what an impact and influence she had on my life. My favorite college professor, she was brilliant, inspirational, always there to help and I was amazed by her. I will never forget her. Im so sorry for your loss Judy.

Tracie Eudaley - March 22 at 06:09 PM



“ I was so sorry to hear that Chris had passed. I enjoyed working with her during our time together in the Provost's Office. She was so smart and funny, and loved her vizslas! We will be keeping all of your in our thoughts and prayers - so sorry for your loss.

Lori Mueller - March 22 at 05:33 PM



“ Susan and I are so saddened to learn that Chris passed away. Chris was such a fine person and wonderful colleague. Our deeply heartfelt condolences to Judy and the rest of the family.

Fred & Susan Janzow - March 22 at 03:21 PM



“ Oh my....my heart hurts for your loss. Dr. Frazier was a great person and so respected by so many during her time at Southeast Missouri State. I was blessed to have worked with her on so many initiatives. She worked diligently to teach our nursing students and they were better nurses because I know they really learned microbiology when they had her course. Her work on women's initiatives as well as on HIV/AIDs was outstanding. All she was involved in made our organization a better place to work. I know your hearts are broken but she left a legacy of scholarly work, community activism, and love for others. I am so blessed to have known her and worked with her. She will be missed but not forgotten. Blessings and prayers for Judith and her family.

Desma Reno - March 22 at 01:43 PM



“ Chris was and is a beautiful soul. Godspeed, my friend. This world will miss you. Praying that Judy and other loved ones will feel the warmth of God's loving and comforting embrace at this time of great loss. Kathryn Farwell



Kathryn Farwell - March 22 at 12:24 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to Chris's family. She was a mentor to many of my Softball student athletes. I served along side Chris on several Title IX committees. She supported many initiatives for women's athletics and was our voice for change. And she was my friend!

Lana Richmond

Lana Richmond - March 22 at 11:09 AM



“ Chris, in my memory, is a woman of great generosity. In our every encounter she was sharing, caring and giving, in ways that were thoughtful, often humorous, and always filled with wisdom. Sending prayers of love to Judy and family. May you find comfort and strength in these memories. -Pastor Donna

Donna Cooney - March 22 at 08:02 AM



“ My sincerest sympathies to Dr. Frazier’s family. She was a wonderful colleague at Southeast and such a fantastic asset to the Southeast Missouri region. She impacted so many lives, not only through her teaching and mentorship, but also through her research. The world has lost a very brilliant woman.

Diane Sides - March 22 at 07:28 AM



“ Chris was a dear friend, a strong mentor, inspiring educator, a committed advocate for women’s issues, a generous colleague, and a bright light for all who were privileged to know her. Judy and Chris were a caring couple who were always so generous with their gifts of friendship. Rest In Peace sweet Chris!! Judy you are in my thoughts and prayers. May your memories be a blessing!! Love you both!

Judy St. John - March 23 at 01:56 PM



“ Christina arrived in the university before me, and survived beyond me; and I thought I had put in my time! Throughout my 30 years at Southeast I maintained tremendous respect for Christina as a colleague and equal admiration for her tireless dedication to justice in all arenas, especially gender equity. Dr. Frazier's voice for reason on the planet will sorely be missed. My deepest condolences to Judy and family.

Alan Journet - March 29 at 01:19 PM