



William Warren Gerberich

December 30, 1935 - October 11, 2024

William Warren Gerberich (Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, University of Minnesota), deceased 10/11/2024, was born in Wooster, Ohio (1935), and was educated at Case Institute of Technology (BS) Syracuse University (MS), and University of California - Berkeley (PhD).

Internationally recognized as an expert in Materials Science, he commenced his career, in 1959, at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, where he worked on NASA-related research, including application of materials for moon explorations. This was followed by experiences at Ford Aeronautronic in Newport Beach, California, working on materials for outer space and studies on rocket ships and Aerojet General in Sacramento, California, where he became further engaged in rocket-related research. Subsequently, he was recruited to the University of California - Berkeley and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory by Professor Earl Parker and Professor Victor Zackay with whom he had written scientific papers and who, with Professor Hans Conrad, became his mentors for completion of his PhD degree.

Following completion of the doctoral degree, he accepted a faculty position at the University of Minnesota, in 1971, in what is now known as the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science. This led to a prestigious 44-year academic career, resulting in over 500 publications associated with his

extensive research program, involving approximately 135 students, primarily, PhD. Associated consulting led to many interesting materials integrity investigations, including the: World Trade Center during construction; Shoreview, MN television tower collapse; many medical-related device failures; pipeline failures; other equipment failures; and national laboratory-related investigations.

He served in numerous leadership positions for materials-related societies and journals. Awards included: Fellow of the American Society of Metals (1986) and The Materials Research Society (2012-2024). As a finale to his extensive career, "Science of Material Dislocations," is engraved on his gravestone!

Dr. Gerberich, the son of Harold Robert Gerberich and Clarissa Ross Gerberich (deceased), is predeceased by his wife Dr. Susan Goodwin Gerberich (Professor Emerita). Despite the fact that their first date started in his laboratory to check on a materials fracture experiment, their marriage survived 63 years. He is survived by his sister, Judith Gerberich Buhmeyer and brother-in-law, Gary Buhmeyer; brother, Harold Robert Gerberich, Jr.(predeceased) and sister-in-law, Veronica (Ronnie) Gerberich; sons and daughters-in-law, Dr. Bradley Kent and Amanda Lujan Gerberich and Brian Keith and Montine Green Gerberich, and his daughter and son-in-law, Beth Clarice Gerberich and Darryl Cheney; grandchildren, Sophia Jane Gerberich, Kasan Jarren Zayas, and Brent Cheney (Elizabeth) and Erin Cheney (Richard Lawless); great-grandchildren, Charles Theodore and Oliver Lincoln Cheney.; and several nieces and nephews. He is incredibly proud of his family and most grateful for all of their love and support. Further important are his former Master's and Doctoral students who were also an integral portion of his life and for which there is also great pride in their successes.

A Celebration of Life, in concert with a reception, will be held Friday

November 1st, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lakewood Cemetery, Garden Mausoleum Chapel and Reception Center, 3600 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Interment will be at: the Lakewood Cemetery. (Funeral Home: Washburn-McReavy, 5000 West 50th St. Edina, MN 55436)

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations for:

- University of Minnesota Foundation Fund #21734

William Warren Gerberich Faculty Fund (The Fund and any holders of the named position supported by this Fund will be referred to as the William Warren Gerberich Chair in Materials Science - Endowed Professorship
<https://makingagift.umn.edu/give/fund.html?id=21734>

- University of Minnesota Foundation Endowment Fund #6267

William Warren Gerberich Fellowship In The Solid Mechanics Of Plasticity (for the support of Graduate Students)

<https://makingagift.umn.edu/donate/fund-contact-info.html?&fundCode=6267#formstep-1>

- Donor's Charity of Choice

Cemetery Details

Lakewood Cemetery (Minneapolis)

3600 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 1. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Lakewood Memorial Chapel
3600 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Funeral Service

NOV 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Lakewood Memorial Chapel
3600 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Tribute Wall

KC

“ *Bill, I have learned so much from you. You are insanely missed. Kim Chaffin (CEMS PhD '99)*

Kim Chaffin - November 01, 2024 at 09:25 AM

NC

“ *I wish my November 2024 trip to Minneapolis was not for the farewell. I wish I could walk up to the third floor of the Amundson Hall, turn around the corner, and step into Bill Gerberich's office like so many times before, always feeling welcome and greeted with a smile.*

I met Bill Gerberich at a conference in September 1994. This life changing event brought me to CEMS as a Bill Gerberich's PhD student in 1995. Bill Gerberich always gave us his time, attention, and encouragement. He did not merely guide us along degree seeking paths but shared his passion for scientific discovery. He projected a true confidence of knowledge and insight paired with modesty and a sense of humor. Bill Gerberich influenced my life and my career in many profound ways.

My deepest condolences to his family.

Natalia Tymiak Carlson, PhD 2001, Pittsburgh, PA

Natalia Tymiak Carlson - October 26, 2024 at 08:21 PM

IK

“ Bill Gerberich was my PhD adviser from 1995 to 2000. I have many fond memories of our time together. He was a truly remarkable person, always having a broad smile and maintaining a positive attitude in addressing any challenge. I particularly cherished our Friday afternoon meetings, where Bill, D. Fennell Evans (my co-advisor), and I used to discuss the progress of my thesis. Bill had an insatiable curiosity and was always eager to explore new ideas and possibilities. His energy and enthusiasm were contagious, and he possessed a rare charisma as a great listener, always eager to understand and respond to any request I had. A few people have made major impact in my life; Bill was certainly one of them. He opened up new directions and opportunities in my life, for which I will always be profoundly grateful.

I would like to express my sincere condolences to his family.

*Ioannis (Yiannis) Karapanagiotis
Professor
Department of Chemistry
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Greece*

Ioannis (Yiannis) Karapanagiotis - October 24, 2024 at 05:17 AM



“ Professor Gerberich was my Master degree advisor. His patience and technical brilliance were key to my completion of my degree. I have been working as an engineer for a while and have lost significant drive to complete my degree. Dr Gerberich did not give up on me, provided constant encouragement and gentle prodding allow me to complete my Master degree in 1981. I shall forever remember his wisdom, his generosity and his friendship ever after I moved to California. His legacy lives on in all of us.

Eddie Lee - October 22, 2024 at 01:44 PM

JS

“ *Jiakuan Sun (2004 PhD student) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Warren Gerberich.*



Jiakuan Sun (2004 PhD student) - October 17, 2024 at 03:50 AM

JS

“ *Jiakuan Sun (2004 PhD student) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Warren Gerberich.*

Jiakuan Sun (2004 PhD student) - October 17, 2024 at 03:50 AM