

Dear Kathy,

When I met Bruce, I was new to the world of minerals. As you know, after earning his Masters and Ph.D. from Caltech, Bruce went on to become Dean of Natural Sciences at Pasadena City College. As a geology professor, he worked at PCC for over 40 years. My personal regret is that I didn't know him at PCC as a professor. I read some of the student's ratings of Bruce, they were very high. He was loved and respected by his students and fellow instructors. I read about his field trips to Baja, Santa Cruz Island, etc., and can only imagine they were a blast! (As Bruce would say: "...just up this way a little further...")

Bruce retired from PCC in 2005. I met him some 6 years later on November 20, 2011 when I attended my first MSSC Board Meeting at your home. I really didn't know much about MSSC, having just joined the membership at that time. Nor, did I know of the culture of minerals, collecting them, appreciating them and understanding them. And, I was intimidated by the Board at first because I was the fish out of water. I remember Bruce's voice though. It held authority and, at the same time, compassion. It was soothing and had an understanding toward the new "student" who wanted to learn.

I grew to know Bruce little by little, as time passed. I glimpsed that twinkle in his mischievous eyes a time or two. His sense of humor was wonderful. He was not afraid to share his joy or astonishment, though there was little in mineralogy that surprised him. I was fortunate enough to have observed a classic mineral exhibit of his at one of the shows. It was stunning, informative and down-right sexy. You know the one.

Bruce was generous, loyal to MSSC, had integrity. He was a man of his word and a man of action. A down-to-earth sort of fellow who lived and did what seemed utterly natural to him. While he may have been officially retired from teaching, it did not stop him from traveling, going to those places most of us dreamed of going, learning more and then sharing those awesome experiences with others. His unique educational exchange-student programs were quite amazing, as well!

You know, Kathy, it's not often one comes across a person like Bruce in their lifetime, but when it happens, it's a time to be savored and cherished. Bruce made a difference in my life and if he touched others the way he touched me, I'm quite certain he made a lasting impression on them, as well.

On behalf of me and those countless people who knew and loved Bruce, I, we, offer our sympathies and condolences for your loss, Kathy. His passing is a loss to us all.

Most sincerely,  
Angie Guzman,  
MSSC Secretary