

Jack Rivers Remembered

Jack Lewis Rivers was born on April 18, 1928, in Fairbanks, Florida, the son of Glen Lewis Rivers and Frances Beatrice Bailey Rivers. He died on December 7, 2002, in Lawrence, Kansas. He is survived by his daughter Cassandra Rivers Messer, son-in-law Richard Messer, daughter Penelope Neitzert, son-in-law Don Neitzert, sister Joy Glaser, brother David Rivers and two grandsons, Jamie and Jesse.

After several moves the family ended up in Covington, Kentucky, where Jack attended Covington High School. After graduation he joined the Navy where he was trained as a radio operator.

Jack attended the University of Cincinnati, obtaining his BS in Physics in 1952. He continued in Physics at the University of Cincinnati, and received his PhD in 1956. The title of his dissertation was "A Theoretical Investigation of the U-Effect III" (the U-effects deal with electrical forces produced when capillary tubes containing electrolyte and mercury are shaken). His advisor was Boris Podolsky. At Cincinnati Jack studied relativity which later became his main interest.

From Cincinnati Jack moved to Rolla where in September, 1956, he joined the Physics Department of the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy (MSM) as Assistant Professor of Physics. Jack's voracious and eclectic reading habits brought him into contact with Helen Pruett, herself an avid reader, who worked at the MSM Library. On one of his frequent visits to the front desk, Jack slipped a short poem between the leaves of a book he was returning. That started



a courtship which ended in their marriage on September 20, 1959. Jack was promoted to Associate Professor in 1967. Helen died in 1979. Jack retired from the department in 1990 and moved to Lawrence, Kansas, to live with his daughters.

Jack's major professional interests lay in General Relativity and the geometry of space-time. In addition he contributed to the research of the Graduate Center for Cloud Physics Research, publishing two articles on droplet condensation with Louis Lund. He was well known as an excellent teacher, especially in advanced courses. He

pioneered the teaching of Mathematical Physics and General Relativity in the Physics Department. He was the advisor to two PhD students and several MS students.

Jack's interests extended well beyond Physics. He was a linguist, fluent in Spanish and German, and had a good working knowledge of French and Italian. He was a ham radio operator, stamp collector, electrician (a member of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) and licensed and active pilot. He was a competent and enthusiastic gardener, and a number of flower gardens in the area attest to Jack's expert green thumb; he managed to grow pecan trees in Lawrence, Kansas, and see them bear fruit in his lifetime. He built his own house on St. James Road and lived in it until his retirement. His colleagues and family remember him as a private person who nevertheless reached out to the many non-Americans on the MSM/UMR campus. His daughter recalls the many dinners at his house for foreign students. Students and colleagues remember Jack fondly as a scholar and a friend. *Ibrahim Adawi, Ralph Alexander, and John Carstens, 2003.*

Physics Department Acknowledges

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Schulz Awarded Mercator Scholarship

Since his last sabbatical year in 1998-99, which he spent with the group of Dr. **J. Ullrich** (then at the University of Freiburg in Germany), Dr. **Michael Schulz** of UMR has developed a fruitful collaboration with this group. This collaboration recently culminated in a publication in the general science journal *Nature* (see article on p. 5). The accomplishments of Dr. Schulz and his collaborators have been recognized by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German counterpart to the National Science Foundation), which awarded him the prestigious Mercator Scholarship. Dr. Schulz used this scholarship to take a year of research leave at the Max-Planck-Institut für Kernphysik in Heidelberg, Germany, where the group of Dr. Ullrich moved three years ago.