



Robert “Rob” Pfeiffer

March 3, 1930 to June 24, 2021

Rob was born on Long Island, New York, and graduated from Santa Clara University in California. He went back to Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, for a PhD in Chemistry and returned to SCU as professor of chemistry and chairman of the department. He retired after 40 years. He met his wife Pat at Cornell and they were married for 61 years. They had three children and one grandchild.

Their adventures took them on a Fulbright professorship in 1963 to Basutoland in southern Africa with one child, and with the Peace Corps in 1972 to a university in Malaysia for two years with three young children. He also did research at State University of New York (SUNY) in Albany and the University of Kansas, and he spent a Sabbatical year at the University of Tokyo in 1986.

The Pfeiffers lived in the Santa Cruz mountains for 40 years, but then spent 10 years in a high rise in San Francisco before moving to SRC. Rob enjoyed creating books for his grandson, documentary films and handcrafted furniture.

He is survived by his wife Pat, his son Chris, his daughter Lisa Spitler, who lives in the Aleutian Islands with her husband, and with Rob’s grandson Finn.