

## **Jerome Earl Akin**

Died: February 15, 1999

Jerry died on Monday, February 15, 1999, from kidney failure in a Cincinnati hospital at age 59.

He came to Dartmouth as a freshman from Hawarden, Iowa, a community of about 2,500 residents next to the Big Sioux River in northwest Iowa, just 35 miles north of Sioux City. He graduated cum laude from Hawarden's high school, and seemingly had a leading hand in everything there — the yearbook, the glee club, the band, the dramatic club, and the debate team.

At Dartmouth, Jerry was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, and for all four years was involved with both the Newman Club and the Dartmouth Outing Club. He was in the R.O.T.C. program for his first two years.

After Dartmouth, where he majored in chemistry, and after earning a M.S. degree in chemical engineering at the University of Arizona, Jerry became a chemical engineer and worked for InterNorth, Inc., a large energy company headquartered in Omaha. He worked for the company and its divisions for 29 years, retiring in 1997.

His career had carried him to Germany, England, and Japan at different times, building and designing new chemical plants, managing a modern computer center, and developing natural gas appliances with his Japanese counterparts. He became a vice-president of InterNorth and lived in Omaha in his late 40's, at the time our class was celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> reunion.

"The curiosity that brought me to Dartmouth still lives," he wrote in his 1986 reflections for the 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion Yearbook at the time.

Jerry prefaced his listing in 1986 of the things that were important to him by taking notice of "the beautiful world we live in," the sunsets that seem each year to be a little more vivid, the autumn colors that seem warmer and brighter, the rainbows that seem a bit more spectacular.

He spoke next of his children, who he hoped would develop "the capacity to enjoy life, to love, and to cope." He said he believed in doing the best one could, not perfectly necessarily, "but damned good." He said it was important for him to help others succeed, and "to always try to put something back in the pot I drew out of."

As his professional career reflects, creating and working with physical objects was a pleasure for him. "I particularly like to build things," he said in 1986. "Some years ago I spent six months of weekends building a cabin in the woods.

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That was great!" He liked cross-cultural experiences, "and learning and doing new things."

Hawarden, Iowa, where he grew up, is where funeral services for him were held after his death. He left behind two daughters, Christine Ellen and Erika Elisabeth, and a son, J. Eric.