



Dr. Henry August Fribourg Ph.D.

March 10, 1929 - September 25, 2020

Dr. Henry August Fribourg, age 91, of Knoxville, TN, died Friday afternoon, September 25, 2020. Henry was Professor Emeritus of Crop Ecology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Dr. Fribourg was a scientist, educator and professional leader who was widely recognized in the State of Tennessee, the United States and world-wide as an authority on forage crops, tall fescue ecology and pasture and beef cattle management. Henry was a frequent speaker in East Tennessee on the causes and effects of Germany's conduct of the Holocaust throughout Europe before and during World War II. Dr. Fribourg was born March 10, 1929 in Paris, France to the late Jean and Yvonne Fribourg. His family was deeply rooted in Lorraine since the 10th Century, and in Spain to the 6th Century. Henry lived in France and Algeria until 1942, when his immediate family was able to escape, one week before it was no longer feasible to flee from World War II German occupation of France and the ensuing Holocaust. The family resided in Havana, Cuba, where he attended high school, learning English and Spanish along the way. The family then immigrated to the United States in April 1945 and he became a citizen in 1951. In 1949, he earned his B.S. Degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, his M.S. in 1951 from Cornell University, and his Ph.D. from Iowa State. Dr. Fribourg then worked his way throughout his college career, first at minimum wage jobs, but later as Instructor of French at the University of Wisconsin. Besides his graduate stipends, he worked as a French/Spanish/English interpreter/translator in 1952-1954 for the Department of State and for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Following graduation from Iowa State, he served two years in the United States Army Chemical Corps at Fort Detrick and later was recognized as a disabled Korean War Veteran by the Veterans Administration. Dr. Fribourg married Claudia Brunschwig on August 12, 1956, and joined the University of Tennessee, Knoxville faculty on September 15, to be the first research forage and pasture ecologist in the Agronomy Department. During his forty-five year career at UT, Dr. Fribourg taught many courses, mostly at the graduate level, in Forage crops and their management, crop ecology, Statistics in agriculture, Crop climatology, and Design and analysis of biological research. Henry guided over 90 students in their M.S. or Ph.D. studies. Although a fair but demanding mentor, Dr. Fribourg was appreciated by his students for the thorough education and training on which he insisted. He shared his

knowledge not only with students, but also with the general public and internationally: he carried out many teaching and program evaluations in Turkey, France, Latin America, Yugoslavia, and Sahelian Africa. Dr. Fribourg was one of the first investigators to study the management required for summer annual grasses, such as forage sorghums and pearl millet, used extensively for supplemental pastures and feed for dairy cows to maintain high levels of milk production during the dry and hot summer months. He was the author of the chapter on these plants in three successive editions of the Forages college textbook. He pioneered ways of using the weed bermudagrass as a useful and economical summer pasture for beef production, thereby doubling the usual grazing season of five to ten months per year. Much of his research involving cattle was conducted in collaboration with animal scientist and professional colleagues in allied fields. Dr. Fribourg often was the senior scientist coordinating such team research. He recognized that the life and performance of crop plants depends upon many interrelationships, thus he carried out much macro-and micro-climate work; he verified the validity of a precipitation model for theoretical soundness and practical use in the Mid-South; his publications in probability occurrences of climatic parameters for Tennessee have been useful not only to agriculturalist, but also to engineers, industrialists, architects and planners, and real estate and tourism industries. He characterized the potential value of different soils on the Tennessee landscape as these affect forage crops and trees for use on soils marginal for crop production, such as reclaimed coal strip mines. He pioneered the use of factor analysis in agronomic research and showed its usefulness for developing models describing crop plant and beef cattle responses. Henry was a collaborator on the international multi-language publication of terminology definitions for pasture, range and livestock management. Dr. Fribourg was the recipient of numerous professional awards and recognition: Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America, distinguished Grasslander of the American Forage and Grassland Council, member of the Board of Directors of the Crop Science Society of the America and of the American Society of Agronomy, Associate Editor for the Journals Crop Science, the Journal of Production Agriculture and the electronic journal Forage and Grazinglands, and member of the International Grassland Congress Grazing Terminology Committee. Henry was the 1974-75 UT Macebearer, UT Annual Phi Kappa Phi Lecturer twice; he received the UT Chancellor's Research Scholar Merit Award and the Chancellor's Citation for Extraordinary Service to the University; in 2013, he received the Outstanding Alumni Award of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Fribourg took an active interest in many of the Knoxville Civic, educational and religious activities; speaker on professional matters, foreign travel experiences and the role of agriculture in a quality environment; high school visiting Scientist for the Tennessee Academy of Sciences; longtime judge, Director, and President of the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair, and the Chair of Judging for

the International Science and Engineering Fair held in Knoxville. He participated as a Director of the Lonas Drive Community Association of Directors for 40 years. Henry was active in Temple Beth El Board of Directors and Committees, and was elected twice President of the Congregation and later as a Lifetime Honorary Vice President. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Sylvain. Dr. Henry Fribourg is survived by his loving wife, Claudia; son Daniel and grandson, Bryan; daughter Renee'; sister, Rosette Fribourg Bessman; nephews and nieces, David, Naomi, Amiee, Marc, Pascal, Lauren, Nastasia and Oliver; sister in law, Monique and her children. A private service will be held 2:00 PM Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at New Jewish Cemetery with Rabbi Erin Boxt officiating. The service can be viewed by going to the Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel Facebook page. (link to follow) The family requests that in lieu of flowers, please make a memorial donation to Temple Beth El Holocaust Memorial Bookshelf or the Jewish Community Center's Holocaust Memorial Educational Fund. Online condolences may be sent to www.rosemortuary.com. Friends may call at their convenience Monday at Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel.

To stream the live service please click the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/RoseMannHeritage/>

Cemetery

New Jewish Cemetery

2700 Keith Avenue

Knoxville, TN,

Comments



“ Henry was an exceptionally gifted scientist, leader, and communicator. I admired him (although I would not not tell him that). But above all, he was my FRIEND.

Tom Samples - September 30, 2020 at 01:18 PM



“ I first became aware of Henry when I was a graduate student at Iowa State where I heard of him having the gift of irritating some people. It was rewarding to develop our friendship after we came here. Particularly our spring and fall hikes to LeConte Lodge. The last couple of years Martha and my health issues have prevented us from getting out and viviting. We read the obituary in the paper which was well done and we will keep it.

Vernon and Martha Reich

Vernon Reich - September 29, 2020 at 09:20 AM



“ Claudia and family
Henry was my friend and colleague for over two decades. We worked as a team on many research projects. He challenged me to think of how our results could be used to advance knowledge and be applied to improve forage and animal production. Henry introduced me to the international research community through our publications and presentations. We spent many hours writing and rewriting our publications until they were exactly as we wanted them. During these times if I readily agreed with Henry he would declare we needed to take a break because we had lost our objectivity on the issue. I most appreciated the fact that with Henry you always understood where you stood and he was there to make our work the best possible. I will always treasure the time spent traveling in New Zealand with Henry and Claudia.

Nancy and I always enjoyed being with them

John Waller

John Waller - September 28, 2020 at 05:59 PM



“ Henry was the reason I have my job at Tennessee, and I will be eternally grateful for that. He insisted that our department needed a climatologist and so the new position was created. He was very helpful to me when I arrived and I will always remember our adventures to research stations across the state. I will say, though, that I was very happy when he quit smoking the pipe! He was extremely kind to my children over the years. And I will always remember with fondness the time we spent together with the science fair. I never would have been involved with it all these many years if he hadn't asked me to be a judge way back in 1988. He was a remarkable person and will be missed.

Joanne Logan - September 28, 2020 at 11:24 AM



“ Claudia and family,
I am so grateful you shared Henry with us at Shannodale. His many contributions to keeping us informed and enlightened are stored in my memory. My heart touches yours as you move through the days ahead.
Fondly,
Anne Crumpton

Anne Crumpton - September 28, 2020 at 11:15 AM



“ Henry was a friend and colleague in the Plant Sciences Department Forage Group. From a collection of orchardgrass plants made across the state by he and Joe Burns many years ago and his help setting up a grazing experiment, I was able to develop and release a highly successful new orchardgrass variety 'Persist.' In collaboration with John Waller, Henry and I made a poster presentation on John's and Henry's calf experiment with the grazing study at Ames Plantation at the 19th International Grass Land Congress held in Brazil in 2001.
I am also indebted to Henry and Vernon Reich for nominating me to be a Fellow of both the Crop Science and Agronomy Societies. I received these in 1985. They also nominated me for the UT Chancellor's research Scholar Award, which I also received in 1985.
Donna, and I send our condolences to our friend Claudia
Bob Conger

Bob Conger - September 28, 2020 at 11:00 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Henry August Fribourg Ph.D..



September 28, 2020 at 10:06 AM



“ Dear Family and Friends:
What a great loss in my life...from the corn fields at the Tobacco Experiment in the early 1960's to my retirement celebration at Ames Plantation in 2002, Dr. Fribourg was continuously a friend of friends. I can truly say with a heavy heart, a dear friend has departed my zone of life and the sadness of the moment burrows deeply into my spirit!
James M. Anderson, Gatlinburg, TN

James Anderson - September 28, 2020 at 10:06 AM



“ I met Dr. Fribourg in 1978 when I came to UT as a new faculty member in geology. He was always kind and supportive of all who were dedicated to teaching and mentoring in the sciences. Reading his beautiful obituary reminds me of what a giant he was here and wishing for more time with him to talk about his past.

Thomas Broadhead - September 28, 2020 at 08:22 AM



“ Claudia I remover Henry as a great researcher that impacted the Dairy industry that I served for 35 years. I retired in 2000. And have enjoyed retirement very Much He made. A strong impression on me while we were both on the staff of Agriculture

Montgomery Monty - September 27, 2020 at 08:51 PM



“ I (and many others) served for many years with Henry on the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair (SASEF) Board of Directors. Henry was a stalwart proponent and organizer for the Fair, and supported it through thick and thin years. He shared a lot of wise opinions and advice with the Board over the years, and his enthusiasm for the Fair (and especially the role of the SASEF in encouraging kids to discover a life-long interest in science and scientific methods) will be missed. My condolences to you all. He was a fine man who lived a very interesting life. I have a lot of respect for him.

Ray Hosker

R. P. Hosker, Jr., Ph.D., Hosker Science Services, Oak Ridge, TN.

Ray Hosker - September 27, 2020 at 08:47 PM



“ Claudia and Family,

I was saddened to see that Dr. Fribourg had passed last Friday. One of my favorite classes when I was at UT was the graduate-level Experimental Design and Analysis class taught by Dr. Fribourg. What I learned in that course provided a solid foundation for the rest of my research career. Dr. Fribourg was the consummate teacher and mentor in that class, and his preparation and use of up-to-date teaching tools was exemplary.

I always enjoyed his intelligent banter that we shared at the UT retirees lunches we had every month the last few years. I could tell that Henry loved the back-and-forth that we always engaged in about myriad subjects. I truly looked forward to those gatherings, and always made sure I sat next to him when possible. He was a wonderful conversationalist, and could converse intelligently on just about any subject. I know I always looked to him when I wanted to know some esoteric point about any subject. Henry was full of knowledge, and he enjoyed sharing that with me. I will forever be grateful for his kindness and friendship.

I sill sorely miss him. He was a "oner" that can never be replaced.

Sincerely,

Larry G. Heatherly, MS Agronomy, UT Knoxville 1972.

Larry G Heatherly - September 27, 2020 at 08:10 PM



“ Dr Henry Fribourg was a highly respected member of the faculty of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and the Agricultural Experiment Station. I have many good memories of my long association with him and am deeply saddened by the news of his passing. My heartfelt condolences to his family.
Dr. Glen Hall, Dean Emeritus, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Glen Hall - September 27, 2020 at 03:02 PM



“ As a student I was smart enough to avoid his classes; but I respected him. I did work for him, doing grounds maintenance at the Center and pool for about 2 years, while I was a Graduate Research Asst., between 1972 and 1974, It was good experience. I tried to resign after the first year but he insisted I remain. He was planning on being out of the country the following year (or summer) and did not have time to train anyone else. So I remained. I have thought of him often. He left an impression. --
Mark Halcomb

Mark Halcomb - September 27, 2020 at 02:57 PM



“ Claudia, I am so sorry for your loss. I was so very fond of Henry from our days together in the Faculty Senate...I learned to sit where I could see him get roused up because that's when the fun would start. He was passionate and wise, a gentleman to the tips of his toes. And such a great sense of humor! I will keep you in my prayers going forward.
Kathy Bohstedt

Kathy Bohstedt - September 27, 2020 at 02:46 PM



“ So sorry for your loss

David Hennessee - September 27, 2020 at 02:05 PM



“ Claude, I am so sorry for your loss. I remember Henry as a brilliant, irascible gentleman who loved to get as good as he gave. He always treated me with respect and I liked him very much. He was a legend in Plant and Soil Sciences and I am sure his many students will never forget him. Stay well! Cynthia Walker

Cynthia Walker - September 27, 2020 at 09:23 AM



“ I have many memories of my interactions with Henry going back to 1974 when Judy and I first moved to Knoxville. Henry could be brusque and did not suffer fools but could be the kindest person you might know. We spent our first Passover in Knoxville with him and his family. He reached out and was inviting to a then young family new to Knoxville.

I served on the Temple Beth El Board and on committees with him. He was never uncomfortable expressing his opinions which you might not agree with but recognized were intelligent and thoughtful. I always enjoyed my discussions that often became debates with Henry. May he rest in peace after a life well lived.

Harvey and Judy Kaufman

Harvey Kaufman - September 27, 2020 at 09:05 AM



“ Dear Claudia and family,
Henry spent so much time giving to Temple Beth El that we are left with nothing but gratitude. Ilya and I always admired his tireless work on Holocaust remembrance. His generosity and openness were examples to us all, and the template he created for chairing the Cemetery Committee will help and inspire future leaders for many years to come. May his memory be a blessing.

Love,
Bella and Ilya Safro



Bella I. Safro - September 26, 2020 at 05:52 PM



“ I was an undergrad Agronomy student when he came. He added prestige to our department. Tough but fair Professor

George Lane - September 27, 2020 at 08:04 PM



“ Henry was a much loved mentor and friend to me. Peace to you, Claudia and family. Ann Kronk

Ann Kronk - September 29, 2020 at 02:29 PM



“ Dear Claudia, Daniel, and Family.

I deeply admired Henry, and through him I had the great pleasure of meeting Claudia. I really enjoyed speaking French with them both. I first met Henry when I was a PhD student at Iowa State University around 1980, which is where Henry had received his PhD about 25 years earlier. He gave a guest seminar on research that had been funded by NSF, which was unheard of for agronomy research, especially on cattle grazing. I was very impressed with his dapper 3-piece pinstripe suit, his personal history, the scholarly manner of his presentation, and his sharp wit. Our paths crossed many times when I was on the University of Arkansas faculty and we both did research on the tall fescue endophyte. Through those and other professional meetings I deepened my respect and appreciation of him and was charmed by Claudia. My last encounter is probably the most memorable. In 2017 I visited Knoxville to present a paper at the Southern Pasture Conference, at which Henry was an avid attendant. I had lunch with him and Claudia, and they gave me a tour of Temple Beth El. I was entranced by his description of the Holocaust Memorial Bookshelf, which he and Claudia initiated.

I send my deepest sympathies and best wishes to Henry's family for his loss. Henry's life has been a great gain for all, and he continues to live within us.

Chuck West

Chuck West - October 15, 2020 at 10:36 AM