

Editor's Commentary

In Memory of Dr. Gordon J. Aubrecht, II



AURCO was founded in 1993. The first peer reviewed journal was published in 1994. That means the organization and the Journal have decades of growth and content to be proud of. Yet, with the march of time there is also loss. Twenty participants attended the initial AURCO meeting and one of those founding members was Dr. Gordon J. Aubrecht, II. Gordon, 73, passed away at his home in Delaware, November 21, 2016. This edition of the journal is dedicated to Gordon.

It was Gordon's nature to start things that mattered. He devoted a great deal of time to AURCO because he believed in its mission. He published in the journal every year because he wanted it to contain high quality articles. If you read his physics articles you know what I mean; they were often too complex for most of us to fully grasp. The journal was of genuinely important to him because it provided a channel for him to externalize things he loved: original knowledge, science, and scholarly development. Gordon was a magnificent example of Kahlil Gibran's sentiment that "Work is love made visible."

Gordon stood out as a bright light in the world in so many ways and for all the right reasons. He possessed a scintillating intellect, was a detail detective, and a compassionate teacher who was vitally engaged with students, teachers, and peers. He cared about many things. That's what I liked about Gordon. He had passion. It was impossible to know him and overlook the simple fact that he was driven by a passionate zest for life.

One of my first memories of him was about twelve years ago, at the annual AURCO Conference. I was walking with a small group of mainstay AURCO members, all of which I was just getting to know. As we were talking I finished my bottle of water; one of those \$2.99 for 24 bottle deals you find at Giant Eagle. I promptly deposited it in the nearest garbage can. A large hand gently squeezed my shoulder and a deep voice said, "Let me show you where that goes." As Gordon reached into the garbage can to retrieve the misplaced pollutant he added, "We recycle around here." He then marched the entire group half way around campus looking for a proper recycling bin. It's an example of how he lived his life. He didn't just wait for the big opportunities to act on his convictions (he mastered those as well) but he grappled with the small moments. Whether it was the environment, a chance to talk about physics, or a moment to explain the power of theory, he was relentlessly engaged in the world. It felt like I was just getting to know Gordon and wish I knew him better.



Last October he said in no uncertain terms that he would make it to 100 years. I wish he had. He may not have made it to 100 but he squeezed more than a century into his 73 years.

He will be missed.

Our thoughts go out to his family and friends.

~Steven Toepfer

Editor-In-Chief, the AURCO Journal



Gordon left a wonderful legacy in his family. You can read more about Gordon and his family at the below link.

<http://www-physics.mps.ohio-state.edu/~aubrecht/family.html>