

Nancy Memorial 15 Nov. 2011 (J.W. Vaupel)

Nancy battled cancer for 13 years, never giving in, working hard at her jobs, in recent years at Duke, and caring for her partner Dale and also for Nancy's and my mother. She and I successfully ran a workshop at Duke on biodemographic research in May. Then her health started to decline sharply. Nonetheless, she carried out her Duke work until the end of September, when she was hospitalized.

From early October until her death on November 11th, her partner Dale visited her every day, which was a great comfort to her. She lived with our Mom the last weeks of her life and this was also a great comfort to her: every time I asked her about Mom, she said Mom is wonderful, Mom is amazing, Mom is so admirable, which is very true.

In addition to her partner Dale, Nancy was close to many people. She and my wife Bodil were long-time friends, spending a year in school together in Denmark in 1965-66 and staying close ever since. She deeply loved her niece Anna and also her other niece Sofie and Sofie's toddler Noah. And she cared about many other people.

Some of Nancy's friends and colleagues have emailed me about their sorrow. Let me quote a few remarks from a few of the messages I received.

--Everyone loved Nancy dearly.

--Nancy was a wonderful person. What a terrible loss!

--Nancy was a kind and open-minded **lady**.

--I am forever grateful we met. Nancy was one of a kind.

--Words fail me at this moment. Nancy was so loved, and such a fighter in many areas of her life.

--Even in her diminished condition, I drew strength from her.

--Nancy was truly a fighter ...! I feel blessed to have witnessed her bravery....Her fight and courage will always be an inspiration

--Her work was very important. Nancy will be long remembered by all who worked with her.

--I will miss Nancy very much. She was always exceptionally good-natured, helpful and diligent. It was a joy to work together with her.

--Nancy was extremely important for the Institute in Rostock and for the projects at Duke. She always provided valuable advice.

--Nancy was always in a good spirit, seeing the positive sides of life, and trying to push forward, regardless of her health or other problems

--Nancy was so active, positive, enthusiastic and helped me a lot.

--I had deep respect for Nancy's wisdom, but also for her kindness and warmth.

--Nancy was very professional but also a very kind and warm person, with positive thinking and a constructive way of giving feedback and input.

--To collaborate with Nancy Vaupel meant intense and professional exchange of knowledge, expertise, and advice combined with rare warmth and understanding.

--Nancy approached every project she involved herself in with commitment and enthusiasm, passion and dedication.

--Nancy was a fabulously positive person who was enormously talented. I am grateful I had a chance to know her.

--I will always remember Aunt Nancy for her smile, humor and infectious laugh.

--Please send Nancy my warmest goodbye.

When Nancy was young she was, like Homer's Trojans, a lover of horses. Sometimes we went riding together. And we went sailing, fishing, swimming and bicycling together. We had a dog, Geoffrey—and this past decade Nancy has been a lover of dogs—especially a very special dog, Shadow.

She was two years younger than me but two years more mature, so we were almost like twins. We enjoyed a wonderful childhood and were very close. What a joy to be young with loving parents and an almost twin! What a joy when so many bright paths open before you! But as Nancy grew older, more and more of the paths closed and she was finally left with a very arduous one. She never complained. She persevered. And she remained good-natured and positive.

Nancy gave much more than she took—not only at work but also in her personal life with her partner Dale... and with her mother, with me and my wife, daughters and grandson, with her other relatives and with her friends and colleagues. She was dedicated to her work and to those around her.

Her role in life was to help others. She gave much more, much much more than she took. And she strived to do so to the very end. What an honorable life! What an admirable person! What an exceptional sister!

This is a very sad day, but Nancy would prefer if it were not so sad. She liked to smile and to laugh and she deeply enjoyed it when other people smiled and laughed. So let me close with a joke she told me when she was 12 years old and had learned a smattering of Latin. Semper ubi, sub ubi. Semper is always—semper fidelis, always faithful. Sub is under—subterranean, under ground. And ubi is where—ubiquitous, every where. So, semper ubi, sub ubi—always where under where. Always wear underwear.

Long live Nancy's memory! Long live Nancy's example!