

In Memoriam

Christine Jaworek-Lopes
June 1, 1970-May 21, 2016

By Michael P. Filosa



As the *Nucleus* Editor I knew Christine as the meticulous organizer of National Chemistry Week for the Northeastern Section. Chris would invariably have the event organized by mid-summer and had her flyer announcing her plans ready for the *Nucleus* so that it could run in the Summer, September and October editions. Her events were very successful and I was always pleased to publish the reports she submitted on these events. She also won a number of Chemluminary Awards for her NCW efforts at Summer ACS National Meetings.

I also knew Christine as a fellow board member and Councilor for NESACS. It was at last summer's Boston Meeting that I found out she had been ill with advanced colon cancer since early in the year and was in the fight of her life. I, coincidentally, bumped into her in a back hall of the Convention Center. She looked well, I thought, and she thanked me for saying so. Later she attended Council while a pump was administering her chemotherapy.

Later I followed her illness through her Caring Bridge blog. She was generally upbeat and factual about her treatments and prognosis. She did her best and never gave up even when she wrote that the doctors said they had no more treatment options for her. She poignantly wrote after our last light snow on April 3rd , “I am glad it snowed today as this may be the last snow I see fall. Thanks for following the journey.” She will be missed by all of us who knew her.



Photo by Christine Jaworek-Lopes

I want to share a happy story from the Anaheim ACS Meeting in the Spring of 2011. I happened to rent a car for that trip since I have relatives in the area. I bumped into Christine and Marietta Schwartz who were rooming together at the conference. I don't recall exactly how it happened but I ended up agreeing to drive them to the airport. We had quite a few hours so we left the conference and went to the Long Beach Aquarium and enjoyed the sea creatures and other animals. I recall Marietta in a picture with a parakeet on her shoulder. We also stopped and enjoyed walking the beach. Somehow, I lost the photos I took, but the memories are still fond.

In addition to the Chemluminary Awards mentioned above, Christine was the 2015 recipient of the Henry A. Hill Award for Meritorious Service to the Northeastern Section and the 2008 E. Ann Nalley Northeast Regional Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS. She was a beloved Associate Professor of Chemistry at Emmanuel College where she was known as “Dr. J” or Dr. J-Lo.” Sister Janet, President of Emmanuel College, recently announced a new faculty award (Faculty Excellence in Service to the Community award) in honor of Christine. She is the first recipient of the Award. <http://ecthehub.com/2016/05/23/chemistry-professor-dr-christine-jaworek-lopes-passes-away/>



*Christine, Zach and Josh at the October 2015 Henry A. Hill Award Meeting.
Photo by Morton Z. Hoffman*

Christine was from Palmer, Massachusetts and was salutatorian of her class at Palmer High School. She received her B.S. and Ph.D. from Tufts University. During her time at Emmanuel she served as Chair of the Chemistry Department.

She is survived by her husband Joshua Lopes, her two children, Cassie and Zach, and two stepdaughters Abby and Lindsay all of Hanover, MA. She was predeceased by her father, Gerald. She is survived by her mother, Fryderyka Jaworek of Three Rivers, Massachusetts. She is also survived by her sister, Joanne Jaworek and husband, Ryan Betts of Brick, New Jersey.