



Dr. James Martin Redfern

March 11, 1940 - March 19, 2022

Dr. James Martin Redfern, an emeritus professor at the University of Arkansas and proud father, grandfather and husband, passed away March 19, 2022, in Fayetteville.

Redfern enjoyed learning about the lives of new people he met, celebrating his children's and grandchildren's achievements, drinking coffee, and cheering for the Razorbacks in all sports.

He was born in London on March 11, 1940, the son of John and Jessica Redfern, a newspaper foreign correspondent and elementary school teacher. He attended an independent day school for boys, Whitgift School, and was the senior naval cadet at that school before leaving England to attend college in Canada.

He found his permanent home in the United States – and in higher education. He never lost his British accent, dry sense of humor or his dark brown hair.

Survivors include wife Carole; son John Redfern (Brooke); daughters Tracy Youngdahl (Rich) and Anne Redfern Greenhaw; stepson George Shelton (Gina) and five grandchildren: Miller and Avery Redfern, Judge Greenhaw, and Katie and Carrick Shelton. He is also survived by brother Alan Redfern (and family), as well as his first wife, Betsy Jane Redfern.

Dr. Redfern was a lifelong learner who often spent weekends attending services at multiple churches, to get a deeper appreciation for diverse spiritual beliefs. He was compassionate and kind, volunteering in community meal preparation at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and creating a scholarship for agribusiness students. He'd been a member of Central United Methodist Church since 1968.

As an economist, Redfern enjoyed arcane business theory discussions. He was also adventurous. He drove a scooter on the tiny island of Anegada during one of his bareboat sailing trips in the British and U.S. Virgin Islands, rafted through the Grand Canyon,

explored Italy and St. Barts, rode (and crashed) bicycles at Pawley's Island, South Carolina, and went deep sea fishing and ziplining in Costa Rica.

He appreciated military history, road trips to see family in Colorado and fruitcake at Christmas. He loved being outdoors as a kid and an adult. As a child he spent holidays at a farm in Kent where he and his brother would explore the countryside, row boats and help on the farm, the inspiration for his later studies.

He attended McGill University in Canada, Iowa State University and Oklahoma State University, receiving his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees in agricultural economics.

His first – and last - academic job was at the University of Arkansas.

He was hired as an assistant professor in 1968 and promoted to associate professor, then professor before retiring as emeritus professor in 2007. He received many outstanding teacher and mentor awards. He served on the Arkansas Economic Advisory Council, was longtime advisor to the Agricultural Business Club, contributed research to multiple publications, and launched a successful internship program. His research focused on resource economics, rural economic development and the economics of food safety.

He met his wife, Carole, known as Cookie, when she joined Bumpers College as a recruiter. She was impressed by his empathy for students and work ethic, including memorizing every student's name in a class of 100+. He advised thousands of students, many of which, as graduates, would stop him on the street to voice their appreciation.

His retirement years were busy with Cookie, traveling with family and friends, supporting his grandchildren in their pursuits, as well as visiting with friend groups at Einstein Bagel, Village Inn, Panera, and other places.

His life will be celebrated on Friday, April 15, at 2 p.m. at Butterfield Trail Village, followed by a reception. Participants must be vaccinated, a requirement of the venue. Enter the village off Old Missouri Road, and a shuttle will run from the back parking lot.

Memorials may be made to the Martin & Carole Redfern Scholarship in Agribusiness, UofA Bumpers College, 217 Agriculture Building, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR 15. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Butterfield Trail Village
1923 East Joyce Blvd.
Fayetteville, AR

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *Martin and I celebrated our promotions in our living room. Along with Bernal Green, we worked on a lot of publications together. Martin never lost that distinctive accent. Condolences to his family.*

Mary Jo Schneider - March 31 at 08:59 PM

BJ

“ *I was sad to learn of Dr. Redfern's death. I've always remembered his kindness.*

When I was an administrative assistant in Bumpers College, I helped a little with a project he was involved with. Later, he gave me a written reference that helped me move into the professional position I had been seeking. He didn't have to do this--it was pure kindness and generosity. For years afterwards when we saw each other out and about, he would ask how I was doing, and he was sincerely interested.

Barbara Jaquish - March 26 at 04:32 PM

HB

“ *Cookie and family, so very sorry for your loss. Diane and I lived at Murray Hill apartments and were across the way neighbors with Martin and Betsy. Remember him fondly from those days, great guy! Know he will be missed greatly! Hubert Barksdale*

Hubert Barksdale - March 24 at 10:04 AM

DR

“ *Cookie and family,
I am so sorry for your loss. Martin was my undergraduate advisor and oversaw my internships at Winrock International during the summers of 1988 and 1989. He was always more than willing to answer questions and provide insightful advice. I also worked alongside him when I joined the AEAB faculty in 2000 and was again grateful for his welcoming support and wisdom as I started my academic career at the UA. He truly loved learning and imparting his wisdom to future generations. He will be greatly missed.
My sincere condolence,
Dan Rainey*

Dan Rainey - March 23 at 06:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. James Martin Redfern.*



March 23 at 05:36 PM

JM

“ *Martin was as kind and compassionate person one could know. When encountered the first words were his concern as to the station of my life. He was interested in hearing about me.. By the second sentence one found oneself talking about one’s latest thoughts projects or endeavor. Every time I left I felt I had some how not learned enough about him. He was a marvelous conversationist. He always seemed to extract from me some new insight or point of view leaving me feeling refreshed. I loved the way he adored Cookie and how much fun they had together. I will miss his kindness, his caring, and his soft warm smile and will always have them in my memory for reflection.*

Jay McDonald - March 23 at 05:30 PM

DF

“ *Martin was one of the world’s good guys. He was outstanding at everything he did but was always understated and humble. His family, his friends, his students and his university will always remember Martin with a smile a sense of good feelings for having known him.*

Dan Ferritor - March 23 at 12:42 PM

MC

Martin was one of those great guys (and professors) who touched everyone with genuine interest in them and his willingness to help. I have had so many tell me that me that if wasn’t for Martin, I never would have achieved, completed or taken this path. He was one that truly made a difference and left the world a better place. He was good friend and colleague to so many us. He will be missed. Mark Cochran

Mark Cochran - March 23 at 04:49 PM

RR

Cookie and Family,

Janet and I have been friends with Martin for many years and have always counted him among some of the most special people we have known. We also realize now what a gift we received to have shared dinners with Martin and Cookie at Butterfield Trail several recent evenings. Martin and I would often jog together after work, and I have never figured out how he could manage to jog and converse at the same time when all I could do was gasp for air. Martin loved life, all of his family, and his profession. He touched so many in such a caring and thoughtful way, and he lives in the hearts of each and everyone who had the privilege to know him. Rick and Janet Roessler

Rick Roessler - March 27 at 12:56 PM