Richard Stephen Gates, 67, of Ames, Iowa, passed away peacefully in his home after a bravely fought battle with pancreatic cancer. He was surrounded by loving family and friends during his last moments. A private celebration of life will be held on a later date.

Rich was born on May 1, 1956, in Plymouth, Minnesota. He was the son of the late David Stephen Gates and Margaret Byrd (Miller) Gates. He graduated from Rockford High School in 1974 and went on to study at the University of Minnesota where he received a Bachelor of Science in agricultural engineering (1978). Rich continued his education earning a master’s degree in Agricultural Engineering (1980) and doctoral degree in Biological Engineering (1984), both from Cornell University. Rich met Celia M. Osada while studying at Cornell, and they married on August 14, 1982, in Camillus, New York.

Rich’s zest for life started early on the farm in Minnesota, where he was the eldest of six children. He spent time working the farm by cultivating row crops and alfalfa, breeding pigs and Hereford cattle, and running a tree farm with his mother. Alongside his siblings, Rich helped his dad in his construction business, doing everything from building homes to renovating businesses. He cherished the time spent with his siblings, enjoying activities like taking canoe rides down the nearby river, riding horses and hunting with his Weimaraner Rex. Rich did not like milking the cows (surprisingly) or biking “uphill” on the county road 116 to go to town. Years later, Rich would revisit the infamous road 116, to discover that the hill was actually a gentle rise. His most beloved childhood memory occurred at age 14, when he took part in the wagon trail that ran from Minnesota to South Dakota first with his family horse, Goldie, and a second time riding her stubborn colt Rocket whom Rich saddle broke himself. His love for horses carried on through life as he integrated them into some of his research and even saddled up for a ride during one of his many trips to China, France, and South Africa.

Rich possessed an incredible wealth of practical, applied and experimental engineering knowledge and skills. His work encompassed research, teaching, and extension, all centered on controlled environment agriculture, with an emphasis on ventilation, control systems and physiological responses of animals with their environment. He also conducted research on animal welfare, precision livestock farming, post-harvest loss, and greenhouse ventilation. Rich’s extension work specialized in applying research to address issues related to efficient livestock production, including air emissions and their mitigation, odor control and facility siting, environmental control systems, avian influenza prevention, emergency ventilation shutdown, manure management, and strategies for reducing heat stress. Notably, Rich held a patent and had
developed eight different inventions in these fields, now widely adopted in the agricultural equipment industry across the U.S. and Europe.

Rich’s love for life, research and education led him on numerous international adventures during his tenure as a professor at the University of Kentucky, University of Illinois, and Iowa State University. His professional research travels included Australia, Brazil, China, South Africa, Greece, Japan, and Israel, sharing his knowledge as one of the most highly regarded agricultural engineers in the world. Of these many places, Rich particularly cherished his numerous trips to Brazil that were filled with fond memories such as farm visits, road trips, and enjoying churrasco and caipirinhas with his colleagues, friends, and students across Brazil.

Rich was a beloved professor to many, mentoring and influencing over 110 students during their journeys toward master’s and doctoral degrees, many of whom now hold positions in industry, university or government research institutions in the U.S., Brazil, China and Europe. He was a perpetual teacher at heart and a selfless mentor to all he encountered, leaving a lasting influence not only as a professor but also as a colleague and administrator – serving as chair of the University of Kentucky Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering (2002 – 2007) and briefly as acting chair for the Department of Animal Science at Iowa State University (2020). Rich’s extensive research portfolio included over 200 peer-reviewed publications, more than 400 presentations and invited lectures across the world, and many popular press articles.

Rich remained dedicated to his work until his final days. At the time of his passing, he held the Iowa Egg Council Endowed Professor at Iowa State University and served as the Director of the Egg Industry Center. Rich was also a professor in both the Departments of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and Animal Science. He was a licensed professional engineer and a proud member of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ASABE) for over 40 years, earning the prestigious ASABE fellowship in 2010. Rich had been a devoted member of the Poultry Science Association for 35+ years and a longstanding contributor to the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers for 25+ years. Throughout his illustrious career, he received numerous awards, including two Presidential Citations and the Henry Giese Structures and Environment Award (ASABE), Outstanding Teacher Award (University of Kentucky), two advising awards (University of Illinois).

Rich treasured mentoring students and spending time with family and friends the most. An avid lover of the outdoors, he often traveled to visit his mother at his parents’ cabin in Minnesota and, eventually, to his sister’s ranch in Oregon. He also loved driving, smoking cheap cigars, loading and shooting, fishing, and going four wheeling across mountain tops with his family.

Rich is survived by his wife, Celia Gates of Illinois; his mother, Margaret Gates of Oregon; his brothers, John (Cathryn) Gates of Massachusetts, David Jr. (Donna) Gates of California, Will (Kerri) Gates of Australia, Ted (Linda) Gates of Michigan; his sister, Lois Gates of Oregon; his adoptive daughter, Yijie Xiong of Nebraska, and nephews Sam (fiancé Amanda) Gates of Idaho and Henry (Paige) Gates of New Jersey.

Rich is preceded in death by his father, David Gates.
Gerald Edward Klonglan
April 1, 1936-March 17, 2023

Gerald Edward Klonglan 86, of Ames, Iowa passed away peacefully with family at his side on March 17, 2023. Gerald was born April 1, 1936 in rural Story County, Iowa to Bernie and Willene Klonglan, the second of two children. Gerald graduated from Fernald High School in 1954 and went on to earn BS, MS, and PhD degrees from Iowa State College (now Iowa State University) focusing on Rural Sociology. On June 29, 1960 Gerald was united in marriage to Eileen Becvar of Colo, Iowa. They have resided in Ames, Iowa for 63 years. He was a member of numerous organizations, including Bethesda Lutheran Church, Rotary International, FarmHouse fraternity, and was a founding member of the ISU Foundation's Order of the Knoll. Gerald proudly served his country in the Army Reserve. Gerald was an emeritus professor of sociology at Iowa State University and former associate dean for national programs and assistant director of the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station. A nationally recognized sociologist and advocate for the college's global involvement and diversity programs, Gerald received his bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctorate in rural sociology from Iowa State University. During his tenure, Gerald led the charge for the college's educational collaboration and research on a global level. Under his leadership, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences was top in the nation among Land-Grant institutions for grants awarded from the USDA National Research Initiative Program. His involvement was key to long-term global grant development projects in places like Malawi, Ghana, Zambia, Saudi Arabia, and China. Gerald was a key figure in establishing research collaborations and graduate education projects with 1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Native American Indian Tribal Land-Grant Colleges—many of which remain in place today. His contributions have been recognized with numerous awards, including a USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service Award; a Gamma Sigma Delta Distinguished Achievement in Agriculture Award of Merit, an Iowa State University Alumni Association Alumni Service Award, and the George Washington Carver Distinguished Service Award. In retirement, Gerald devoted much of his time developing relationships and projects in the Kilimanjaro Region of Tanzania primarily through Bethesda Lutheran Church, Rotary International, and Empower Tanzania. Gerald also enjoyed attending Iowa State University athletic events, vacationing, and spending time with his grandchildren. Gerald is survived by his wife Eileen, son Jason, daughter and son-in-law Suzanne and James Potts, grandchildren Carolyn and Alexander Potts, and family friend James Smejkal. He is also survived by his brother Eugene Klonglan, niece Kirsten (Doug) Nolde, and her family.
Fredrick O. Lorenz

Frederick Oscar Lorenz passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, August 29 of Lewy Body Dementia. Fred was a highly cherished scholar, collaborator, teacher, mentor and friend to many, many people.

Frederick (Fred) was born on October 8, 1948, in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, the third of four children. He graduated from Manitowoc Lutheran High School in 1966, received an A.A. from Bethany Lutheran College (1968), a B.S. in mathematics from Mankato State University (1970), and an M.S. in economics from South Dakota State University (1972). After working as a research analyst for Aid Association for Lutherans (now Thrivent) in Appleton, Wisconsin, he entered graduate school at Iowa State University where he received a Ph.D. in sociology (1981). He joined the faculty at Iowa State University in 1980 where he held joint appointments in the Department of Sociology (and later the Department Psychology) and the Department of Statistics, as well as the Institute for Social and Behavioral Research, before retiring in 2016.

Fred was a prominent researcher with over 120 sole authored or co-authored publications in refereed research journals and numerous book chapters. He was an outstanding teacher and mentor, and a selfless consultant to faculty and graduate students on statistical issues related to their research. Fred was an essential member of the team of scientists who launched a decades long study of Iowa families in farming communities, evaluating the response of these families to the economic crisis in rural Iowa. He designed and oversaw a new certificate in Quantitative Psychology. He served on a vast number of graduate student dissertation committees in many disciplines, and his students appreciated his ability to help them develop needed quantitative research skills. The University recognized the significance of his contributions in 2002 by naming Fred a University Professor.

As a statistical consultant, Fred supported the research activity of hundreds of faculty members and graduate students in many disciplines. He was generous with his time and expertise and was well known for his patience and clarity of explanation. His colleagues and students not only respected his statistical mentorship but also greatly enjoyed his friendship and good humor. A prominent personal benefit of this activity was that Fred met the woman he would marry, Dr. Roberta Vann, while providing statistical
advice to a group of researchers engaged in teaching English as a second language. They married in 1984 and their daughter, Katherine Vann-Lorenz, was born in 1985.

Fred's research has impacted the field of sociopsychological research in many ways. First, his work pioneered the use of nonlinear models in assessing the influence of life stress on mental health and physical well-being, while accounting for mediating effects of psychosocial resources such as level of social support. Second, Fred's work distinguished chronic ongoing stress, stemming from socioeconomic situations and life roles, from acute stress, resulting from specific life events. He pioneered the application of growth curve models to capture the severity, chronicity, and long-term physical and mental health consequences of stress experiences. Specifically, his work investigated long-term health consequences of chronic family economic hardship and the stress-buffering role of spousal support. Participating in international studies, Fred’s research showed that these associations are valid in cross-cultural contexts.

Fred gave relationship status and marital relationship quality a prominent place in his research program. He investigated marital relationship quality as a resource which not only operates as a stress buffer but also acts as a powerful direct contributor to individual well-being. Fred pioneered methodologies using both observational and questionnaire data to capture distinct aspects of marital relationship quality. His work, for example, provides quantitative assessment of the effects of supportive relationships on cushioning the impact of family economic hardship on long-term mental and physical health of husbands and wives. Acknowledging his work on multiple occasions, the National Institutes of Health supported his decades long longitudinal studies on effects of intimate relationships on mental and physical well-being. Fred's research also focused on divorce as a unique stressful event associated with both short-term effects and decades-long effects on women's health. He showed that divorce has both short-term mental health and long-term physical health consequences for mothers. The same longitudinal studies also provided opportunities to document the extent to which parenting behaviors are carried across generations.

Fred introduced sophisticated and powerful analytical techniques to evaluate interesting sociopsychological hypotheses and model trends in associations between quality of marital relationships and changes in physical and mental health of mothers and fathers over time. His numerous methodological research publications provide critical information and guidance for performing and analyzing longitudinal social and behavioral research. He co-authored a methodological book, “Higher-order Growth Mixture Modeling,” that has been well received and highly cited.

Outside of the university, Fred was a loving husband and father, a loyal and generous member of his church and community, with a deep interest in both theology and
science. He was also a lifelong runner, spending almost every lunch hour running in the YMCA woods, rain, shine, snow, or ice. A nature and animal lover, Fred enjoyed hiking in the Pyrenees, the Rockies, or local Iowa prairies and forests.

Fred's outlook was unfailingly positive, and he gently energized everyone he encountered. He was a prolific scholar, and a wonderful colleague.
Steven C. Padgitt
April 7, 1943-October 27, 2023

https://www.grandonfuneralandcremationcare.com/obituary/660618/Steven-Padgitt/

Steven C. Padgitt, 80, died on October 27, 2023, at Israel Family Hospice House in Ames, Iowa. He was the Emeritus Professor of Rural Sociology at Iowa State University.

Steve graduated from Grand Valley high school in 1961. After graduating from Iowa State (B.S., 1965), he spent two years at the University of Missouri (M.S.,1967), then returned to Iowa State to work on a doctoral degree in Sociology. He met Janet Barfels through the course of completing his PhD research, and they were married on May 28, 1971.

Steve joined the faculty at University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire, where he taught for 9 years and attained the rank of Associate Professor. He and Janet built a house and started their family in Eau Claire, with Courtney born in 1975 and Noelle in 1978. Janet and Steve returned to Ames in 1980, and Steve was offered a tenure-track position with the Iowa State University Extension Service in the Sociology department in 1983. His career at Iowa State included travel all over the state of Iowa, conducting research, leading workshops and guiding training, as well as on-campus teaching, advising, and administrative roles. He was promoted to full professor in 1994. He was respected by his fellow faculty members, and his mentoring of graduate students and advisees often evolved into life-long friendship. Steve enjoyed family vacations, ski trips to Colorado, and cruising around in his 1958 Edsel Pacer convertible, purchased in 1994 in an extremely rare act of self-indulgence. "Padgitts are resourceful", he told his family, and he enjoyed building, fixing, and tinkering throughout his life.

Upon retirement in 2012, Steve turned his attention to addressing hunger (and food waste) in his local community. What started out as an occasional excursion with Abbie the golden retriever to "glean" day-old bread from Hy-Vee and leftover pizza from Pizza Ranch evolved over time into an integral role with Food at First. Steve not only volunteered, he served on the board and participated in grant writing. Steve was an ordained Elder and Deacon, but most enjoyed his role as a "church basement lady" on the funeral committee. Steve accompanied youth group mission trips to Kentucky, Minneapolis, and Missouri. He also served on the board at Home for a While, ensuring access to transitional housing for families in need. He and Janet traveled extensively in Europe and most of the United States. Steve is survived by his wife Janet, his children Courtney (Jenny) Padgitt, and Noelle (Shaun) Morrell, and his grandchildren, Alexi Joan Padgitt, Andrew Graham Padgitt, and Simon Gerald Morrell, his brothers Merritt (Chloe) Padgitt and Dennis (Janice) Padgitt, as well as his nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews.
John L. Tait
November 25, 1933-July 21, 2023

John Lawrence Tait, 89, of Ames, IA, died Friday, July 21, 2023 at Green Hill Retirement Community in Ames.

John was born November 25, 1933, in the family home on Koolspring Farm, Mercer County, PA which his Scottish family had settled in 1800. He graduated from Penn State with a B.S. in animal husbandry in 1956. He was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho and the Livestock Judging Team competing across the country.

After 6 months in the PSU Extension Service, he was drafted into the Army where he served two years in Germany. He returned to Centre County, PA, working as the assistant county agent for 6 years prior to heading to Ames, IA, where he earned a MS (1964) and PhD (1970) in rural sociology from Iowa State University. He spent the remainder of his career in the ISU Extension Services on faculty in the Rural Sociology department. Two great joys were supporting rural Iowa community leaders and advising graduate students from Africa and Asia. He retired in 1992.

He married his “sweetheart for life,” Margaret Anne Brown in 1964 and they soon welcomed two wonderful daughters. He was playful and silly as a father and that extended to his 3 cherished grandchildren. In his final years, his caring nature and playful demeanor were abundant at the Green Hills Care Center where in turn he received excellent care.

A lifelong Presbyterian, he served many roles at Collegiate Presbyterian Church in Ames. He was also active in Kiwanis, Heartland Senior Services, the Iowa Democratic Party and had an enduring commitment to peace and social justice.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 59 years, Margaret Anne Brown Tait; sister-in-law, Peg Tait, of Mercer, PA; two daughters, Lisa Tait Longo (Andy) of Fishers, IN; and Ellen Marie Tait (Igor Alarcon) of Santiago, Chile; three grandchildren, Emma Longo, Michael Longo and Amaya Alarcon; two nieces and two nephews.
Betty LaVergne Toman

June 23, 1926 – October 12, 2023

Betty Toman, “the lady who taught us to dance,” passed away October 12, 2023 at the age of 97 in Green Valley, AZ.

Before retiring from Iowa State University, she was a long-time resident of Ames, IA, where she enjoyed a 40-year career as a beloved faculty member and community artist.

Betty started out with energy and enthusiasm. Born in Berwyn, IL, she was performing by age 3, appearing at the 1933-34 Chicago World’s Fair and earning one of the first modern dance “letters” at Morton High School, IL. She went on to earn an undergraduate degree in dance at the University of Wisconsin and a master’s from Iowa State.

Betty came to Iowa State in 1948 to teach beginning dance classes, which became her special genius throughout her long career, whether at ISU or in Master Classes given throughout the U.S. and abroad.

During her ISU tenure, a dance emphasis was added to the physical education major curriculum and a dance minor was made available to students in any area of study at ISU.

Betty, her students, and her accompanist/collaborator Evelyn Jensen, launched the ISU Dance Company on Tour and for 20 years traveled the Midwest giving innovative lecture-demonstrations. Betty also advised Iowa State’s Stars Over Veishea and for 22 years directed Barjche (bar-shay), the annual student dance concert. Her list of performances, speeches, journal articles, and demonstrations easily tops 300.
Betty’s academic appointments progressed from Instructor to Distinguished Professor. She was named Distinguished Professor Emerita of Education in 1988. Her career was recognized with ISU’s Outstanding Teacher Award and a Faculty Citation from the Alumni Association. ISU’s dance studios now carry her name. Her work on behalf of professional associations is so comprehensive that a listing would take pages. She served as President of the National Dance Association in 1980, then the largest dance organization in the country, which later gave her its Heritage Award.

Betty Toman’s students can be found in professional dance and theater companies in the U.S. and abroad; others work as teachers and administrators in education and arts organizations.

The greatest number, however, are not professional dancers or dance teachers. They are engineers, agriculturists, veterinarians, business men and women, journalists, scientists, or a host of other professionals. Because of Betty Toman, they experienced the universal language of dance and left Iowa State, not only with their professional degrees, but as creative people with a keener appreciation of dance (and life).

Betty Toman was preceded in death by her parents, Michael and Anna Toman, her brother and his wife Arthur (Emma) Toman, and her niece Donna Toman. Surviving family members include her niece, Debra (Charles) Norris, great niece Julienne Stump, and great nephew Jeffrey Stump.

Betty’s ashes were interred at the Iowa State University cemetery.