

TRIBUTE

John Huizenga: A Remarkable Life

They say you should go to seminars because you can always learn something. Well, sometimes the effect can be profound, as it was in my case, when John Huizenga's seminar at the new German heavy-ion research laboratory, GSI, in the summer of 1974 changed the direction of my career as a nuclear scientist. Fascinated by the new reaction phenomena John had described in his typically lucid and compelling fashion, it only took me a year before I had joined his team at Rochester.

At the time, the University's Nuclear Structure Research Lab was bustling with students and researchers from various parts of the world performing experiments at the local accelerator and at the Berkeley, Los Alamos, and Argonne national labs. As an influential leader in a new field, John attracted an international cohort of young scientists. His enthusiasm and deep scientific insights, matched with caring mentorship, were the reasons

why everyone in his group maxed out their initial appointment—or exceeded it by a large factor.

We learned a lot in these years about nucleus and nuclear interactions, leading to a number of seminal publications. When someone marked one of Huizenga's electronic modules with a repair note reading "Huizenga—No Output," everybody burst out laughing at this contradiction.

John's contributions included the codiscovery of elements 99 (einsteinium) and 100 (fermium), kept secret for 50 years for reasons of national security, and the still popular book *Nuclear Fission*, which he coauthored with Bob Vandenbosch. He received numerous honors and fellowships and was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1976. In the late 1980s,

John achieved international attention as cochair of a Department of Energy panel investigating scientific claims that cold fusion was the route to cheap, safe, and abundant energy. The panel concluded that the research was flawed. In 1994, John detailed the controversy and the lessons learned in *Cold Fusion: The Scientific Fiasco of the Century* (Oxford).



NUCLEAR CHEMIST: Huizenga made waves with his book *Cold Fusion: The Scientific Fiasco of the Century*.

John first learned about fusion at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory as a recruit to the wartime Manhattan Project. For years, he had stories to tell about the scientists and engineers sequestered at the uranium enrichment plant Y12, where they lived isolated in hastily constructed barracks, working around the clock for an ambitious goal that would change the world.

John's time at Oak Ridge naturally sparked a lifelong fascination with nuclear reactions involving uranium and transuranic nuclei, first as nuclear chemist at Argonne National

Laboratory from 1955 to 1967, and from 1967 to 1991 at Rochester, where he would become the Tracy H. Harris Professor of Chemistry, and from 1983 to 1988, chair the department.

John, who died in January at the age of 92, managed to be a family man who appreciated the important role his wife, Dolly, played in supporting him in his professional life and running a family of six. John's own former students and associates join his "kids" in celebrating his remarkable life, and acknowledging his influence on their lives and personal development.

—Wolf-Udo Schröder

Schröder is a professor of chemistry and physics at Rochester.

practiced dentistry at the Eastman Institute for Oral Health prior to turning to a career in higher education administration.

1996 Jay Yelon (Flw) has coedited *Geriatric Trauma and Critical Care* (Springer). He's the chairman of the surgery department at Lincoln Medical Center in the Bronx.

1999 Heather Evans (MD),

assistant professor of surgery at the University of Washington in Seattle, was a winner of Google's #ifihadglass contest, making her one of the first 8,000 people to work with Google's technology-enhanced eyeglasses. Heather writes that she's using Google Glass "to explore how wearable computing, with the ability to transmit live or recorded images captured at the eye level of the operator, might be used to enhance

surgical training through performance feedback and remote intraoperative consultation." Her work with Google Glass was the subject of a story in the *Seattle Times* last November.

2003 Pediatrician Neville Anderson (MD) was named a "Top Rising Super Doctor" by *Los Angeles Magazine* in 2013. In April, she opened her own practice, Larchmont Pediatrics, on

Larchmont Boulevard in Los Angeles.

2005 Wen Dombrowski (MD) has been named chief medical information officer and vice president of the Visiting Nurse Association Health Group in New Jersey.

School of Nursing

1970 Nancy Heller Cohen (see '70 College).

1983 Nancy Gaden has been named senior vice president and chief nursing officer at the Boston Medical Center.

Simon Business School

1971 Ron Gidrón (MBA) is a composer and singer in Madrid. In January, he released his seventh CD, *Sounds of the Heart* (Ron Gidró). Ron writes instrumental and vocal pieces, the latter in three languages: Spanish, Hebrew, and English. Ron writes that prior to his musical career, he was an executive with Xerox and IIT. He streams much of his music at www.rongidron.com.

1980 Bill Jewett (MBA) has coauthored *Robustness Development and Reliability Growth: Value-Adding Strategies for New Products and Processes* (Prentice Hall). Bill is a consultant helping businesses to improve engineering and management processes and project management strategies. Previously, he worked for Kodak and Heidelberg Druckmaschinen.

1983 Kathy Waller (MBA) (see '80 College).

1985 Mark Quinlan (MBA) (see '82 College).

1988 Betsy Tanner Wright (MBA), president and chief executive officer of the WCA Hospital in Jamestown, N.Y., has been named one of western New York's "Power 250," a *Buffalo Business First* list of the most influential people in western New York.

1994 David Cutitta (MBA)