

**1996 Andre Hill** (MBA) has joined Preferred Mutual Insurance, a provider of property and casualty insurance in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, as vice president of customer and product strategy.

**2007 Bill Wayne** (MS) has been named project executive at DiMarco Construction Group in Rochester.

**2012 Nick Yu-Shan Hsu** (MS) has published a book in his native Mandarin Chinese: *Love in NYC: A Journey to a Better Me* (Reading Times).

**2013 Jonathan Sandgarten** has joined ComSource, a seller and lessor of new and refurbished computer hardware, as director of financial services.

**2014 Suraj Chivukula** (MBA) has been named assistant general counsel for patents and intellectual property at New Jersey Institute of Technology.

## Warner School of Education

**1968 Mary Lou Myers Grevatt** (MA) (see '57 College).

**1969 John Cotnam** (EdD) sends a photo of himself and two other Rochester alumni at a luncheon of the Monomoy Yacht Club held last June at the Wequasset Resort in Harwich, Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Pictured from left to right are John, **Read Moffett** '70 (PhD), who earned his doctorate in physics, and **Donald Edge** '74 (PhD), who earned his doctorate in English.

**1970 Richard Kellogg** (EdD), a professor emeritus of psychology at Alfred State College, has published *Barry Baskerville Traps a Thief* (Airship 27), the third book in his Sherlock Holmes-inspired series for children ages 6 to 10.

**1994 Don Drennon Gala** (PhD) writes that he has contributed three chapters to three recent books on special education. "Preparing Teachers to Maximize the Potential of Gifted Students" appears in *Critical Issues Preparing Effective Early Childhood Special Education Teachers for the 21st Century Classroom: Interdisciplinary Perspectives* (Information Age

## TRIBUTE

# Susumu Okubo '58 (PhD): A Gentle and Humble Giant

Susumu Okubo '58 (PhD) was a towering figure in theoretical physics. But he was so gentle and humble that when you spoke with him, you would never realize just how much he knew.

I first met Susumu in 1982, when he came to pick me up at the airport when I arrived at Rochester just before accepting an appointment as assistant professor of physics. Susumu was hired at Rochester in 1962 as a research associate and became a full professor of physics in 1964. In the early 1960s, his research led to what became known as the Gell-Mann-Okubo mass formula, which provided exact predictions of known hadronic particles. This was based on mathematical symmetries which had a major impact on the development of elementary particle physics. He also made significant contributions to other areas of theoretical particle physics.

In the late 1960s, when Andrei Sakharov was formulating three fundamental requirements for understanding the baryon asymmetry of the universe, he relied on Susumu's research, and credited Susumu in verse: *From S. Okubo's effect, at high temperature / A fur coat is tailored, to fit the skewed form of the universe.*

This was the giant figure waiting for me at the airport to welcome me to Rochester, even though we had never met earlier.

As colleagues for more than 30 years, Susumu and I collaborated on two papers and a book. He was kind and generous even when we were not

Publishing); "Diversity, Technology, and Global Interaction: Educational Implications," appears in *Diversity in the Classroom: Integrated Framework beyond Chalk and Talk* (Linus Publications); and "Families and Students with Learning Disabilities," is included in *Learning Disabilities: Practice Concerns and Students with LD* (Emerald Group). Don adds: "My upcoming work will address both home and school environments and the perceptions of safety and social support and their

collaborating on a project. Once, as I was working on a difficult problem, I went to Susumu's office to explain my dilemma on a certain point. He said, "Oh, Ashok, you always ask difficult questions." But he said he would think about it. And that's



**OKUBO'S EFFECT:** Okubo made key contributions to theoretical particle physics.

what he did, even though it was not his problem.

The next morning, he came to my office with an answer. When I suggested we should write the result together, he said, "Oh, no, it was just a small thing."

Susumu was a quiet man, but we would have long conversations about life. He was interested in many things. He read literature, book reviews, magazines, and would share articles with me. He and his wife, Mary, loved scuba diving. He was very good at it and took up underwater photography.

Although he retired in 1995, he never stopped coming to work and publishing papers. A couple of days before he died last July at the

age of 85, he had just completed his last paper. Following a Japanese tradition, Susumu wrote a short death poem (*jisei no ku*). It reflected a lot of what we used to talk about.

*To be or not to be? Quantum Dream of the Schrödinger Cat.  
Farewell, Farewell Forever. Departure time now to the Black Hole.  
Never to Return. Farewell.*

—ASHOK DAS

*Das is a professor of physics at Rochester.*

impact on learning and behavior." Don retired from the Federal Bureau of Prisons in 2008, where he was a federal law enforcement officer working in treatment, case management, and investigations. He's now an independent contractor with the Department of Justice.

**2013 Michelle Desrosiers** (MS) (see '09 College).

**2014 Jack Connell** (EdD) has been named executive vice president for

enrollment and strategic initiatives at Roberts Wesleyan College.

## In Memoriam

### ALUMNI

**Frederick J. Peiffer** '37,  
September 2015

**Denis A. Radefeld** '41,  
August 2015

**T'Mahry Stolnitz Axelrod** '42,  
September 2015

**Norma Meyer Reckhow** '43,  
July 2015