



Nina I. McClelland PhD

August 21, 1929 - August 16, 2020

Nina Irene McClelland, PhD, a woman of faith who generously used her time, talents and treasure to benefit others died Sunday August 16, 2020 five days prior to her 91st birthday.

Nina McClelland was born August 21, 1929 the daughter of Lillian and Henry McClelland. She was preceded in death by her mother, Lillian Welker McClelland, her aunts Valda Collins and Fern Mervos, dear family friend Lavone Witting, her cousin Willard Collins, her second cousins Kenneth Collins and Gary Hoodlebrink. She is survived by her cousins Richard (Barbara) Collins of Bradenton, FL, Janet Hoodlebrink of Pemberville, OH, Karen Collins of Bellfontaine, OH, Robert Mervos (Phyllis) of Lancaster, PA, Mary Jo Gibson (Edward) of Berryville, VA, and Joy Benedek (John) of N. Huntingdon, PA. She is also survived by ten second cousins and eleven third cousins.

Nina was raised by a single mom; she enjoyed the love and support of her grandparents and her beloved Aunt Fern. Her exposure to women in scientific fields started early in life; she was sitting in a calculus class at seven years old at the University of Toledo, taught by her Aunt Fern. While Nina found great academic success in her life, she would have been quick to tell she initially was not a serious student. One was more likely to find her name in the college newspaper for hitting a softball or sinking a basket as she was involved in just

about every team sport on campus. She joined the Alpha Chi Omega sorority, where she learned to play bridge and pinochle with the best of them and was darn good at euchre too. She switched majors a number of times, landing on Pre-med. She was accepted into medical school, but had to turn it down to stay in Toledo to help her newly widowed Grandmother. She took a laboratory job in Toledo for the sum of \$16 per week. It was this job that got her hooked on chemistry. In the 1960's people were beginning to understand how human activity could affect the environment. Her research as a graduate student was part of the immense effort to change the chemical structure of surfactants in household detergents to make them biodegrade more easily.

Dr. McClelland, a member of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Honor Society, is internationally recognized for her expertise in environmental chemistry and she dedicated her life to using science to make this world a better place. During her career she was a principal and consultant with the International Clean Water Program, a humanitarian program dedicated to providing health care, safe drinking water, good education, disease control and other essential needs to developing countries. She also served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Water Treatment Chemicals and for three terms on the Environmental Protection Agency's National Drinking Water Advisory Council. Dr. McClelland addressed the United Nations on the issue of clean drinking water. While living in Ann Arbor and working as President and Chief Executive Officer of NSF International she gave freely of her time to the Ann Arbor community. Her leadership as chairman of the board at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Ann Arbor was recognized this past fall by naming their board room the Nina I McClelland, Ph.D. Board Room. Her ability to apply consensus principles to management decisions and her reputation for fairness, objectivity and innovation served her well as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Toledo.

Nina was intensely motivated to work, but found time for fun. She enjoyed

family time at Lake George in Indiana with her mother, friend Shorty and her cousins. She loved being on the water in her Inland Cat sail boat dubbed La Nina by her friends or her power speedboat christened Nina's Folly. Nina loved being at the center of the action, whether standing next to Sally Ride during a space launch, sitting with the University of Michigan President when her beloved Toledo Rockets football team beat the Michigan Wolverines or being with Mike Ilitch when the Detroit Tigers won the World Series in 2006.

Nina was recognized as an amazing woman with an untold number of accomplishments. Her network of friends and colleagues spans the globe. She was the quintessential networker, always ready to make a call to help a friend or solve a problem. She valued her family and friends above all else and appreciated all those who reached out to her in her final years. Special thanks for the wonderful care Nina and her beloved dachshund dog Haileigh received during her final days at Sunset Village.

Friends are invited to visit on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 from 2:00-8:00p.m. in the Ansberg-West Funeral Home 3000 Sylvania Avenue (between Secor and Douglas Roads). Masks will be required for entry and social distancing recommendations will be followed. Funeral services conducted by Reverend Richard Habrecht will be private on Thursday at 1:30pm.

Due to current conditions caused by the ongoing pandemic, we are offering a Live Stream of the service beginning at 1:15pm for those who wish to attend the Service virtually.

To view the Live Stream of Nina's Funeral Service, please click here (<https://vimeo.com/450174408/00c4326c88>).

To register for the Live Stream so you receive a reminder email and calendar

invite, click here (<https://calendly.com/consoleum/bernice-sellers-funeral-clone>)

Registering for the service will both help the family know who attended as well as providing the opportunity for technical support, if you should need any, before and during the service.

Private Interment will be in Toledo Memorial Park. Those wishing to make memorial contributions are asked to consider making donations to the Dr. Nina McClelland Laboratory for Water Chemistry and Environmental Analysis (fund #1302517) at the University of Toledo Foundation, 4510 Dorr Street, Toledo, Ohio 43615-4040.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 19. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Ansberg-West Funeral Home
3000 W. Sylvania Ave
Toledo, OH 43613

Tribute Wall

ML

“ *Nina was an inspiration to all that knew her. She expected your best, so you did your best. I will miss her, our debates and of course our long lunches at Bob Evans.* ”

Mary K Lambert - August 24, 2020 at 07:52 PM



“ *Anyone who knew Dr. Nina McClelland understands what I'm talking about when I say she was sweet and gentle and tough as nails at the same time. She was a true leader, visionary, and influential pioneer. I cannot even put into words the amount of respect and admiration I had for her.* ”

Nina left the world in much better shape than she found it, and I'm grateful and thankful for her life and all she did to better the world.

8 years ago Nina spoke at my Dad's Memorial Service. She gave a beautiful talk that day and it meant very much to my family. She said a quote during her talk symbolic of how she lived her life.

"Your life is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift to others."

Her life was a gift indeed. RIP Dr. McClelland.

Brad Switzer - August 21, 2020 at 09:42 AM

AP

“ Words are inadequate to describe what Nina has done for the American Chemical Society. I worked with her on various committees. The closest, almost day-to-day was when as ACS President led the Society with her as Chairman of the Board of Directors. we worked together as a very successful team. My condolences to her family. I will miss her very much
Attila Pavlath

Attila Pavlath - August 20, 2020 at 04:10 PM

HB

“ Harvey B. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Nina I. McClelland PhD.



Harvey B. - August 20, 2020 at 02:26 PM

HB

“ Nina had a brilliant intellect and was a dear friend. She cared deeply about many causes and institutions - and especially friends. She would do anything for a friend - and she did. She gave life everything she had and it never ceased to amaze me how involved she was in academic and other activities even in the later years of her life. Family meant a huge amount to Nina and she loved her family. We had numerous conversations on many subjects and I was honored by her trust and confidence. The world has lost a great leader, innovator, and educator and my wife Shelly and I will dearly miss Nina.

Harvey Berman - August 20, 2020 at 02:15 PM

SH

“ *A great lady. Kind. Loving. Generous. May she rest in peace.*

Stan Hazan - August 20, 2020 at 01:57 PM

JC

“ *I'll be sending a donation in Nina's name to the Nina McClelland chemistry laboratory at UT. It is part of her legacy.*

Joe Cotruvo - August 20, 2020 at 12:34 PM

FL

“ *Nina was an amazing contributor to the American Chemical Society and a personal friend to many of us. She played a major role in support of my career at ACS and I am forever indebted to her for her time, generosity, and support. She was always trying to make connections between people and organizations with which she was involved, and in doing so, developed lasting and meaningful partnerships. We miss (and thank) you Nina!*

Flint Lewis - August 20, 2020 at 11:46 AM

MI

“*Nina was truly a force of nature. A true scientist who loved God, her family, her puppy and humanity in general. Twenty years ago, I met her while on the ANSI Board of Directors and struggling to get my arms around emerging chemical regulation from around the world. After laying out the issues for a few minutes, Nina outlined detailed tactics and strategy which we pursued for many years. During that period, Sue and I became close friends.*



It was an honor and pleasure to know and work with Nina these past years. When visiting in between cleaning out the storage sheds, Sue and I would often tell her, "We love you, but we are all a little afraid of you." Nina would chuckle, smile and comment that was the way it was supposed to be.

*A true loss to everyone, we know she is in a better place.
Mike & Sue Taubitz*

Mike - August 20, 2020 at 10:07 AM

MA

This is such a lovely tribute, Mike and Sue. It is so much who Nina was and always will be to us.

Mary Jo

Maryjogibson@aol.com - August 20, 2020 at 12:41 PM

JM

“ *Nina was our neighbor and friend in Ann Arbor. We often exchanged stories of our travels for work. She always had a lot of energy and was so interesting to talk to about her adventures. She led a full life, was absolutely brilliant and served as a role model to so many people. Sorry to hear of her passing. Sincere condolences to her family, especially Mary Jo whom I met on a few occasions. May her memory be eternal.*



Jeanne McLaughlin and Jackie Garris

Jeanne McLaughlin - August 19, 2020 at 01:48 PM

MG

Thank you for your kind thoughts, Jeanne. Nina sure loved Ann Arbor and enjoyed your friendship.

Mary Jo

Mary Jo and Ed Gibson - August 20, 2020 at 04:55 AM

BS

“ *The Lights Before Christmas at the Toledo Zoo in 2018. She so enjoyed them. So glad we were able to experience them with her. Her favorite was the huge Norway spruce decorated in thousands of lights.*

Brenda Snyder - August 19, 2020 at 12:55 PM

JC

“Nina was a friend and colleague for more than 40 years. We first met in the late 1970's from my drinking water office role at EPA and her interest in elevating NSF Int. to major status for evaluating drinking water products. Our mutual Toledo connection made it a natural collaboration, that we continued through the years through her roles as NSF President, with the American Chemical Society, and as Dean and emerita of several colleges at U Toledo, and in promoting the Chemistry Dept at UT. Nina had enormous strength and determination in all of her many activities, and always had major impact in any role that she held, and there were many. You always knew where she stood, and that she was completely engaged and dedicated to making it a better place, whatever the task or challenge. Few people can match her determination and accomplishments. She will be missed. God speed!.

Joe Cotruvo

Joe Cotruvo - August 19, 2020 at 09:43 AM

RC

“ *In memory of Dr. Nina McClelland from Rongrong Chen and Andrew Hsu*

Anyone who has had the privilege of getting to know Nina, knows what an incredibly inspirational friend and role model she was. She created community in Toledo, always thinking of others and how she could help. We have fond memories of her kindness. When Andrew first arrived at the University of Toledo, Nina, in an effort to help the university improve its reputation in research and academic reputation, introduced him to many national leaders to help establish partnerships for the university. After learning Rongrong was a chemist, Nina initiated meetings for Rongrong to network with local peers and became an inspirational mentor with whom Rongrong would frequently seek advice when challenges arose. As a famous UT alumnus, Nina loved football and basketball games, and we enjoyed sharing in her school spirit at the games. Some of our favorite memories together were over festive holidays and birthdays. Nina would tell us some of her incredible life stories. Nina's passion for making our world a better place had a great impact on our daughters, one of whom is now inspired to become an environmental scientist and lawyer one day. Nina's loving and thoughtful character will be cherished forever.

Rongrong Chen - August 18, 2020 at 10:24 PM