



Dr. Charles F. Slagle

March 21, 1937 - March 6, 2023

Dr. Charles F. Slagle, age 85, of Storm Lake, Iowa died Monday, March 6, 2023 at Methodist Manor in Storm Lake.

Celebration of Life services will be held Saturday, March 25, 2023 from 3-6:00 p.m. with a Prayer Vigil beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Buena Vista University to support student travel opportunities and the women's golf team.

Charles Francis Slagle was born on March 21, 1937 in Bancroft, Iowa, to Francis and Veronica (Drew) Slagle. He was baptized into the Catholic faith at St. John's Church in Bancroft, Iowa and was confirmed at St. Michael's Church in Whittemore, Iowa. He attended kindergarten in Barnum, Iowa, and attended the Presentation Academy in Whittemore for the rest of his elementary, junior high, and high school years, graduating as a proud member of the Presentation Academy Class of 1954. Upon graduating high school, he began his college studies at Emmetsburg Community College, where he earned his associate of arts degree in 1956. He continued his undergraduate studies at the University of Iowa, and completed his bachelor's degree at Buena Vista College, graduating with the Class of 1960. Charles was accepted to the University of Iowa College of Law in 1958, but chose to do his graduate work at the University of South Dakota, where he was awarded a PhD in chemistry in 1970.

Charles proposed to his future wife and biggest supporter, Mary Anne Crowley, on Thanksgiving Day 1958, and they were married on May 30, 1959 at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Emmetsburg, Iowa. To this union, four children were born: Susan in 1969, Margaret (Peggy) in 1971, Ellen in 1975, and Karl in 1977.

Charles was always a hard worker, and is best known for his distinguished teaching career. He began as a high school math and science teacher in Thompson, Iowa, and,

upon completion of his PhD, was hired as a chemistry professor at Buena Vista College in 1969. While at BV, Charles was instrumental in developing the computer science program, writing a grant to purchase the college's first computer (which took up an entire room), and co-authoring a computer science textbook. He helped develop the international travel program at BV, where hundreds of students got to see the world with him leading the way. In his 30 years as a professor at BV, some of his other accomplishments included directing a summer English language learning institute for groups of visiting students from Showa Daiichi High School in Tokyo, Japan; coaching women's golf; serving on the Faculty Senate and many faculty committees; and establishing a research station for BV students to work and study at in Puerto Rico. For the 10 years prior to his retirement from Buena Vista University in May of 1999, he served as the Dean of the Estelle Siebens School of Science.

In addition to teaching, some of his additional ways of "winning bread," as he told his daughters, included raising beagles, lifeguarding, playing professional saxophone with area big bands, helping his uncles with anything they needed, working as a licensed electrician, and having part-ownership in the Emmetsburg Publishing Company.

A man of many interests, Charles was a proud member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity at the University of South Dakota; the Storm Lake Elks Lodge #1636, where he served a term as Exalted Ruler; the American Chemical Society; the Rock Island Technical Society; the Cherokee Symphony, where he played cello; the (world famous) Zauerkraut Band, where he played saxophone; Lake Creek Country Club, where he served a term as President and co-wrote the history of the club with Dick Gaffney; the Buena Vista County Sesquicentennial Committee; and the Buena Vista County Historical Society, where he served as a board member. Charles was a world traveler, having visited all of the continents except Antarctica. He spoke German, Spanish, French, and enough Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, and Japanese to get you what you needed, get you where you needed to go, or get you in a little bit of trouble. He was a sports fan (especially the University of Iowa Hawkeyes, Buena Vista Beavers, Green Bay Packers, Pittsburgh Steelers, Chicago Cubs, Pittsburgh Pirates, and FC Bayern) and a highly dedicated golfer who made a point to golf in almost every state and country he ever visited. He was also a voracious reader, an accomplished pianist, and an avid model railroader, having played a key role in acquiring and completing the large model train layouts at Santa's Castle in Storm Lake. Charles had great pride in his Irish and German ancestry, taking over the role of "Family Genealogist" after the passing of his beloved Uncle Elmer. He was a connoisseur of single malt scotch, good beer, and world cuisine. His gifts of blarney and sharp wit were so finely-tuned that his daughters sometimes wondered if Mel Brooks, Monty Python, and Alfred E. Neuman were some long-lost uncles they had never met.

Charles always looked on the bright side of life, and, while he was always busy, he never missed the chance to include his family in his hobbies and adventures. The education and joie de vivre they experienced with him were gifts that could never have been found in a classroom.

Charles is survived by his wife of nearly 64 years, Mary Anne Slagle; children: Susan (Cary) Boyd and Margaret/Peggy Slagle; grandchildren: Chloe Christie and significant other, Austin Moro; Nickolas Slagle; Isaac Stone and significant other, Sally Henry; and Liam Stone and significant other, Geoshua Topacio; step-grandchildren: Jodi (Daryl) Krikke, David (Jenna) Boyd, and Carly (Kyle Craft) Boyd; siblings: Joan Schlegel, Nancy Slagle, and Tom Slagle; nieces: Joyce Thielhorn, Sarah (Russ) Poppler, and Camilla (Brian) Ringler; nephews: Richard (Rhonda) Schlegel, Joe (Teresa) Schlegel, Peter (Missy) Schlegel, Ed (Kelly) Schlegel, Rob (Heather) Schlegel, and Sam Slagle; cousins-in-law, Anne Hurlbut, Michael (Kate) Wilson, and Ute Wilson; sons-in-law, Shawn Stone and Jason Christie; and many extended family and friends who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Francis and Veronica Slagle; parents-in-law, Joe and Della Crowley; infant sister, Mary Margaret Slagle; sister-in-law, Judy (Crowley) Nixon; brother-in-law, Dave Nixon; brother-in-law, Arman Schlegel; infant niece, Mary Clare Schlegel; niece, Renee Schlegel; infant son, Karl Slagle; and daughter Ellen Slagle Christie.

Special thanks are given to the at-home caregivers who became a part of the family, especially for their care and dedication in Charles' last months living at home: Leandro Marin, Jocelyn Ramos, Beauna Thammathai, Heather White, Alejandra Rodriguez, Makenna Eppes, Cheyenne Barnes, and Liz Swartz.

There are so many things that can be written about the incredibly interesting and full life that Charles led. The inscription on the plaque he received when he won the distinguished Henry Olson Alumni Award at Buena Vista University in October 2009 described him in a perfectly succinct manner: Innovative Educator, World Traveler, Renaissance Man. He will be deeply missed.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

MAR 25. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-1911
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

Prayer Vigil

MAR 25. 6:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-1911
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Charles F. Slagle*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - March 25, 2023 at 01:54 PM

TM

“ *One of smartest and nicest people I have ever met — and very much a mentor and trusted friend. He could tell a story — and he had lots of them! — better than anyone else. RIP my friend.*



Tim McDaniel - March 25, 2023 at 10:58 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Charles F. Slagle.*



March 25, 2023 at 08:05 AM

FH

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - March 24, 2023 at 04:28 PM

TS

“ The of late TSGT Shane A. Swanson sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles Slagle



The Family of late TSGT Shane A. Swanson - March 23, 2023 at 08:46 PM

MT

“ Doc Slagle was one of the smartest, most talented person I've ever met. Went to Europe with Doc and he would want take us to many places and leave so we could figure out how to find our way back. When I graduated he took myself and another BV grad out when we graduated. He did live life!

Mark Twedt - March 23, 2023 at 02:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Charles F. Slagle.



March 23, 2023 at 02:28 PM

JD

“ Great memories of my January 1979 interim trip to Europe with Dr Slagle. My condolences to his family.

Jennie Thompsen Dawson - March 23, 2023 at 09:20 AM

SM

“ Steph//Sharon Mickelson lit a candle in memory of Charles Slagle



Steph//Sharon Mickelson - March 23, 2023 at 09:17 AM

JP

“ Jennifer Peters lit a candle in memory of Charles Slagle



Jennifer Peters - March 21, 2023 at 08:43 PM

FM

“ We are saddened to learn of Charlie's passing. He was a Renaissance Man, whose smile and good humor brightened the day for all who knew him. We offer our sincere condolences to Mary and the Slagle family. Fred and Susan Moore

Fred Moore - March 19, 2023 at 08:23 AM

JP

“ I have so many great memories of Charles so it's hard to pick just one, Charles, known affectionately as "The Bid Deal",.Why, I don't remember! Memories of dining with Charles and Mary at the Cafe Di Napolis in Minneapolis, Murphy's in Sioux City, the Flamingo in South Sioux. So many golf memories. Charles' "golf" sabbatical semester staying with us in Garner, NC. Slot car racing on New Years Eve, the TGICV party ... Charles is best remembered as a GREAT FRIEND. Joel Padmore, Garner, NC

joel Padmore - March 17, 2023 at 12:33 PM

LJ

“ My condolences to Mary Anne and family. I've been gone from BVU for many years, but I have not forgotten certain people, Charlie being one of them. His discussions with Frank Affannato and others were most "enlightening." May his memory be a blessing.

Lynn-Steven Johanson - March 16, 2023 at 07:53 PM

LH

“ Laura Hanna lit a candle in memory of Charles Slagle



Laura (Hahn) Hanna - March 16, 2023 at 04:34 PM

DW

“ Dale Doris Wiley lit a candle in memory of Charles Slagle



Dale and Doris Wiley - March 16, 2023 at 11:42 AM

LD

“ What can be said about Doc Slagle? I was on his first golf team. I was in the computer programming class that used the computer that filled a room. And I was on the basketball team that he drove one of the vans for when we traveled. Little did I know that taking programming would have such an influence in my teaching career. Spending all of the time traveling in those vans and listening to his stories are great memories. And how he hated driving a van full of women when it said “Here Come the Beavers” and “There go the Beavers”! We laughed about that a lot. The best memory is that he never forgot his ex students or players.
Lori “Slick” Darrow

Lori Darrow - March 15, 2023 at 11:57 AM

MV

“ Dr. Slagle's forming of the Computer Science program at Buena Vista literally changed my life as it was the catalyst for me to pursue a C.S. degree and ultimately a career in technology. I will be forever in his debt.

Mark Varenhorst - March 15, 2023 at 10:49 AM

BM

“ Bill & Lana Crilly and all the Mileham's purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dr. Charles F. Slagle.



Bill & Lana Crilly and all the Mileham's - March 12, 2023 at 03:07 PM

RE

“ A great guy who always had a smile and great attitude. Very loyal to BV. Russ Eddie

Russell Eddie - March 11, 2023 at 08:18 PM

MO

“ Dr. Slagle and Mary were both very kind to me during my time at BV. I'm sorry for this loss. Michael W. Ohlson

Michael W. Ohlson - March 11, 2023 at 12:40 AM

DJ

“ Debra Jesse lit a candle in memory of Charles Slagle



Debra Jesse - March 10, 2023 at 09:12 PM

JL

“ In the summer of 1977, I was a new transfer student and having lunch with Dr. Slagle when he suggested that the two of us start a women's golf team at BV, so we did. He was a terrific coach and mentor to all of us. I'll never forget the rain, hail, sleet, and snow that pelted us in the "Polar Bear Tournament" again Briar Cliff College and playing golf with Dr. Slagle at Wentworth where we had that famous course all to ourselves. Thanks for the memories! Susan Jacobsen

Jacobsen,Susan L - March 09, 2023 at 10:25 AM

MH

“ Mary Hartman lit a candle in memory of Charles Slagle



Mary Hartman - March 09, 2023 at 09:59 AM

BS

“ As a fellow railroad enthusiast, I know "Doc" is ridin' the rails to Heaven. Rest In Peace, my friend, and may perpetual light shine upon you.

Brad Strader - March 08, 2023 at 08:04 PM

EL

“ Charles was a great friend to our family and the husband of my friend Mary. The last time I saw Charles was when my mom and I went to South Padre Island over Valentines day weekend. I'm with the whole family as they go through a very Very hard time

Elizabeth - March 08, 2023 at 07:15 PM

TN

“ So sorry for your loss, he was a great teacher, really enjoyed the few classes I had with him. Tony Nap

Tony Napierala - March 08, 2023 at 03:53 PM

JO

“ Thinking of you and sending my love.



jacque olson - March 08, 2023 at 12:21 PM

DW

“ Dale Doris Wiley lit a candle in memory of Charles Slagle



Dale and Doris Wiley - March 08, 2023 at 09:27 AM

CR

“ connie roche sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles Slagle



connie roche - March 07, 2023 at 05:49 PM

PB

“ Pat Barnett sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles Slagle



Pat Barnett - March 07, 2023 at 03:44 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dr. Charles F. Slagle.*



March 07, 2023 at 03:22 PM

BE

“ *Charles will be no stranger to his uncle in heaven*

BettyDrew - March 07, 2023 at 02:33 PM

SS

No he will not. That reunion will be so awesome and full of laughter.

Susan Slagle-Boyd - March 07, 2023 at 08:30 PM

LR

I met Charles at the BVU Pool. I looked forward to all the stories he told. He was a joy to be around.

Luanne Roling - March 16, 2023 at 05:18 PM

HW

“ *Charles was a very smart, kind and talented man. He holds a special place in my heart and in those of many. Mary, Peg, Sue and family I'm so very sorry for your loss. You are all in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*



Heather White - March 07, 2023 at 02:30 PM

LS

“ *Prayers to Peggy and family!*



Lona Stille - March 07, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *Jen Lauderville lit a candle in memory of Charles Slagle*



Jen Lauderville - March 07, 2023 at 02:25 PM

SC

“ *shelly chapman lit a candle in memory of Charles Slagle*



shelly chapman - March 07, 2023 at 02:04 PM

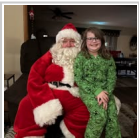
PG

“ *A CANDLE HAS BEEN LIT IN MEMORY OF CHARLES SLAGLE. MAY HE RIP. TO HIS WIFE & FAMILY, WE OFFER OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS.*

PEACE, JOY & LOVE, LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE & FAMILY



PATTY GUNVILLE - March 07, 2023 at 01:52 PM



“ *Douglas Sutton lit a candle in memory of Charles Slagle*



Douglas Sutton - March 07, 2023 at 01:35 PM

HE

“ *Heath lit a candle in memory of Charles Slagle*



Heath - March 07, 2023 at 01:26 PM

PF

“ Peg Flynn lit a candle in memory of Charles Slagle



Peg Flynn - March 07, 2023 at 12:04 PM