

A Farewell Note From Karl Saxe

By Karl Saxe



It's hard to know where to begin when leaving generates so many mixed emotions, but I'll try. This department has been my home for 17 years. And as my wife will attest, I have viewed it as a home, not a home-away-from-home, the entire time. That is in large part due to the family of colleagues that greets me every day. It has been a rare day when I wasn't excited to come in and see what was next. It didn't matter whether it was Trudy (or Linda) running me down because I didn't do some paperwork or John Scott conspiring with me every morning to critique the world and save it. It didn't matter if it was the easy way labs interacted ("Cheryl, can you go liberate some EcoRI from the Powers lab?") or the gentle but serious way questions were asked at B & G. Inevitably it felt like I was surrounded by people who cared about me and my science and about whom I cared. This is an atmosphere that Jerry Sutin cultivated and which Barry has maintained, nurtured and refined. It makes this place absolutely unique and special among the places I have done science (notice I didn't say "work"). I'm going to miss that, a lot. There are an enormous number of things I could point to that would make my point, but you all know what I'm talking about so I won't belabor it. Suffice it to say, that sense of community makes this department special and I'm confident the pieces are in place to sustain it. That makes me feel better.

Though I will miss this place a lot, I am thrilled with the chance to reset my brain and ask it to think about science and its place a little differently. I won't be adding to the knowledge base any more, but instead will be trying to get what we know (and how we know it) in front of a wider audience. It's something we scientist say is important, but never get around to. This seems like the time to put my money where my mouth is. In any event its worth a try.

Don't expect me to be a complete stranger. I know where you live. And I expect to take advantage of that. You know me. Keep after it, enjoy and thrive.

Bye – Karl

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A Tribute to Karl Saxe

By Barry Shur

After 17 years as a member of this department, Karl Saxe is moving on to assume a senior leadership position at the American Cancer Society. After receiving his PhD in 1980 with Neil Mendelson at the University of Arizona, Karl became interested in the power of *Dictyostelium discoideum* to unravel the secrets of morphogenesis and differentiation. He gained expertise in *Dictyostelium* by postdoctoral training with Maurice Sussman at Pittsburgh, Richard Firtel at San Diego and then as a five-year staff fellow at NIH with Alan Kimmel. In 1990, Karl was recruited to Emory as Assistant Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 1995.

Karl left his imprint on all aspects of this department; being one of the most beloved and honored professors in the School of Medicine, serving in critical administrative roles for graduate training programs, the School of Medicine and University, federal review panels, among many others; and bringing an innovative genetic approach to one of the classic model systems in developmental biology which enabled him to identify novel scaffolding proteins that orchestrate the complex intracellular machinery driving cell migration. In everything that Karl does, he brings intelligence, integrity and dedication. He leaves a department that is indebted to him for his commitment to excellence in science and in education, and for being a tireless colleague and friend. He will be sorely missed, but never forgotten. We wish him the very best in his new endeavors at ACS.

Rouk, Daniel

Dr. Saxe at Emory from 1990-2007

By Win Sale

Karl Saxe – geneticist, embryologist, developmental biologist, cell biologist, Dictyostelologist, custom sandeologist jazz trombonist, marathoner and general outdoor adventurer, pioneering and devoted Macologist, soccer enthusiast, Dodger / Mia Hamm fan, ---- and mentor, teacher, leader, friend....

Department of Cell Biology, Emory University 1990-2007. These words and images convey some of the respect and affection we hold for Dr. Saxe. We will miss you!

