



most significant bits

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Jerre D. Noe First Chair of UW CSE

February 1, 1923 - November 12, 2005

Jerre D. Noe, first chair of Computer Science & Engineering at the University of Washington, passed away on the evening of November 12, 2005 after a brief battle with mesothelioma. He was 82 years old.

Born in McCloud, CA, Jerre received his Bachelors degree in electrical engineering from UC Berkeley. After conducting radar R&D in Europe during World War II, he received his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Stanford University.

Jerre then spent a number of years at Stanford Research Institute, where — among many other accomplishments — as Assistant Director of Engineering he led the technical team for the ERMA project, which first computerized banking in the 1950s for Bank of America. The ERMA project instantly revolutionized the world banking system and made checking accounts practical and reliable. In addition, it was an engineering achievement of great consequence. Jerre and his ERMA team were honored by SRI in 2001 with the Weldon B. Gibson Achievement Award.

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The Jerre D. Noe Endowed Professorship in Computer Science & Engineering

To commemorate in perpetuity Jerre Noe's contributions, UW Computer Science & Engineering is establishing the Jerre D. Noe Endowed Professorship in Computer Science & Engineering. Once in place, the Noe Professorship will be awarded to a faculty member who displays the characteristics of scholarship, leadership, and humanity that Jerre exemplified.

The family has asked that donations, in lieu of flowers, be made to the Noe Professorship. If you desire to contribute to the establishment of this Professorship in Jerre's honor, you will find further information at: <http://noe.cs.washington.edu/professorship/>



Even at the tender age of five, it was obvious that Jerre had the drive that would lead him on to great achievements!

Sonoko Mary Yamamoto addresses the assembly as Noe grandchildren Michael and Joseph Noe and Amelia and Rosemary Roberts look on.



Son Russ Noe and Jerre's wife Margarete listen to tributes from friends and family.



Jerre's daughter Sherill Roberts (center) enjoying a visit with Margaret Wing during the reception.



CSE Professor Emeritus Alan Shaw shares fond memories (left), while CSE Professors Emeritus Jean-Loup Baer and Hellmut Golde raise a toast to Jerre's memory (above).



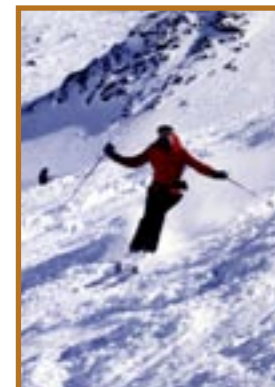
Son Jeff Noe (center) chats with Sandy and Margaret Wing during the reception.

Jerre D. Noe A Celebration of Life

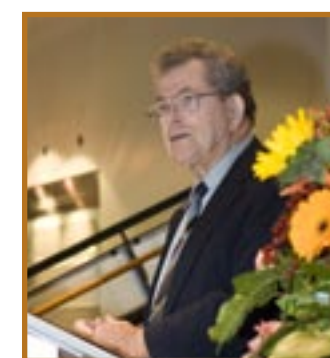
A beautiful world -- a world to be made anew every day. A world filled with enthusiasm and love for family, friends, sailing, skiing, music, bird watching, wood work, travel, food, and wine. A journey to share and participate in the world of children, grandchildren, students, and friends. A journey to understand, to explore, and to learn.

Your inexhaustible belief in the potential of the human spirit. Your belief that if people are only give a chance to learn and enjoy, the achievements of all would be immeasurable.

You will always be a presence in our world, and we will embrace your passions, your generosity, and above all, your enthusiasm to share whatever you experienced.



Jerre loved to ski, making several trips every year.



Several of Jerre's friends spoke about the many passions in his life. Pictured clockwise from above: John Cooper (sailing), Lang Hedrick (radar work), Richard Ladner (skiing), Dan Miles (music) and John Booth (neighbors).

Former CSE Chair Ed Lazowska addresses a standing-room-only audience, and details the many contributions Jerre Noe made to the department.



This music party, featuring Jerre and several graduate students, faculty and staff, was a typical activity reflecting the collegial atmosphere that Jerre fostered in CSE.



Hellmut Golde, Norm and Judy Maleng, and Darlene Myers Hildebrandt enjoy catching up. Judy completed her M.S. in the department while Jerre was chair, and hosted his 80th birthday party in 2003.



CSE faculty member Susan Eggers and husband Tim Keller look over several photos of events from Jerre's life.



Noe grandchildren Michael Noe, Joseph Noe, Jack Noe, Amelia Roberts and Rosemary Roberts enjoy a group hug.



The Ballard Breeze quintet provides music prior to the memorial service.

Photos by Dan Lamont and the Noe family

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In 1968, Jerre was recruited to the University of Washington as the first Chair of the Computer Science Group and its graduate program. Jerre guided the Computer Science Group to Sieg Hall, departmental status, and the introduction of a Bachelors program in 1975. Along with his first wife, Mary, who died of liver cancer in 1982, he was instrumental in establishing the culture that guides UW CSE to this day.

Jerre concluded his term as Chair in 1976. Subsequently, as a senior faculty member, he directed the Eden Project, the first award in the National Science Foundation's Coordinated Experimental Research program. The Eden Project was key to establishing UW CSE as one of the strongest computer systems research groups, and one of the top computer science programs, in the world.

Jerre retired from the University of Washington in 1989, but remained active in the life of the department. In 2003, CSE's early faculty and students joined with Jerre and his second wife and long-time family friend Margarete to celebrate Jerre's 80th birthday.

Jerre enjoyed his retirement to the fullest, traveling with Margarete and enjoying his children Russ, Sherill, and Jeff, and their spouses and children. He was an accomplished skier and sailor and an avid hiker, who sailed six weeks every summer and, when he was approaching 80, trekked nearly 100 miles through the Basque region of Spain with Margarete.

He was also an accomplished flautist who founded and performed with the Ballard Breeze quintet. He and his first wife Mary encouraged all three of their children to learn to play. His son Russ remembers weekly family sessions with his siblings and parents. Russ still plays the violin and his sister, Sherill, is a professional cellist. "Jerre rehearsed with the Ballard Breeze up to five weeks before he died," Russ recalled. "He was active right up to the end."

Over 200 friends and family joined in a celebration of Jerre's life held in the Paul G. Allen Center for Computer Science & Engineering on December 14, 2005, where he was remembered as a strong researcher, an inspired leader and a gracious, down-to-earth companion.

"His skill was in gathering talented people and managing them so they could succeed, personally and professionally," said his son Russ, who teaches in UW Mechanical Engineering. "That same talent is what I believe helped make UW Computer Science & Engineering one of the top in the world."

University of Washington Computer Science & Engineering is one of Jerre's many legacies. The entire UW CSE family mourns Jerre's passing, and we dedicate ourselves to his memory. He's a tough act to follow.

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