



## Patricia "Patti" Lee Schnitker

January 3, 1951 - June 30, 2012

Patricia Lee "Patti" Schnitker, 61 of Bloomington, formerly of Centralia, passed away Saturday, June 30, 2012 at her home. Ms. Schnitker was born January 3, 1951 in Centralia, daughter of Alvin Schnitker and Louise (Rixmann) Schnitker. She is survived by Michael Fischer of Bloomington, her Partner and Companion in Life of 27 years. In addition to her Partner and Companion in Life she is survived by her mother, Louise Schnitker, a brother: Clark Schnitker and wife Barbara of Centralia; a niece and nephew: Brooke Schnitker of Chicago and Chad Schnitker and wife Angie of Hoyleton; two great-nieces: Gracie Schnitker and Annie Schnitker both of Hoyleton; two uncles: Jim Rixmann and wife Ali of Bella Vista, Arizona and Jerry Rixmann and wife Karen of Hoyleton, and numerous cousins. Patti was preceded in death by her father, Alvin Schnitker. Ms. Schnitker was a retiree of Illinois State University, where she worked in the Graduate School as a dissertation examiner, counselor for students at large, advisor for the graduate student association, and a recruitment officer. Ms. Schnitker was a member of Women of Value Investment club, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, and a past member and president of the American Business Women's Association. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Bradley University in Peoria in 1973. She enjoyed her cats. Most of all she loved spending time with family and friends. Funeral Services for Patricia "Patti" Schnitker will be held Wednesday, July 4, 2012 at 10:30 A.M. at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Centralia with Pastor Mark Girardin and Pastor Perry Schefelker. Burial will

follow at Hillcrest Memorial Park. Friends may call Tuesday evening at Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia from 5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Trinity Lutheran Church of Centralia, and Illinois Cancer Care and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia. Online Condolences may be made at [www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

GB

“ I was so very sorry to hear of Pat's passing. She & I started at ISU and were in the same area for a short period of time. Then I moved on to another area of campus but our friendship never faltered. We were the best lunch buddies ever. I will miss Pat so much. She & I had a special connection that you just don't find with many people. I am sorry that I was unable to attend either service as I am out of state at this time. Special condolences to the family of this very special lady.

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**Georgia Bailey** - July 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ I worked with Pat in the Graduate School and will always remember her as a warm, friendly and helpful person. Her smile will never be forgotten. After her retirement we had lunch a few times. She handled her illness with grace and I have lost a dear friend. You have my sympathy.

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**Janet Kuhns** - July 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ I worked with Pat at ISU in Hovey Hall before she retired. She was friendly, sweet, and always had a smile in spite of her health concerns. I am sad to hear of her passing.

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**Dave Bentlin** - July 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ We were so sorry to hear this. Please know we will be thinking of all of you.

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**Susan DeKalb** - July 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I have known Patti for as long as I can remember. She lived next door to my grandma. Patti and I began to connect more as I grew older, as well as during her battle. I never saw her in a mad mood. Anytime I stopped by to say hello, or when we had our small get-togethers, she was always so bright, bubbly, sweet, and positive. I always admired that she was able to have such a wonderful personality, even during her treatment. Whenever we were together, along with my grandma too, the three of us always had to have our chocolate. Three lovely ladies should never go a day without their chocolate. :D I remember bringing her doughnuts after work and baking her special goodies to bring on random days when I simply felt like thinking about her. \*laughing to myself\* I remember being told that she ate the biggest doughnut I brought over, and until then, she hadn't been eating too awful much (nor keeping much down). Chocolate, friendship, and laughs are the ultimate healers.

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**Jennifer Stewart** - July 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Patti, you are the sister I never had. When I married your brother, little did I realize what richness would come to my life in knowing you. What an inspiration you have been to your family and friends. It is a comfort to know that you are now in the best place - Heaven!

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**Barb Schnitker** - July 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I was saddened to learn of Pat's passing. She was such a wonderful person, and brightened your day whenever you saw or spoke to her. Pat was an asset to the University and discharged her duties in a friendly, helpful, competent way. She will be missed by everyone who knew and interacted with her. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family, partner and friends. Dr. David A. Strand, President Emeritus, Illinois State University.

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July 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Family of Pat Schnitker - I was greatly saddened about the passing of Patti (I knew her as "Pat" at ISU). I was the Senior Faculty Member in a doctoral program in Higher Educational Administration at ISU until my retirement in 2003. I would be hard pressed to identify ANYONE other than Pat who made as much of a positive difference in the lives of scores of doctoral students with whom I worked. Pat was the person responsible for successful student doctoral dissertations because of her careful and competent work in the Graduate School. In addition, she was kind and caring and a delight to work with. She made my life immeasurably better and more pleasant. I will always remember her with great respect and fondness. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Dr. Edward R. Hines, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Illinois State University

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July 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ To Pat's family...I am SO sorry for your loss. Pat was a dear friend when we both worked at ISU, and after she retired. We, along with another friend, would have "de-stress" margarita dinners at Los Portillos Mexican Restaurant. Pat helped me through so much in my life. I wish I had been there for her more during the end of hers. She will be greatly missed by many. I will love her great spirit forever.

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**Kelly Peiffer** - July 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ To Michael and Patti's Family. I had the privilege to be a friend of Patti and Mike's for many years. I will remember the laughs we shared and the great conversations we had. God bless you all.

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**Mike Kaiser** - July 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ I enjoyed working with Pat when she was the compliance coordinator for the IRB--always helpful, cheerful and encouraging. She will be missed.

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**Susan Burt** - July 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ To Mike and the Family of Patti: I want to send my deepest sympathy to you all. The world has lost a wonderful person. Patti was great to work with. When I became the Graduate Secretary in the English Department she was my go to person, she helped me so much. We became really good friends and enjoyed lunch together often. I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to see her a few weeks ago it will be a visit I will always remember. Know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Diane Smith** - July 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I knew Pat for many years in her position as valued member of the Graduate School at Illinois State University. As part of my position as graduate coordinator of graduate programs in school psychology, I interacted frequently with Pat in her many roles in that office including dissertation format reviewer, coordinator of the Sorensen dissertation award, and advisor to students-at-large. Pat was never too busy to "take" a phone call to answer a question from a graduate coordinator or a student. She would work extra hard to meet very short time-lines so that students could graduate on-time and begin their careers. Pat was missed when she left her position. My deepest sympathy to all family and friends on your loss.

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**Mark Swerdlik** - July 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Hi Aunt Patti, Thanks for being a loving and caring aunt to me. I'm glad Angie and Gracie got to know you, And I'm happy Annie got to meet you. The pictures we have from our last visit with you are awesome! Oh, I think it rained on my farmground yesterday. I think you may have had something to do with that.

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**Chad Schnitker** - July 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Pat was a valued member of the Graduate School staff, always cheerful with a ready smile and friendly word. Her patience and kindness toward students seeking assistance reflected positively not only upon herself, but the Graduate School as well

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**John McAteer** - July 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I am grateful for knowing Pat and will never forget her. She died the way she lived her life. With grace and dignity. My thoughts are with Mike who took such good care of Pat at the end of her life and the rest of the Schnitker family. Johanna Rayman

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July 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ I am so terribly sorry for the loss of this wonderful, friendly, caring, kind, & generous woman. Patti -God loves you and so do !! Til we meet again darlin!

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**Christa Lawhun** - July 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I will miss Patti so much. She was one of the first people I met here at ISU. She was so encouraging to me in my first full-time job. Always smiling. I will miss our dinners and laughter but will always remember them and smile. Patti was a joy to know. My prayers are with all the family.

July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dearest Daughter, when you were little,I called you 'Punkin' "Pumpkin", as to why,I cannot remember. Because you were my first child, you held a special place in my heart; your brother occupied the second place. Children are so special in a parent's life. I hope you and Daddy are having a great visit with Jesus.

**Louise Schnitker** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



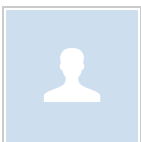
“ Patti, you were the best part of my life.I will always love you. Mike

**Michael Fischer** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ To Mrs. Schnitker and family, Patti & I were friends in high school and I am so sorry to hear of her passing. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Karen (McKay) Dorsey, Charleston, SC

July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Schnitker Family. Please accept my deepest sympathy on Patti's passing. Patti and I graduated from the same class at CHS. My memories of her is of a sweet and loving person. God's comfort during this difficult time. Noland Atchison, Orange Park, FL

July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sis, your little Bro will always love you. Clark (Corky)*

July 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *To Mrs. Schnitker & Patti's family - My sincerest sympathy to each of you at this sad time. Patti & I were in the same class at Centralia High School, and I always liked her a lot. The last time I saw her - at my cousin, Don Shanafelt's birthday celebration - we had a wonderful visit that I will long remember. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Carol Friedrich Workman*

Carol Workman - July 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Patti, we will always miss you. I remember the fun get togethers we all had at the holiday times and the special cheer you added to it. We love you Paul and Leslie Jaenicke*

July 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Patti, Thank you for being my best friend; for always being there for me. I will miss you tremendously. Rest peacefully in His arms of love. We will love you always, Jody (and Kurt) DuNard*

Joan (Jody Blevins) DuNard - July 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Aunt Patti, you are an amazing aunt. I will love you and miss you always.*

Brooke - July 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM