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Obituary-Kim Fisher

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In Memoriam — Kim N. Fisher 1948-2000

by **Nancy L. Eaton** (Dean of University Libraries, Penn State University)

Dear Colleagues,

It is with deep sorrow that I tell you of the loss of our friend and colleague, **Kim Fisher**. Kim was killed in a pedestrian/automobile accident on January 7, 2000 while walking his beloved dog, Laika, near his home in Lemont, PA..

Kim was named the **Paterno Family Librarian in Literature** just this year. He had been at **Penn State** since he joined the faculty as assistant acquisitions librarian in social sciences and humanities in 1984. In 1990, he began devoting all of his time to public services and collection development when he joined the General Reference Department as a Humanities librarian. He was a part of the team creating the Arts and Humanities Library, providing leadership for literature collection development, services and instruction.

Kim was a librarian who made a real difference in the day-to-day lives of the faculty and students in English and American literature and all across the University. He created collections that will shape and inform scholarship at Penn State for generations to come. He contributed in many ways to our profession through his research, scholarship, and service to the profession. Kim responded warmly to anyone he found at his door. He touched many lives through his excellent reference service, instruction, and teaching, and as a generous and caring colleague.

Kim will be greatly missed by the Libraries, by the University, by the Lemont community, and by his many friends in State College. In lieu of flowers, his family is asking for contributions to be sent to the Paterno Library Endowment. (510 University Library, University Park, PA 16802).

Nancy L. Eaton
(Dean of University Libraries
Penn State University)

A Boy and His Dog

*My most vivid memory of Kim is of a few months ago
When he said he was taking a long vacation to be with his new baby
And I said congratulations is it a boy or a girl
And he said no, even better, it's a puppy.
That's where his heart came shining through
He wasn't a man, he was ten years old.
A boy with his puppy on summer vacation
Like a perfect Christmas from long ago.
I remember stopping by his office a few weeks later
And there was this huge pile of library newsletters and publications
on his desk
And he just looked at me with that sly grin of his
As if to say, "Whoever has a puppy can never have too
many newspapers!"
I can imagine him falling asleep in his chair by the fire
His little friend curled up in his lap
Soggy tennis balls all over the floor
Has there ever been a better way to take a nap.
I wish the world was full of puppies
There'd be a lot more comfort and a lot less tears
We get so busy sometimes that we miss love and God
And the peace and purpose of why we're here.
If Kim had even a second of time on that fateful night
I think we all know what he did
He tried to get his baby out of harm's way
It's how he died, it's how he lived.
He sort of adopted us all
One of the library's favorite sons
He treated others with the love and touch
That he had always wished he had been shown.
Laika was his place of unconditional love
But now in God he's no longer alone
Open fields that go on forever
A boy and his dog have found their way Home.*

By Dan Tingue, Library Assistant, Interlibrary Loan