

A Gentleman and a Scholar: Remembering the Remarkable Tony Beugelsdijk

“If the measure of a person is in the positive impact they made in others’ lives, then Tony stood ten feet tall.” – Andy Zaayenga

On August 23, 2009, the laboratory automation community lost one of its best friends when ALA Co-Founder Tony Beugelsdijk passed away from complications related to a stroke. His early departure from this life left those who knew him stunned and heartbroken.

Tony was a prolific inventor, author, and speaker who received many awards in honor of his scientific achievements. Most recently, Tony received international attention for co-developing the High-Throughput Laboratory Network (HTLN) to provide a worldwide rapid response capability and surveillance system for infectious disease. About the HTLN, former U.S. President Bill Clinton paused during a recent speech at Lincoln Center, raised his hand and remarked “this is *really* important” in regard to his foundation’s world health initiatives. Tony also was an exceptional human being. Kindness and courtesy were hallmarks of his nature. His inherent curiosity and leadership led those who knew him to greatly respect, admire, and appreciate him. His honorable legacy will forever guide and inspire all of us.

TONY’S PROFESSIONAL LEGACY

Tony J. Beugelsdijk graduated summa cum laude from Wichita State University. He received an M.S. degree in analytical chemistry from the University of Illinois in 1972, and a Ph.D. degree in bioinorganic chemistry in 1975. In 1992, he completed a Masters in Business Administration degree with an emphasis in General Management from the University of New Mexico.

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JALA 2010;15(1):74–82.

1535-5535/\$36.00

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doi:10.1016/j.jala.2009.10.003

Tony worked as a senior analytical chemist with Shell Development Company in Houston, Texas from 1975 to 1984 where he was responsible for method development and automation activities. During this period, he applied robotic sample preparation technology, thermoanalytical techniques, mass spectrometry, gas chromatography, microcombustion techniques, neutron activation, X-ray fluorescence, atomic absorption, and inductively coupled plasma techniques to a host of elemental and molecular analytes in hydrocarbon matrices, catalysts, and polymers.

In 1984, he joined Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) where he built the laboratory’s robotics and automation program leading a team of more than 30 scientists and engineers. He managed the development of more than 20 robotics systems including the only four systems in the nation qualified to handle plutonium samples. He actively promoted the extensive use of robotics technologies in the nation’s nuclear defense and energy programs. From 1998 to 99, Tony held a Los Alamos sponsored Industrial Fellow position with Parke-Davis Pharmaceutical Research in Ann Arbor, Michigan. On his return to Los Alamos, Tony assumed the Research Park Project Leader Position identifying potential tenant LANL programs for the new Los Alamos Research Park. He developed partnerships with the life science industry and worked with the chemical/biological threat reduction program and as a Division Liaison Officer (DLO) to the LANL Center for Homeland Security.

Tony led the development of robotic systems to support the Human Genome Program, which were used in the mapping of human chromosomes. He was active in extending the use of robotics and automation technologies for DNA-based procedures in clinical practice and was a champion of robotics technologies in molecular biology, biotechnology, and drug discovery.

In 1989, he originated the Standard Laboratory Module (SLM) concept and formalism on which the Department of Energy’s multilaboratory Contaminant

Analysis Automation program and an American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International standard was based. This program grew to include six national laboratories, three federal agencies, and two industrial partners and is developing modular technologies for automation of the laboratory of the future. Tony J. Beugelsdijk was awarded a 1986 Pioneer in Laboratory Robotics Award by the International Symposium on Laboratory Robotics (ISLR). He had four patents issued and one pending. In 1994, his work was recognized with the Hewlett-Packard Award for Advances in Automated Sample Preparation. In 1996, Tony was awarded the Los Alamos Distinguished Performance Award for his contributions to the Human Genome project at Los Alamos. Tony served as the North American Editor of the *Journal of Laboratory Robotics and Automation* published by J. Wiley and serves on the advisory board of the Wiley-Interscience book series in laboratory automation. He authored more than 50 papers and book chapters in laboratory automation and gave more than 50 presentations in the field of laboratory robotics, sample preparation, and chemical automation at national and international conferences. Tony edited two books, the first was titled *Automation Technologies for Genome Characterization* (ISBN 0-471-12806-6) and published in 1997, the second was titled *Firepower in the Lab: Automation in the Fight Against Infectious Diseases and Bioterrorism* and published in 2001 (ISBN 0-309-06849-5).

TONY'S ALA LEGACY

In 1993, Tony was one of 200 scientific professionals who participated in the second International Symposium on Automation, Robotics, and Artificial Intelligence Applied to Analytical Chemistry and the second International Conference on

Robotics in Laboratory Medicine in Montreux, Switzerland. At the close of this meeting, Robin Felder, Alain Donzel, and David Herold met and the idea of presenting the next conference in North America crystallized. In 1994, the third incarnation of this conference was presented in San Diego and renamed International Conference on Automation and Robotics (ICAR). At this meeting, Tony was honored with the Hewlett-Packard Award for outstanding strategic research in automated sample preparation. He then joined the event development team of Felder, Donzel, and Herold. Two years later, in 1996, Tony, Felder, and Herold incorporated the Association for Laboratory Automation (ALA) as a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. The first issue of *Laboratory Automation News* (LAN, the precursor to JALA) followed later that year, and the first LabAutomation conference was presented the following year. In 1998, Tony taught himself HTML programming and not only created the first ALA Web site, but also integrated an online database to enable credit card transactions when online commerce was in its infancy.

By 2000, Tony and the team had grown ALA and its cornerstone LabAutomation conference to 2300 active participants. As a result, they began to outsource special services and expanded the board of directors. In 2003, they hired Greg Dummer as the association's first executive director and empowered him to spearhead the development of a virtual organization staffed by professional service providers. This enabled the ALA Board of Directors to focus on organizational strategy and planning. In 2004, Tony retired from the ALA Board of Directors, but his interest and participation in the organization did not wane. He continued to provide counsel and advice to Dummer and other members of the board, and to serve as a member of the JALA Editorial



Winners of the Pioneers in Laboratory Robotics Award at the International Symposium on Laboratory Automation and Robotics (ISLAR) (circa 1986). Tony Beugelsdijk is in the top/back row, fifth from the left.



Tony Beugelsdijk with a portion of the High-Throughput Laboratory Network (HTLN) at Los Alamos National Laboratory, a development regarded by former U.S. President Bill Clinton as “really important.”

Board. Tony was a familiar face at LabAutomation conferences. Members, attendees, and staff alike looked forward to his active participation in meetings, educational sessions, special events, and the ALA Member Center.

TONY’S PERSONAL LEGACY

Born in Lisse, Holland, Tony emigrated with his parents to the United States and grew up in Kansas. In the summer of 1988, Tony’s sister-in-law made arrangements for Mary Bergkamp to accompany Tony when he returned to Wichita for his 20th high school reunion. Mary reluctantly agreed to this blind date. She was less than enamored with the idea, but because the destination was within walking distance of her home, she knew she could easily excuse herself if she tired of her companion. Happily, she did not walk home alone and 18 months later, on January 13, 1990, Mary Bergkamp became Mary Beugelsdijk.

Tony and Mary shared a love of travel and began their marriage with the first of many memorable journeys—a two-week exploration of Australia. They made their home in New Mexico and eventually adopted a shelter dog named Reina. Mary loves to garden and cook, and Tony loved to eat. They especially enjoyed margaritas on the rocks with freshly made guacamole on the patio at Gabriel’s Restaurant outside of Santa Fe. In January 2010, Mary and Tony would have celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary.

Tony came from several generations of woodworkers. His grandfather built windmills, homes, and the elegant St. Agatha’s Church in Lisse. Each of his six sons, including Tony’s father, grew up as carpenters. In his free time, Tony also

mastered the art of carpentry, building beautiful, elaborate, and intricate clocks and other projects. He preferred hardwoods, especially cherry because it machined and carved wonderfully and finished beautifully, but he also worked with walnut, mahogany, oak, and maple. Tony once said “the wood really tells you what to do. Cutting it in the right places brings out its natural beauty and inner strength.”



David Herold and Tony Beugelsdijk worked tirelessly to build the ALA into an organization that encompassed their hopes and beliefs.



Mark Russo, David Herold, Tony Beugelsdijk, and Stephan Wolfram at a LabAutomation conference. "He was always there with advice support or to just listen with genuine interest," says Rick Hammar.

Tony bought roughsawn cherry boards from a hardwood dealer in Albuquerque and planed them down to the proper thickness in his home basement shop. Although equipped with many tools, Tony depended primarily on his modern scroll saw to cut and piece the delicate wood. On most pieces, he had to thread the blade through the portion to be cut, one hole at a time. His most prized tools, however, were not powered by electricity—they were his grandfather's old planes and chisels. Tony believed his grandfather would have been very pleased to see them still being used. "There is still no substitute for skilled handwork," Tony said. "It's really a shame that fine workmanship is so hard to find anymore—just a shame." (Source: Los Alamos Newsletter, October 18, 2001).

Although Tony was always looking for ways that new technology could advance scientific endeavors, he was just as keen on using technology that "just worked," such as his trusty VCR for recording his favorite television shows, "This Old House" and "The New Yankee Workshop." Tony also fostered a quiet love for fast cars. He first flexed his muscle with a 1968 Pontiac GTO, and most recently was the master of a 2005 Mercedes Benz four-door sedan and a red hot 1988 Porsche 924 sports car.

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The laboratory automation community will forever feel the absence of Tony's leadership and inspiration. In so many ways and at so many levels, he is already sorely missed. Tony's generous character lives on in others figuratively and literally. His liver saved the life of a woman in Salt Lake City, UT; his kidneys helped two grateful people in New Mexico; his corneas went to a cornea bank for eventual transplantation to people in need; and his heart is being used for stroke research.

Many of those who knew Tony posted heartfelt remarks to his memorial Web site (<http://tony-beugelsdijk.memory-of.com/About.aspx>). Following is just a sampling of those



Twin brothers, Tony and Henry Beugelsdijk, on their first day of school in 1959.

thoughts from current and former coworkers, colleagues, and other ALA friends who knew him well and will forever miss him dearly.

David Herold

It is exceedingly difficult for me to express my sadness at Tony's death. My words can only reflect my own sorrow for this tragic loss for all of us in Tony's expansive circle of family, friends, and colleagues. To me Tony was a close and strong friend, who I knew since 1994 when we met in San Diego at an ICAR meeting. Although most closely involved in my life during our effort to build the ALA into an organization that encompassed our hopes and beliefs, we remained in touch and had many long conversations at the meetings in San Diego, Montreux, Kochi, London, San Jose, Boston, and Palm Springs.

Since I heard of his loss there hasn't been a day that goes by that I don't think of Tony. I've never met anyone who didn't like and admire Tony. I know that I found great strength in Tony's advice and approach during the very difficult times we shared in our efforts to keep the ALA on track

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Tony and Mary Beugelsdijk would have celebrated 20 years of marriage in January 2010.

in the early days. When we would be overcome with all the problems we faced, Tony and I would work to obtain a calm and fair resolution for those problems—it can clearly be said that Tony’s efforts and wisdom enabled the ALA to reach the level of maturity and stability it now enjoys.

I know that his warm spirit, kindness, soft laughter, and gentle and wise counsel combined with his work ethic and vision will forever be part of my life. Tony was an exceptional friend and colleague. I will and shall miss him greatly. But, most importantly, Tony was a positive person with a look to the future. He would hope that we remember him and respect his efforts in life; then endorse our moving past his loss and building on his contribution to science, society, and the ALA with great joy and enthusiasm. Those actions would be the highest tribute to honor Tony.

Gary Kramer

For most folks, laboratory robotics automation began in the early 1980s with the advent of the Zymate system, the first robot designed specifically for use in the laboratory. A small cadre of forward thinking analytical scientists quickly adopted the Zymate, and the laboratory automation community was born. Tony Buegelsdijk was prominent in this pioneering group and was quick to envision possibilities for using such automation to solve unique analytical problems at LANL.

This was an exciting time, everything was new, there were no experts to consult or teach short courses, and few contractors available to create systems. To be successful in this brave, new field, a scientist had to be able to wear many hats—analytical chemist, electrical engineer, computer scientist, project manager, fundraiser, plumber, hand-holder, tour guide, and so on. Tony was among the most successful. Innovation was rife, and the annual fall laboratory robotics conference in Boston (ISLR) was awash with new ideas. Tony presented papers at ISLR on the LANL laboratory automation work nearly every year and clearly demonstrated the skills and cleverness of the LANL team in using



Following in the footsteps of his grandfather, father, and uncles, Tony Beugelsdijk was a master woodworker.

laboratory automation in harsh, radioactive environments. Although a number of people contributed to the successful LANL effort, the foresight, the project concepts, and the productive marketing of laboratory automation ideas to management to garner funding and resources were Tony’s doing. His career blossomed from laboratory robotics innovator and inventor to automation evangelist and to recognized expert on laboratory automation, first at LANL and later around the world.

One of Tony’s early systems made analytical measurements to characterize Radioisotopic thermal generators (RTGs). RTGs, containing a radioisotope that self-heats as it decays and thermoelectric devices that convert this heat into electricity, are used in remote applications, such as powering spacecraft and ocean buoys. Tony’s robotic system manipulated the RTGs, moving them from storage locations to radioactivity measuring stations for counting gamma rays and to calorimeters for measuring the amount of heat produced. The entire system was housed in a lead-lined glovebox and required an extensive modification of the Zymate robotic arm to replace all the plastic components that would be damaged by the high



Tony Beugelsdijk fostered a quiet love for fast cars.

radiation levels and to relocate as much of the control electronics as possible to the outside of the glovebox.

Tony and his coworkers went on to create four systems that were certified for handling plutonium and other toxic radioactive materials. Some of these systems, used for assaying waste materials, are still running today at LANL. Tony's early contributions to laboratory automation were recognized in 1986 when he and colleague Dan Knobeloch received Pioneer in Laboratory Robotics awards at the ISLR meeting. Tony was one of those rare individuals able to recognize good ideas and possessing the organizational and interpersonal skills to make such ideas into realities. From his early automation work at Shell and Los Alamos, to his efforts to get geneticists and biologists together with automation folks, to his contributing to and serving on the editorial boards of automation journals, to organizing and contributing to countless symposia, conferences, and meetings, to his devotion to the Association of Laboratory Automation that he co-founded, Tony tirelessly served as an ambassador for laboratory automation. He was always eager to promote automation's benefits, to help others develop projects and ideas, and to mentor newcomers. Because he understood the business side and the technical aspects of laboratory automation and because he knew how the government, academic, and business games are played, Tony was the go-to-guy to get an automation project raised to the next level. Working with Tony was always a pleasure. As they say on grade school report cards, "he worked and played well with others." He was as he appeared—warm, straightforward, and honest in his dealings, and even when things were not rosy and tough decisions had to be made, he did so calmly and even-handedly.

We miss his good ideas, his willingness to listen and to get things done, his humor and wit, and his leadership. The laboratory automation community is richer for his time with us, and we are all poorer for his loss.

Steve Hamilton

I've known Tony for about 25 years as our careers and interests intermingled around laboratory automation and the

ALA. I'll miss his insights, his friendship, and his smile whenever I ran into him. I'll miss the way he would light up when he talked about woodworking and clocks! And of course I'll miss seeing him and Mary together. Tony will always be in our hearts and memories.

Reinhold Schäfer

Tony's passing was very bad news for me and my boys. We knew Tony since the LabAutomation San Diego times where Gary Kramer introduced us. Tony invited us to Los Alamos in 1995 and I had my half-year sabbatical at LANL in 1997/98. I lived in Los Alamos with my sons Burkhard and Kilian for 6 months; for 6 weeks also my daughter came to Los Alamos. There, Burkhard and I had the chance to work in Tony's group. This was an excellent time in our life. Planning a fully automated high-throughput analytical laboratory in such a huge national laboratory was interesting work, and the chance to live in your country was wonderful. We experienced the U.S. pioneer spirit. Everyone we met, especially Tony and his wife Mary, welcomed us, befriended us, and helped us whenever we needed help.

Tony introduced me to many ALA people during this time and also in the following years. He played the role of a mentor. On the other hand, I helped him to get in contact with several pharmaceutical companies—beginning with my Los Alamos time. In the following years, we met Tony at all LabAutomation conferences and often exchanged e-mails related to scientific problems. In 2005, Tony and Mary visited us in Germany—they had a standing invitation to our home. We enjoyed a wonderful 1-week tour through southern Germany and Switzerland, including the barrel organ museum in Waldkirch/Black Forest, Lake Constance, the Romantic Road, several medieval monasteries, and various Rhein River castles. The last night we stayed in a castle hotel and spent a wonderful evening overlooking the Rhein. We'll never forget Tony—a real gentleman.

Mark Russo

It is my firm belief that personal success is measured by the extent to which one has a positive impact on the lives of others. And by that measure, Tony is one of the most successful people I will ever have the good fortune to call a friend. He will never know just how much of an impact he had on me.

From the moment I met Tony over a decade ago, he was nothing but kind, supportive, and especially full of wisdom. At every crossroad that we shared, whether it involved the ALA or the world at large, Tony unfailingly cast the decision before us in a light that plainly revealed the best way forward. I depended on Tony for his wise counsel; it always rang true. I will miss him.

Torsten Staab

I first met Tony in June of 1996 when he hired me as a Graduate Research Assistant at LANL. Over the years

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I not only got to know him as my boss, a colleague, and my mentor, but also as a dear friend. I could always count on Tony no matter what. He was a true inspiration and role model to many of us and I will be eternally grateful to him for all he has done for me.

Andy Zaayenga

On my entry into the laboratory automation business in 1989, Tony was already a recognized industry leader and reference. In our first project together, I was fully prepared to be intimidated by this automation paragon. I was delighted to find a project partner who was personable, generous, understanding, and witty as well as in complete command of the entire program. In the years since then I had the good fortune to work with Tony on other projects. He always approached these complex systems with intelligent creativity and an attitude of finding the path to success for all involved. He contributed significantly to the formation of my work ethic and approach. I also had the opportunity to interact with Tony frequently through his efforts at the ALA and when ALA evolved from a founder run organization Tony asked me to run for the transition board. I did so and being involved with Tony and the ALA team is a high point of my career.

To my mind this was the essence of Tony Beugelsdijk—he was intensely involved in our laboratory automation industry not for the personal gain or accolades but because he loved the people involved and the technology. He was the first to credit others with success and to help those around him achieve their goals. Tony's unselfish thoughtful and enlightened approach to life and business inspired me to a better path.

Tony Lozada

We are deeply saddened by Tony's passing and our sincerest condolences to his family. I consider myself fortunate to have known and worked with Tony in promoting our automation community. It was in 1997 when we first met in San Diego and ALA was an idea he was just bringing into fruition. He had a small get together in one of the suites at the conference and welcomed the attendees with a warm handshake and greeting expressing genuine interest from the diversity in what we did in laboratory automation. Through the years it was a pleasure working with and getting to know him as well as catching up at Palm Springs every year. I remember my friend Andy and I spoke after one of our collaborative meetings and said to each other "Tony is the definition of a gentleman and a scholar." His idea and contributions in creating a global community have brought us together in sharing our passion. He will be missed.

I consider myself very fortunate to have interacted and worked with him in promoting our community. It will be about 12 years ago this month when we first met. Drug Discovery Technologies was in San Diego and ALA was a concept he was just bringing into fruition. He had a small get together in one of the suites at the DDT venue and

welcomed the prospective attendees with a warm handshake, expressing genuine interest from the diversity in what we did in laboratory automation. Through the years as ALA grew, it was a pleasure working with and getting to know him. I remember Andy Zaayenga and I spoke one day after one of our ALA-LRIG (Laboratory Robotics Interest Group) collaborative meetings and said to each other that Tony is the definition of a gentleman and a scholar. His contributions in creating a community that extends globally have brought us together in sharing our passion.

Michael Randow

Tony was an amazing work associate, mentor, friend, and human being. Kind, caring, and giving to a fault. He truly cared about people and tried his best to always make things right. He was Mr. Science. He could explain things to people on any level. He was truly a rare jewel in life.

Alain Donzel

I met Tony for the first time in Boston at the Zymark Automation and Robotic conference in 1992. At this time, we were planning to put on an ICAR that would be totally independent from manufacturers and vendors. Tony provided his views on the project. A striking feature of his character was his pragmatic assessment of the project and his long-term vision. Tony joined ICAR in 1995 in San Diego. The ALA concept was in the air and became a reality in 1996. ALA and LabAutomation became independent of ICAR.

The birth of ALA was not always a smooth one. Tony's greatest talent has been his respect of other people's standpoints. He knew how to cool down the heat of debates, bringing in new elements that helped make progress, thus conducting negotiations in such a way that nobody felt frustrated. Tony was humble, strong-minded, clever and can be credited as an essential resource in founding ALA and LabAutomation. In the years I spent with the other founders of ALA, I never heard anybody contradict his ideas and positions.

Like everybody who knew him, his sudden death is very sad news for me. I will remember him as a friendly person and a true gentleman.

W. Jeffrey Hurst

I, like all who knew him, will miss Tony not only personally but professionally. I first met Tony when we were awarded the Pioneer in Laboratory Robotics award by International Symposium on Laboratory Automation and Robotics (ISLAR) so we had known each other over two decades. When we were starting LRA, Tony was one of the individuals whom I talked to, he agreed to be the North American editor and served in that capacity for the 13 years the journal was published. In that capacity he served not only in an editorial role but an advisor, which was invaluable especially when things looked bleak. He was also an active participant in the book series on laboratory automation. Although these professional accomplishments

will be captured in other documents, no one can adequately capture his positive attitude, which I so vividly remember when I talked to him several years ago when his home was threatened by forest fire. The laboratory automation community has lost a leader and many who knew him lost not only this leader but a friend.

Sandra Cruz

Tony has touched all of our lives and he has personally shown me that in kindness and gentleness one can achieve greatness. His soul blossoms in each of us.

Srinivas Iyer

Tony was somebody I looked up to at work for his professionalism and amicable nature. I will miss waving out to him as (he and Mary) walked the dog each night.

Mark Dickey

I had the opportunity to meet and work with Tony on the HTLN Flu project starting in 2007. It was a pleasure to work with him and his team throughout this project. Tony was the kindest and nicest person that I have ever had the opportunity to meet. I always looked forward to talking with Tony especially over a meal. It was interesting to hear about his wood-working projects and his latest research regarding his family history. The industry will not be the same without him.

Todd Hanson

Tony was truly a fine man with a keen intellect and a wonderful capacity for understanding the world.

Mark Doring

He was a well-respected member of the scientific community, a fine scientist, a leader, and a delightful person.

David Giegel

I knew Tony from the time he spent at Parke-Davis in Ann Arbor, MI, while I was heading up the HTS group there. He always had time to discuss new ideas and to act as a sounding board for an organization that was just coming to grips with the necessary automation to do its job better.

Robb Hermes

I knew Tony while he was here in Tech Transfer and beyond when he became a group leader in C division. He was one of the stars of Los Alamos and a most kind and gentle fellow! As long as I have known him he always had a smile on his face and was upbeat in attitude—even in times of uncertainty. He will be missed as one of the finest people I have ever had a professional association with but was also a friend.

Pete Pittman

I first met Tony while in graduate school. He agreed to meet a few of us students (after a cold call no less) to hear

our pitch trying to get funding for a walking robot project. After numerous meetings with other laboratories and companies we had started to feel down about the whole thing and ourselves. Tony met us with his characteristically big smile and immediately made us feel at home. He gave unselfishly of his time and funded the project to boot. He later hired me into his robotics group as a post doc where he made us all feel like family.

Jeff Tryba

I met Tony at the initial ALA conference. At each subsequent meeting he always was able to recall our previous conversations and asked how my projects were coming along. I was always struck by the fact that he was always willing to offer help to a colleague. He offered encouragement and made me and others feel that what we were working on was worth the effort. His example should be remembered and emulated by all of us who appreciated him.

Larry Bronisz

Tony was the best boss I have ever had. You could trust what he said and he knew how to treat people. On top of that, (he was) technically brilliant and a great visionary. A rare combination. It was a pleasure to work for him.

Rick Hammar

I met Tony at the first LabAutomation conference and considered him a friend from the very beginning. Through the years he was always there with advice support or to just listen with genuine interest. Despite being sought after by so many at these conferences, he always had time to catch up on the personal or professional changes since our last conversation. He is an inspiration as an innovator and a human being.

Dan Campbell

I met Tony on a project in 2007 and had only minimal connection. I enjoyed speaking with him in our group and trading stories. He saw me a year later at a conference and came over to me like an old friend. He started the conversation right where we left off...no platitudes no false persona...the real deal.

Jennifer Harris

Tony was a dedicated and wonderful manager. He would work for hours alongside his team to get a project to the next level. He always showed respect to his team members even the junior ones like me. I am grateful that he taught me so much about laboratory automation and about putting projects together. I hope to respect his memory by doing my best to make sure that his HTLN projects continue to grow. He was one of a kind.

Greg Dummer

The first time I met Tony he was interviewing me for the position of executive director of ALA back in 2002. It was

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ALA Co-Founder and Friend, Tony J. Beugelsdijk, Ph.D., M.B.A., 1949–2009.

immediately apparent to me at that moment-in-time that Tony was a genuine person with a strong sense of integrity.

I knew at that instant I wanted to work for him. As many others have said more eloquently than me, Tony embodied so many wonderful very positive human qualities. For me, when I think of Tony I will think of two words “grace” and “humility.” In all interactions, Tony exhibited the finest characteristics of a gentleman. I will miss his calmness, balance, and engaging, very personal demeanor. I will miss seeing him at every conference, walking through the registration area, greeting people, making sure they feel welcome. And I miss that unique sense of camaraderie and knowing that he is there arm-in-arm with me in the name of ALA.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks to Mike Randow of Los Alamos National Laboratory, Steve Hamilton of Sanitas Consulting, and Gary Kramer of the National Institute of Standards and Technology for their assistance in preparing this article.