

Dave Jones

In March 2008, AMAP said goodbye to former Owens Corning Program Manager, Dave R. Jones, IV. The avid fisherman and all-around outdoorsman suffered a fatal heart attack while cruising in his boat during a day-long fishing excursion on March 28, 2008, and we were all shocked to learn that the trip would be the last Dave would take.

Having playfully proclaimed himself the “Master of the Asphalt Universe,” Dave earned his bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University and held a Ph.D from the University of Missouri – Columbia. His impressive resume included time at Owens Corning, where he spent time at the start and end of his career, at Akzo-Nobel and as Vice President of PRI Asphalt Technologies. But, perhaps his greatest contribution to the asphalt industry came during the early 90’s when he served as the principal chemist on the Strategic Highway Research Project (SHRP).

“His work with SHRP was instrumental in demonstrating how the performance of asphalt materials could be tested scientifically,” said Henry Romagosa, Market Development Manager of ICL Performance Products LP. “He really brought science into the mix at a time when it wasn’t being well utilized by the asphalt industry.”

In his most recent role as Program Manager at Owens Corning, Dave served as the technical interface between Owens Corning and the entire asphalt industry, and his work required him to stay up-to-date on technical developments going on in the industry and provide expert technical support to the company and the industry through his participation in expert task groups, attendance at the Petersen Asphalt Research Conference, and his positions on the Transportation Research Board, the Association of Asphalt Pavement Technologists and the Asphalt Institute’s Roofing Technical Advisory Committee.

Dave was also a dedicated friend and supporter of AMAP, having taught at the AMAP Modified Asphalt Workshop and spoken at many AMAP meetings.

“Dave was a great communicator and teacher who had a knack for explaining difficult subject matter and making it easy to understand,” said John Casola, Product Sales Manager, Malvern Instruments, Inc. “You really felt smarter when you were around him.”

And while Dave was deeply passionate about his professional life, his friends also remember him as a man who was equally as passionate about the time he spent outside of work. In addition to his love for hunting, fishing and the great outdoors, Dave also had a love for enjoying the finer things in life, and was known for seeking out the best restaurants, coffees and wines and introducing them to his friends.

“Dave would invite 10-14 of us out to dinner to his favorite places, and it was always a great time,” added Casola. “We’d share food and debate about which wines would work best with the meal.”

Dave’s friends note that he relished a good debate, and would discuss anything from politics to fishing to wine, but always stood firm in his beliefs.

“Debates with Dave could go for hours,” said Bob Berkley, Executive Director of AMAP. “He admired opposing viewpoints and respected your right to have an opinion, but would always let you know that he was right!”

Dave is survived by his loving wife Sue Ann, his two children Sam and Regan, and countless friends and colleagues who continue to mourn his passing, but are comforted by the memory of his passionate spirit, zest for the finer things in life and the incredible career legacy he left behind.

“Dave was an all-around great guy who was well-liked by everyone,” noted Casola. “He is, and will continue to be, greatly missed by the asphalt industry and all that had the pleasure of knowing him.”