

## IN MEMORIAM Peggy Sue King (1934-2012)

Peggy King was born on March 18, 1934 in Collinwood Tennessee and passed away on March 9, 2012 at age 77. Peggy passed away peacefully at home with her family after a courageous fight against lung cancer.

Peggy moved to Camp Hill Alabama from Tennessee when she was in the first grade. She was a graduating member of the Camp Hill High School class of 1952. While in her senior year of high school, she worked as the school Year Book Editor, where she met a young photographer at Auburn University named Lester King. They married in June 1952 after graduation, and in 1953 began raising their family of five children. Peggy's children and Auburn University were the focus of her life. While her husband Lester chronicled the growth and changes of Auburn University as Chief University Photographer, Peggy worked as a laboratory technician in the College of Agriculture for over 45 years. While raising their children on the Auburn campus, Lester took photos of Auburn football, while Peggy cared for the children and worked.

Peggy joined Dr. Rodriguez-Kabana's research program in 1968 after working for his predecessor in Nematology, Dr. Eldon Cairns, as a laboratory technician for several years. She worked continuously in Rod's research program, full time as a Senior Research Technician, and part-time after her retirement until last year for a total of 43 years. She was a superbly skilled technician, contributing greatly to the science of Nematology. She was author or co-author of numerous peer-reviewed journal papers and was elected Treasurer of the Society of Nematologists (SON), and Secretary of the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical American (ONTA) by the members of both organizations. She regularly presented papers at the annual meetings of both Societies and gained a reputation as a Scientist and a hard worker. She was honored with Distinguished Service Awards from both Societies. She is well-known by Nematologists in the nation and throughout the world for her work and skill. It is difficult to enumerate all the many services which she contributed throughout the years to the Nematology Program at Auburn University through her involvement in research, teaching and dissemination of knowledge.

Peggy loved to travel with her professional organizations, ONTA and SON. She traveled both nationally



and internationally presenting Nematology research on many crops including peanuts, tomatoes, corn, and potatoes. Peggy authored or co-authored numerous publications and research presentations, working with many Auburn University, USDA, and other University scientists over the years. Even though she retired from Auburn in the early 2000s, she continued to work in Rod's research lab on a part time basis into her 70s, when she retired for health reasons.

Peggy loved her hobbies of yard work, reading, history, and travel, which were infused into her life, and which also included her children. Peggy is survived by five children, six grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Peggy will be remembered by all as a kind and gentle soul, who loved having a good time with her family, friends, and colleagues. She was a very compassionate and understanding person – family, friends, students and faculty, as well as anybody who needed assistance,

could always count on her help. She will be sorely missed and certainly always remembered.

Submitted by: N. KOKALIS-BURELLE AND  
R. RODRIGUEZ-KABANA