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Macon, Michael W.

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"Some people stay in our lives for a while, leave footprints in our hearts, and we are never, every, the same." Mike passed away on March 15, 2001, in Portland, Oregon, after a five-month battle with cancer and other complications. He is survived by his wife Amy; parents, Tom and Mary Ann Macon of Milwaukee; brother Bob of Detroit area; grandmother Muriel Macon of Rhinelander, aunt and uncle, Jane and Richard Wargin of Cudahy; and his favorite Oregon in-laws, Mary, Tom, Peggy and Andy Zepp. An Assistant Professor in the Computer Science and Electrical Engineering department at Oregon Graduate Institute in Portland since 1996, Mike taught digital signal processing and performed research on speech synthesis techniques. In these four short years he had a phenomenal impact on his field, both by his scientific contributions and his activities in national and international speech technology organizations. Mike was born October 11, 1968, in Milwaukee, and graduated second in his class from Thomas More High School in 1986. He studied electrical engineering at the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio, graduating Magna Cum Laude in 1991. Graduate studies took him to Georgia Tech in Atlanta, where he received a Masters in Electrical Engineering in 1993 and a Ph.D. in 1996. On June 28, 1997 he married the love of his life, Amy Marie Zepp. An avid musician, Mike played keyboard and accordion in many bands, most notably Soup in the southeast U.S. and Soul Patrol Mission in the Portland area. Other interests include hiking with Amy and their golden retriever, Sammie. Funeral services were held in Portland on March 21, with burial in Woodburn, Oregon. A service in Milwaukee to celebrate Mike's 32 years of life will be held at St. Matthias Church, 9306 W. Beloit Rd. on Wed., March 28. Friends and family may gather after 6 PM and the service will begin at 7 PM. There will be a reception immediately after the service at Serb Hall. The Mike Macon Memorial Fund has been established at OGI for support of students working in Mike's area of research. Contributions may be sent to: Mike Macon Memorial Fund, Oregon Graduate Institute, 20000 NW Walker Road, Beaverton, OR 97006. Contributions will also be accepted for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

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