

We Miss Nancy

Nancy Van Vranken was a fixture at STS conferences in the mid-80s. She had "caught up" with some of the fervor and debate about STS as news of it from Project Synthesis (see volume 3, *What Research Says to the Science Teacher* (NSTA)). This was my introduction to STS; it provided a new perspective for the whole field of science education. It was refreshing to find others with such interests, dedication, and commitment to new goals for science education and a broadening of our discipline.

I really got to know Nancy at an early Exeter Conference, when we all were indebted to Dick Brinckerhoff for illustrating how private prestigious academies could see the need for STS for some of the nation's brightest young people. Nancy was always intrigued as to what intrigued others. Too many are passive learners; Nancy gave it her all.

Nancy was one of the big New York STS quartet (Nancy, Irma Jarcho, Bernice Hauser, and John Roeder). She was full of life, enthusiastic but practical -- finding much to do and willingly doing it to advance the reforms for which so many yearned but could not find. We need more Nancys! She was witty, charming, a national leader, a benefactor, and a friend.

- Robert E. Yager, The University of Iowa