

Gary Michael Aron, known affectionately as "Doc" to his friends and colleagues, was a microbiology professor in the Biology Department from 1974 to 2014. He was born October 2, 1943, and died after a prolonged illness on December 4, 2025. He is survived by his wife, Janet; brother Dennis; nieces Danielle, Dawn, Jessica, and Summer; and nephews Jake, Matt, and Jared.

Gary joined the Biology Department as a microbiology professor in 1974, following his undergraduate training at St. John's University, studying for his PhD at Penn State University, and postdoctoral training at Baylor College of Medicine. He rose through the academic ranks to full professor and was named a Distinguished Professor Emeritus upon retirement. He held the Homer Prince Endowed Professorship from 2001-2013. Gary was very devoted to his students both in his courses as well as undergraduates and graduate students who worked in his lab. Many of these students pursued careers in medicine or science as a direct result of Gary's inspiration and encouragement. One thing that was very evident to colleagues and students was Gary's love and support of Penn State, and in some cases the students would wear Penn State shirts for positive vibes when taking one of Gary's tests. His truck was painted in Nittany Lion colors with the official logo on the tailgate. When he got a call on his cell phone, the ringtone was the Penn State fight song and we all thought that legendary football coach, Joe Paterno, was phoning to ask Gary what play should be called. Gary also served several years as Treasurer of the Texas Branch American Society for Microbiology. The Texas Branch ASM awarded him their lifetime achievement award in 2013.



Outside of work, Gary had many interests that he shared with his wife of 58 years, Janet. He traveled to exotic beach locations like Bora Bora, Hawaii, and the Caribbean, not just to bask in their beauty but to embrace the serenity and inspiration they provided. At home, his backyard was a verdant sanctuary where he cultivated vegetables and shared the bounty with friends and neighbors. Whether fishing in fresh or salt water, Doc found joy in the simplicity of nature and the thrill of the catch. His pursuit of health and fitness culminated in winning the State of Texas Masters class powerlifting championship in 2001.

A funeral mass will be held on Saturday December 13, 10:00 am at St. John's Catholic Church in San Marcos TX.