

O'Neill



Brian Joseph O'NEILL

Brian Joseph O'Neill of New Orleans died June 26, 2008 after a courageous battle with T-cell lymphoma. He was 53. Brian called New Orleans home since 1981. He was a paleontologist/biostratigrapher for Shell International Exploration and Production for 29 years and was recently named Global Biostratigraphy Discipline Lead. He earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Boston College and master's degree in geology from University of Wisconsin at Madison. Brian pioneered the use of computerized technology and developed software for oil exploration and interpretation at Shell and within the petroleum industry. He held leadership positions in many professional geological organizations, among them NOGS, AAPG, SEPM and GSA, and was a recipient of an honorary membership to the Society of Sedimentary Geology (SEPM) for his contributions to the science of biostratigraphy. He was on the board of Micropaleo Press and was a trustee of the Cushman Foundation for Foraminiferal Research. In his free time, he enjoyed traveling, doing field research and sharing his love of dinosaurs and fossils with local school children. Brian was a member of the Krewe of Hermes, a baritone in the Symphony Chorus of New Orleans, a Fourth Degree Knight with the T.J. Larkin Assembly and a member of the Santa Maria Knights of Columbus Council. He gave selfless service to Holy Name of Mary Church and was a 2008 recipient of the Order of St. Louis Medallion. Brian had a zest for living and a dry wit, finding humor in the quirks of everyday life. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. He is survived by Tess, his wife of 31 years; his sons, Timothy and Matthew; his daughter, Gwyneth; daughter-in-law Michelle; his parents, James and Jean O'Neill; his brother, James; three sisters-in-law, two brothers-in-law and numerous nieces and nephews.