

# In Memory: Patricia Ann Cole

30 May, 2019

By: Obituaries compiled by CSU Public Relations Staff

Pat Cole was born in the Chicago area and grew up in Wilmette, Illinois. She passed away 27 May 2019.

As a child, she became acquainted with two important mentors, Marge and Glen Estle, and enjoyed spending summers with them at their cabin on Gunflint Lake, on the border between Minnesota and Canada. She would go there many times over the years and, later in life, took her children there as well. It was greatly enjoyed by all.

Pat's love of the classics began with six semesters of the Latin language in High school. She attended St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota from 1968 until her graduation in 1972 with a degree in General History and Biology. At the time, she was advised that women had just three job options: teacher, nurse or librarian. Pat had intended to become a High school biology teacher, and general history was recommended as a more marketable degree than one in the classics. After graduation, Pat moved to Washington, D.C. and worked in the student activities office at Catholic University for three years.

Her first attempt to attend veterinary school in 1975 resulted in rejection. The University of Minnesota accepted a mere eight women into its class that year. However, thanks to the passing of Title IX in 1972 (whilst best known for its impact on athletics, this amendment to the Higher Education Act of 1965 served many anti-discrimination functions beyond that of sports), her second application in 1976 was successful as the provisions of the law required universities to accept more qualified women into advanced degree programs. In addition to veterinary school, Pat was also accepted into pharmacy and law schools but she chose veterinary medicine. Upon her graduation in 1980, Pat began a career as a private practice small animal veterinarian. In 1982, she returned to the University of Minnesota to complete a veterinary pathology residency and earn a PhD. During this time her first child, Ted, was born. When she completed her residency, Pat joined the faculty of Colorado State University in 1988. She remained there for 31 years. She was dedicated to performing quality diagnostics as well as the advancement of veterinary student and resident education. She served as a mentor for many classes of veterinary students and residents, and was a valuable resource for her colleagues. Pat was also well known for incorporating history into her lectures.

Alongside of her studies and career, Pat's interest and love of travel blossomed and grew. The beginnings of her passion can be traced to her opportunity to travel to Egypt in the mid 70's. This first taste of international travel was followed up in the late 70's with trips to Europe, including Italy and Greece, which her love of history made particularly poignant. As soon as her daughters, Meg and Emily, born in the 1990's, were old enough to travel, Pat began a family tradition of going to Europe almost every year. The family traveled to Italy, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Greece, Switzerland, Austria, Spain, Morocco and more. Her four trips to Italy rekindled Pat's interest in Latin and inspired

her to begin taking Latin language classes at CSU. She continued her explorations almost until the very end of her life. Less than a year prior to her passing, Pat traveled to Bulgaria, Hungary, Iceland and Ireland in two back-to-back trips separated by a round of chemotherapy. In addition to international destinations, she traveled and camped extensively within the United States. She spent a significant amount of time in Hawaii, where she traveled to nearly every year for over a decade. Her ashes will be scattered in Hawaii.

Never lacking for variety, Pat developed a strong interest in horse riding as a young adult and she pursued this passion for several decades. She was very involved with dressage, NCDA, and enjoyed trail riding with some of her close friends.

Pat's experience with breast cancer began in 1996, with a major recurrence in 2011. She was so strong and determined to defeat this menace that except for brief periods recovering from surgery and chemo, most who knew her were unaware she was ill. Her positive mentality and perseverance in the face of impossible odds have been very inspiring to all who knew her. Donations can be made in Pat's name to the [Nature Conservancy online](#) and the [Fort Collins Cat Rescue Spay and Neuter Clinic and Shelter](#).

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