

## **AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

**I, Robert Paul Jacobson Sr., am the father of two children; Robert Jr., and Barbara Jean. I grew up in the small town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula by the name of Marquette. I am the youngest of three children having two older sisters; E. Romaine Reed, and Donna Mae Stupar.**

**I attended John D. Pierce Laboratory School from kindergarten through grade twelve. It was a small school in which Northern Michigan College placed many of their student teachers for their training. There were 32 students in my graduating class.**

**Having a November birthday, I entered school at the age of four. As I reflect, from my present vantage point, I think that this may have accounted for a certain lack of maturity, both academic and social. I had a very difficult time learning to read, and this problem was compounded in high school and college. In college, I sought counseling to determine how I might improve my reading skills. After various tests, I was diagnosed as having dyslexia.**

**In high school, I followed a vocational course of study in industrial arts. During my first year in college, I became increasingly dissatisfied with this curriculum. Due to results on an interest test I had taken, I changed my major to business administration. My newly-elected curriculum required that I have a laboratory science, so I elected a basic biology course entitled "Principles of Biology". This was the first course in my college career that truly interested me and gave me satisfaction and enjoyment. Still undecided, I changed my curriculum to general, with a major in biology and minors in chemistry and sociology. During the three years in this curriculum, I found that I enjoyed my chemistry and biology courses equally with a preference for biology courses with chemical explanations.**

**Due to financial problems at home, (the company for which my father had worked for 35 years went bankrupt) I obtained a job in the food services department at Northern Michigan College while I was a junior in high school. I continued working nearly full-time throughout my undergraduate college years. However it was because of this need to**

help support the family that I was able to meet the woman who would later become my wife. Alyce was also working her way through college and because we worked numerous shifts together at Northern Michigan College we came to know each other well and fell in love. We were married on the 28th of January, 1967.

Alyce graduated with a degree in elementary education and I with a Bachelor of Science degree. I decided to continue my education; and pursued a Master of Arts program in biology. My graduate research and thesis were of a biochemical nature. I performed a qualitative and quantitative analysis of three estrogens: estrone, 17-beta estradiol, and estriol in the urine of normal C57BL/6J hybrid and mutant tortoise mice, using thin-layer chromatography and Beckman's spectrophotometer.

During the first year of my graduate studies, I was the University Center night manager. During my second year, I earned a graduate assistantship in the Common Learning Program, teaching biology and physical science laboratories. During the summer, after receiving my Master of Arts degree, I taught the lecture and laboratory sections of a physical science class.

In August 1969, I moved with my wife and son to the Metro-Detroit area. Having been awarded the DeVlieg fellowship I began a doctorate program in biochemistry at Gordon Scott Medical School. Due to the fact that I had an inner desire to become a physician, I put undue pressure upon myself to be number one in my class so that I would be accepted into the physician medical school program. The stress of maintaining high standards with the added responsibilities of work and a new marriage and family resulted in my withdrawal from the program.

It was at that time that I enrolled in the secondary teaching program at Wayne State University. In 1970 I earned my teaching certificate in biology and chemistry. I took a job at Lakeview Senior High School in St. Clair Shores, Michigan. I taught science classes there for ten years.

In June of 1978, it fell to my responsibility to request that the life support systems keeping my father alive be terminated. Naturally, I had a hard time dealing with that decision. Also, that same year my job

at Lakeview was coming to an end due to declining enrollment. In November of 1979, with the aid of psychiatric counseling, I was made aware that I harbored a desire to become a medical doctor so that I would have been able to “save” my father’s life when he suffered numerous heart attacks throughout my teenage years. It is because of this inner desire that I directed many of my students into medical and chemical careers, and I was very successful in doing this.

**My teaching experience follows (in chronological order):** I began as a graduate assistant at Northern Michigan University, teaching freshman and sophomores in physical science in 1968-1969. I was a substitute teacher in Macomb County, 1969-1970. Part of that time was a long-term assignment for eight weeks in a general science course at Grant Junior High School in East Detroit Public Schools. Later on that year I did my directed teaching at East Detroit High School in chemistry and biology classes. After receiving my secondary provisional certificate, from Wayne State University, I obtained employment in the Lakeview Public Schools and taught the following courses for the period from 1970 to 1980: general biology, molecular biology, earth and space science, health, CHEM Study chemistry, qualitative analysis, and organic chemistry. I personally proposed and developed the organic chemistry class at Lakeview High School along with two of my former Lakeview students, Dr. Michelle Handley M.D. and Dr. Richard Handley Ph.D. in organic chemistry.

In the fall of 1980 my teaching career moved to Chippewa Valley Schools in Clinton Township where I taught high school chemistry, honors chemistry, physical science, biology, advanced biology, advance chemistry, and AIDS instruction.

Some of my more note-worthy accomplishments are as follows: I am a dyslexic with a B.S., M.A., M.A.T., and a Ph.D.. I have been happily married to Alyce June (Krause) Jacobson for many years. We have two children, Robert Paul Jacobson Jr. and a daughter Mrs. Barbara Jean (Jacobson) Graves. I am the proud grandfather of Zachary Jacob Graves, Carter Jason Graves and Aja Christine Jacobson. I am a member of St. Germaine Catholic Church in St. Clair Shores and have acted as a lector and Eucharistic Minister since 1986.

In education and leadership rolls I have been the chemistry consortium

leader between the 21 public schools in Macomb County and the Macomb Intermediate School District, MISD, and Macomb County College. I was one of the Michigan Education Association delegates to the National Education Association lobbying for a separate cabinet post for education in 1977. While at Lakeview I was the co-chairperson of the Secondary Curriculum Committee, Vice-president of the Lakeview Education Association, and political action co-chairperson. Also at Lakeview I was an active member of the following organizations: Student Code of Conduct Committee, Human Sexuality Program (Developer for grades K-12), Building Needs Committee and the Sick Bank Committee. During my tenure at Chippewa Valley Schools, I initiated and coordinated the Science Olympiad program for the district. We have been very successful at the Macomb County level, as well as the state of Michigan level with our teams. I have also been active as a committee member for our District Science Curriculum Council, Computer Assisted Instruction programs, teacher In-Service, and Open House committees. I have reviewed and contributed to two national textbooks, BSCS Blue Version, *Biological Sciences, A Molecular Approach* by Heath Publishing Company in 1980 and *Chemistry, A Modern Course*, Merrill Publishing Company in 1987. I have also been a free-lance chemistry writer for Addison-Wesley Publishing Company since 1990. I have conducted national workshops in chemistry for the National Science Olympiad for the following events: CHEM Labs, Periodic Table, Titration Race and Qualitative Analysis. I helped develop a flow chart for the teaching of organic chemistry and copy wrote it in 1989. Brian Zuzga did all of the computer graphs for me to publish the chart. I have presented this chart at our state MSTA conference in Lansing, Michigan as well as the national NSTA conference held in Atlanta, Georgia in 1990. I was also invited to present at the international CHEM Ed conference in 1991 in Oshkosh Wisconsin. My Hobbies are flying, photography (aerial, nature, and family), construction (I built our summer home), sailing, power boating, swimming, four wheeling, motorcycling, and biking.