



## Thomas Craig Sangster

February 25, 1959 - April 12, 2025

Dr. Thomas "Craig" Sangster, born February 25, 1959, in Dallas, Texas, passed away suddenly on April 12, 2025, in Ocala, Florida. A devoted husband, father, scientist, and friend, Craig's life was marked by intellectual brilliance, boisterous "dad" humor, and a deep love for both discovery and the outdoors.

He earned a Bachelor of Science from Baylor University before continuing to Purdue University to complete both his Master's and PhD in Physics while proudly cheering "Boiler up!" It was at Purdue that he met the love of his life, Rhonda. Their marriage was filled with shared adventures and enduring love for over 41 years.

Craig began his professional career at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory before moving on to the University of Rochester, where he retired in 2023. Over the course of his distinguished career in physics, Craig authored or co-authored numerous scientific publications and consulted for the National Nuclear Security Administration and Department of Energy. His contributions to science were vast, leaving a legacy in the field.

Beyond his professional achievements, Craig lived a life rich with personal passions. A devoted golfer, through and through, Craig could be found playing in any weather: sun, rain, or even snow. Whether practicing for hours on the

putting green, sharing laughs at Texas BBQ Joint after a round with his Rochester golf buddies, or morning rounds with his beloved group of friends affectionately known as the "old farts" he never missed an opportunity to play a round.

A gifted pianist, Craig poured emotion into every note he played. His home often resonated with the lively syncopations of ragtime and the delicate intricacies of Chopin's etudes. Music was not just a hobby but a source of deep personal expression and comfort.

From an early age, Craig was captivated by flight. During college he was a co-pilot on the Baylor University airplane, ferrying staff, athletes and alumni around the country. He also enjoyed piloting remote-controlled aircraft around local parks.

Craig also cherished time spent outdoors with his sons as a Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 310 of Penfield, NY. Many weekends were devoted to camping trips in New York's ever-changing weather, a reflection of Craig's enduring love for his boys.

He is survived by his beloved wife Rhonda; their sons Doug (Diane, wife) and Trevor (Emma, partner); his sister Cindy; and many cousins who will remember him fondly. Craig was predeceased by his mother Geraldine "Gerry" Farmer and father Thomas Murdock Sangster.

A memorial service to honor Craig's life will be held at 6:00 PM on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at Roberts of Ocala West Chapel, located at 6241 SW State Rd 200, Ocala, Florida 34476.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Ocala Symphony Orchestra and Reilly Arts Center at <https://www.reillyartscenter.com/support/>

or Habitat for Humanity of Marion County. <https://habitatocala.org/donate/>

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR 17. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Roberts of Ocala West Chapel

6241 SW State Rd 200

Ocala, FL 34476

(352) 537-8111

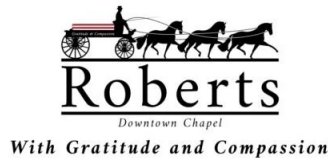
[info@robertsfunerals.com](mailto:info@robertsfunerals.com)

<http://www.robertsfunerals.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Roberts of Ocala Funerals and Cremations created a Webcast in memory of Thomas Craig Sangster*



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**Roberts of Ocala Funerals and Cremations** - April 17, 2025 at 04:51 PM



“ *Craig was my classmate at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Muenster, Texas. I think that he lived in Rosston, Texas at the time. He was smart and witty and always seemed to be happy. He and fellow classmate George Luke always seemed to have the highest grades in the class. My condolences to his family and friends, and may God rest his soul. ❤️ Janette (Yosten) Hess, Muenster, Texas*

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**Janette Hess** - April 18, 2025 at 10:37 AM



“ *Rhonda and family, Craig was an integral part of LLE. He inspired the students and scientists. He informed and supported our sponsors. His wisdom was always spot on. The lab is deeply sorry that he has left you and the community, way, way too soon. You are in my prayers, Chris Deeney*

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**Christopher Deeney** - April 17, 2025 at 05:52 PM

AM

“ I first met Craig over twenty-five years ago when I arrived from the UK to conduct experiments at LLNL. From our very first interaction, he was incredibly friendly and welcoming, patiently and expertly explaining how his diagnostic worked to a new postdoc. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with him over the years. Craig was not only a brilliant scientist but also a truly wonderful person. Rest in peace, Craig

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**Andrew MacKinnon** - April 17, 2025 at 01:00 PM



“ A grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas Craig Sangster.

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April 17, 2025 at 12:34 PM



“ God must have needed a fourth (golf reference) and called Craig home. I am sure that everyone’s perspective is that he left us way to early. I started down the path of lamenting all of the life experiences that we were going to miss out on in our retirement years. Then it struck me that I was focusing on the wrong thing. This is where Craig would say Milt, you need to “Reframe your Brain”. Instead, I looked backward at the 25 years of golf, BBQ, discussions, debates, and great science that we did together. It is in that vast collection of shared experiences and camaraderie that makes it easier to bear the loss of Craig. But none the less he will still be missed. So Craig, it is nothing but short grass, birdies, (more golf references) and brisket for you, Rest In Peace.

Rhonda, Doug, and Trevor, you have our deepest sympathy and condolences in this difficult time. Warmest regards, Milt and Laura.

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**Milt Shoup** - April 17, 2025 at 11:28 AM

MW

“ Mingsheng W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Craig Sangster.

Mingsheng W. - April 17, 2025 at 10:34 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas Craig Sangster.

April 17, 2025 at 09:47 AM

PA

“ Pierre Gourdain, Physics and Astronomy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Craig Sangster.

Pierre Gourdain, Physics and Astronomy - April 17, 2025 at 09:14 AM

PA

“ Pierre Gourdain, Physics and Astronomy purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Thomas Craig Sangster.



Pierre Gourdain, Physics and Astronomy - April 17, 2025 at 09:14 AM

FS

“ Flash Center for Computational Sciences purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Thomas Craig Sangster.



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**Flash Center for Computational Sciences** - April 17, 2025 at 07:41 AM

PT

“ Petros T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Craig Sangster.

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**Petros T.** - April 17, 2025 at 07:38 AM

PR

“ I am British and have fond memories of Craig from my 33 visits to LLE to carry out experiments. We also crossed paths at various conferences. My UK colleagues and I are shocked and deeply saddened to hear of Craig's passing. He wrote to me to tell me of his retirement and I wished him happy golfing. I and all of my colleagues at AWE are sending sincere condolences to Craig's family. His vast knowledge, friendship and good humour will not be forgotten. He was one of the nicest and genuine guys I have had the pleasure to know. Paula Rosen.

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**Paula Rosen** - April 17, 2025 at 06:40 AM

DM

“ Craig was and will always be remembered as a dear friend. The time we all had to wait on the tee box so he could exercise his pre shot routine will certainly now be immortalized along with all the monuments on the course that bear his name. I will continue to miss our political conversations on the way to golf and all the red lights that just took too long to wait for. Not certain on how it had affected our game play, but we always had our BBQ lunch to look forward to regardless. You will be sorely missed!

*Rhonda, Doug and Trevor, please accept my deepest sympathies for your beloved husband and father.*



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**Dino Mastro Simone** - April 16, 2025 at 01:50 PM

NI

“ I am deeply saddened by the passing of Craig Sangster, a truly remarkable person who had a profound impact on my life. When I first arrived in the United States from Japan, Craig was not only my first boss but also the person who took a chance on me, hiring me as a postdoctoral researcher. Despite my limited English skills at the time, he listened patiently, valued my ideas, and encouraged me to pursue them. His unwavering support and belief in me were instrumental in shaping my career, and I owe much of where I am today to his kindness and guidance.

What I will always cherish most about Craig is his warm smile and positive outlook. He had an incredible ability to uplift those around him and make them feel appreciated. His generosity and encouragement left an indelible mark on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

Craig's legacy lives on in the many lives he touched, including mine. He will be deeply missed, but his kindness and inspiration will remain in my heart forever.

Rest in peace, Craig. Thank you for everything.

Nobuhiko Izumi

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Nobuhiko Izumi - April 16, 2025 at 12:45 PM

DP

“ 2 files added to the album Jupiter Beach Florida



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Dr. Stephen Padalino - April 16, 2025 at 11:41 AM

JF

“ My heart is very saddened by the loss of Craig. I will always remember Craig for the wonderful and upbeat sense of humor, and someone who always stayed positive. It was a real pleasure working with Craig for more than two decades, and I know I speak for the entire MIT team saying that. Craig was also very important to my career. He was instrumental in bringing me over to US about 25 years ago, and today I am still working in the field enjoying every day of it. I certainly would not have been where I am today without Craig’s guidance and support. I will miss Craig dearly!

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**Johan Frenje** - April 16, 2025 at 09:29 AM

MF

“ I’m some honored to have shared a memory with Craig just a week ago. We were trying to figure out how to keep Rhonda occupied since she would be wearing a boot for six months because of a tennis injury. We joked and laughed, he was such a happy man, always smiling and loved to ride his bicycle, when not golfing. Rhonda you and your family have my sincere condolences.  
Monique Foster



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**Monique Foster** - April 15, 2025 at 11:17 PM

RP

“ Hard to find words to express our gratitude and grief for Craig. Craig was not only there for the LLE team, but equally as well for the MIT team, -- and all the other myriad institutions ---with whom he worked and immensely helped, with insight and equanimity and good humor. Loved how calm he could be when the rest of us were bouncing off the wall when trying to figure out how to make the experiment work, or to design it optimally! Maybe it was that golf or Chopin that was in his blood and the back of his mind. We will miss him greatly. Rich

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**richard petrasso** - April 15, 2025 at 07:33 PM

CM

“ Uncle Craig was such a blessing to the world, a true role model to myself growing up. His passion for everything in life from family, religion, and work was an inspiration to myself. I would not be who I am today if not for him. We will miss him, we are truly worse off without him.

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**Christopher Mach** - April 15, 2025 at 07:25 PM

SM

“ Craig was a truly remarkable man, taken too soon. He was a cherished friend, trusted colleague, and frequent golf companion. As part of our Rochester golf crew, we shared unforgettable travels, taking on some of the toughest courses. But in reflection, it wasn't about the courses—it was about the people, the camaraderie. Golf has a way of revealing character, and Craig's stood out in every way: his integrity, courage, and resilience. I will carry his memory with me always—and miss him deeply. My sincere condolences to the Sangster family.

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**Sam Morse** - April 15, 2025 at 05:58 PM

MH

“ Please accept my heartfelt condolences. I remember Craig fondly and with great admiration. He was instrumental in bringing me in as a postdoc to LLE 15 years ago, and his mentorship and belief in me had an enormous impact on my career. I wouldn't be where I am today without his guidance and support. He will always hold a special place in my heart.

Matthias Hohenberger - April 15, 2025 at 04:44 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas Craig Sangster.

April 15, 2025 at 04:13 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas Craig Sangster.



April 15, 2025 at 04:13 PM

RM

“ I will miss Craig terribly. Over the years we had many fun outings and trips golfing in the south in Rochester and elsewhere. Craig had a wonderful sense of humor and was a religious serious and loving father. It is hard to find a nicer and more sincere man than Craig. Beloved by many he will be greatly missed. The world is truly an emptier place without Craig.

Robert McCrory - April 15, 2025 at 03:47 PM

TN

“ *The Office of Experimental Science NNSA purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Thomas Craig Sangster.*



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**The Office of Experimental Science NNSA** - April 15, 2025 at 03:41 PM

TN

“ *The Office of Experimental Science NNSA planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Craig Sangster.*

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**The Office of Experimental Science NNSA** - April 15, 2025 at 03:41 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas Craig Sangster.*

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April 15, 2025 at 03:25 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Craig Sangster.*



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April 15, 2025 at 03:25 PM