



Dr. Annabell Zikmund

December 8, 1936 - August 10, 2021

Dr. Annabell Zikmund, 84, of Kearney passed away surrounded by her family on August 10, 2021, in St Paul, NE.

Dr. Zikmund was born in Lexington, NE on December 8th, 1936, to Harlan and Mary (Bailey) Blincow. The family moved to Loup City, NE when Annabell was a young girl, and it was there she graduated high school.

Annabell attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, pursuing a degree in Music Education. While at UNL Annabell auditioned for the Cornhusker Marching Band. She was of course accepted and to her dismay women at that time weren't allowed to march but could play in the stands as the men marched on the field. She along with other female students pushed the envelope opening doors for women in music. After graduation Annabell completed her student teaching in Ord, NE. There, she lodged in the home of Louise Petska whose boyfriend Ed Zikmund introduced Annabell to his grandson Dale. Dale who was home from the Navy was smitten with Annabell. The two began dating and were married August 9, 1958.

The couple moved to Lincoln, and both attended UNL where Dale pursued his undergraduate degree and Annabell, her master's. Somehow, they managed to get their degrees, making A's and B's, while simultaneously managing a growing family – their son Brian was born in March 1960, Craig in June 1961,

Eric in July 1962, and David in October 1964.

After Dale's graduation, the family moved to Scribner where Dale taught high school shop and was the FFA advisor. The Zikmunds then returned to Lincoln where Dale pursued his master's and PhD.

In 1972 Dale accepted a position at Kearney State College, and the family moved to Kearney, NE. It was there Annabell started substitute teaching and taught piano and voice lessons to many bright students including her grandchildren in her later years. In addition to teaching and raising her family she also began a successful career as a Tupperware dealer working her way up to Manager status. In 1983, she joined the faculty at Kearney State, where she taught until 2002 when she and Dale both retired.

In 1984 Dr. Zikmund took over as director of the Nebraskats! show choir. Under her direction, the Nebraskats! performed all over the state, the country, and the world, including Australia, China, Japan, Russia, Czechoslovakia, and Germany. She was the Director until her retirement in 2002 and was extremely proud of her 'Kats, staying in touch with many of her former students.

In 1988 Annabell's dissertation "The Effect of Grade Level, Gender, and Learning Style on Responses to Conservation Type Rhythmic and Melodic Patterns" was accepted and she received her Doctorate in Music Education from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. She also co-authored and published "The Effect of Perceptual Mode Preferences and Other Selected Variables on Upper Elementary School Students' Responses to Conservation-Type Rhythmic and Melodic Tasks".

Over the years Dr. Zikmund was devoted to serving the Kearney Community and she proudly served as a member or board member of multiple

organizations including Golden K Kiwanis, Kearney Woman's Club, Kearney Area Storytelling Festival, Volunteer Coordinator at the Kearney Archway, Rowe Sanctuary Crane Center, The Crane River Theatre Company, First United Methodist Church and judging multiple band and vocal competitions.

After their retirement in 2002, Doctors Dale and Annabell Zikmund traveled widely together, taking family trips to London and cruises in Germany, Egypt, and Alaska. They also traveled to Russia, China, and other destinations with their friends enjoying every moment.

Annabell is survived by her husband Dale, brother Bruce Blincow and wife Jane, sons Brian, Craig (Jacque), Eric (Mary Ann), and David (Melissa); grandchildren Mitchell (Ava), Natalie (Chris), Aaron (Kassi), Jarod, Tanner, Colby, and great-granddaughter Lily Quinn. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother Roger.

Celebration of life will be 9:30 am Saturday, September 11th at First United Methodist Church in Kearney. Inurnment will take place at Kearney Cemetery.

The family would like to thank the staff of Brookdale Kearney Northridge, Country House Residences in Kearney, NE. and Brookefield Park in St Paul, NE. for their amazing care and support.

Should friends desire memorials may be sent to the family for future designation to Annabell's favorite organizations. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 233-3244

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP 11. 9:30 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
4500 Linden Drive
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall



“ *Marla Hartmann lit a candle in memory of Dr. Annabell Zikmund*



Marla Hartmann - June 27, 2025 at 07:47 PM



“ *Dr. Annabell Zikmund*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Oh, Dale. I am so sorry for your family's loss. I was just reminiscing about the Nebraskats tour to Germany while I was in the group when I saw this. Annabell was such a support system to me in college and a source of encouragement. My time in Nebraskats will always be a cherished memory that she will always be a part of. Hugs and prayers for you all* ❤️



Paula DeFreece - August 12, 2022 at 12:45 PM



“ *Dale, I am sorry to read about Annabell. Guess I did not have a reason to follow-up with you. Now I have. Dr Horner passed away last week on the 12th, just a few days short of his 94th birthday. Connie said he was alert and joyfull to the end. I left a message for Wayne Oberg, but have been unable to contact Pete. You can call 402 499 6143*

Richard Douglass - July 18, 2022 at 11:53 AM

“*Dr. Annabell Zikmund was my first music teacher and certainly one of the most important.*

When I was around seven years old I guess I told my parents I wanted piano lessons. But maybe it goes back farther than that, to about age three or four. She had a music class for tots that I enjoyed. I don't remember much but there were other kids there and it was in her basement and we counted rhythms and ran around.

Then real piano lessons at age seven. Mom and Dad rented a piano so I could practice. I didn't. Every week Miz Zikmund gave me a lesson. I remember sitting in her living room, my fingers itching to play the Pachinko game, waiting for my turn. Mom I guess dropped me off. Then to the basement where the piano was.

We worked on scales and reading and a little Mozart. I met my Waterloo with a Mozart piano sonata. All the assignments before I could master without actually practicing at home, but this one was different. I could play each hand separately but when I tried to put them together I got stuck. Here is where a better student would have realized that he had to practice at home, like Miz Zikmund had gently been telling him every week. But I decided I couldn't do it. Mom and Dad threatened to send back the piano if I didn't practice. I said fine, stopped my lessons, and there it ended.

Except of course it didn't. I kept with music, singing in church choirs and school choirs, taking trumpet in school, playing handbells in church. I guess even with my limited effort, Annabell had been able to teach me enough to succeed in these various musical situations. And our paths continued to cross, as she led the handbell choir at church and accompanied our junior high school choir. I kept singing. When I sang solos at church Ann Bauer would usually accompany me but sometimes the part was too hard and she would pass me off to Annabell. I would see Miz Zikmund when I came home from college. Later when I decided to go to music school and make music my career, Annabell's smiles for me took on a different quality. It was a knowing smile. She would ask what I was doing, what groups I was singing with, what material I was studying. When I graduated and moved to Boston I didn't come home as often but every time it seemed I ran into her. Without ever saying anything

directly about it, our relationship changed. We were now colleagues. We were equal servants for the same master: music. She welcomed me into the family of musicians.

Now when I meet a young person who has clearly chosen to make music their life, I try to show them the same kindness Annabell showed me. I remember that Annabell showed no hierarchy, no seniority, no special status for elders or masters, just one big fellowship of those of us trying to keep this flame of music burning brightly from one generation to the next. Annabell was my introduction to this community and I will always be grateful to her for showing the grace and kindness that should accompany mastery in this art I chose.

David Scott

David Scott - September 14, 2021 at 09:41 AM

MH

“ *We have lost a very special lady and my deepest sympathy goes out to Dale and family. Annabell was a dear treasure who will be fondly remembered by so many people whose lives she touched. I first got to know Annabell as the director of the UNK Nebraskats when our son was a part of that group. Later we worked together on the Kearney Area Storytelling Festival Board and became good friends. We had a lot of fun together and I feel fortunate to have called her my friend.*



Marlene Hansen

Marlene Hansen - September 11, 2021 at 11:23 AM

AD

“ *When my Mother Jane married Annabelle’s brother Bruce, she instantly treated us like family. I treasure the things that she made for us and her unwavering support of me and my family. Rest In Peace sweet Annabelle.*

Andrea Deeds - September 11, 2021 at 10:13 AM

JB

“ Annabell was a wonderful sister-in-law. I truly loved her. We shared a special interest and we had much in common after we first met! She was a voice professor and I was a music teacher of piano. We often shared discussions about music

I married Bruce, her brother, in 1993. Bruce referred to his sister as Ann. We enjoyed the company of Ann and Dale They often visited with us in our home in Oklahoma City and they also enjoyed time with their nieces and families who live here as well. .Bruce and I visited in Kearney, of course, and it was special to see Bruce’s nephews and families, including cousins and extended family members. Occasionally, Ann and Dale, Bruce and I met in Wichita, Kansas. When together, here or wherever, we enjoyed theater, musicals, movies and SHOPPING! Annabell never met a store she didn’t like! Lol! We would meet our Guys for meals and visiting, then shop some more. Of course, I like to shop too.

Bruce and I planned to I visit Annabell and Dale just about the time the pandemic hit but due to health concerns on both sides, regretfully that didn’t happen. We visited with Annabell by phone often however, and sometimes Dale, too.

Annabell was so devoted to her family with love and concern for all. She was a thoughtful giver of gifts and she shared her talents with many people. We especially enjoyed her creative talents with sewing gifts and novelties for all of the females in our family and sometimes she made something for the Guys too!

We miss Annabell and her jovial laugh, even after she was not well. I also realize especially now how her life affected so many others. She so enjoyed and encouraged her vocal students, as well as my granddaughter, who was a musical theater major in college. May her light shine with her Heavenly Father and many Loved Ones in Heaven.

Love to All Family members,

Jane A Blincow

Jane A Blincow - September 08, 2021 at 12:50 PM

DF

“ *Derek Franzen and family purchased the Love's Tapestry for the family of Dr. Annabell Zikmund.*



Derek Franzen and family - September 08, 2021 at 12:22 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Annabell Zikmund.*



September 06, 2021 at 10:36 PM

KW

“ *Dale and Boys;*
I was so sorry to hear of Annabell's passing. Even though she was older than I, she always had a kind word for a younger 2nd cousin. Our thoughts, prayers and hugs to one and all.
Kathy and Ed Wood

Kathy and Ed Wood - September 06, 2021 at 12:09 PM

PM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Annabell was quite the lady!!! Since she was my mom's double cousin, her mom being my mom's Aunt Mary, who married my Grandpa Clyde Blincow's cousin Harlan, we gathered with your family often as I was growing up. Our family spent the Labor Day weekend in Lincoln at the State Fair. Since that is where Dale and Annabell were living at the time, she would always host our family at some point during the weekend. That is when we would meet up with the boys too. When I started college at NE Wesleyan in 1970, Annabell helped me get adjusted to college life and being away from home for the first time. She often took me shopping or just had me over from time to time. I really appreciated that. It was always fun to visit with Annabell and know others felt the same way. She will be missed but know she must be celebrating in a great way as she is having a wonderful reunion with Aunt Mary, Uncle Harlan and Roger in heaven. May God wrap you up and hold you close during these difficult days.

Pam and Stan Murdoch

Pamela Murdoch - September 06, 2021 at 02:29 AM

RD

“ Annabell was a wonderful colleague at UNK committing her time and hard work not only to her students but to the campus and community to invest in the common good. A delightful person with a quick smile, kind words, and genuine concern. Thanks for everything Annabell. A good life well lived.

Roger and Cel Davis

Roger Davis - August 20, 2021 at 04:29 PM

SD

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Annabell was a wonderful and very talented person.
Sherrie Dux-Ideus



Sherrie Dux-Ideus - August 16, 2021 at 11:49 AM

MI

“ Sad to hear of Annabell's passing. My prayers and good thoughts out to Dale and extended family. Always had a smile and her pride of KSC/UNK will be fondly remembered.
Fly high Annabelle.
Kearney has lost a good one!!

Mary Iten - August 15, 2021 at 01:10 PM

DF

“ Annabell helped guide me through doctoral studies, especially my dissertation. She was a friend long before and after that, however. Thanks so much for the big, broad spirit and it's accompanying smile, which will be with me forever.
Dr. Donald Callen Freed

Donald Callen Freed - August 14, 2021 at 03:26 PM

CH

“ On behalf of my mom Charlene (Mulligan) Schauer, (Dale's classmate, neighbor and friend from Ord), we are both sending our sympathy in the loss of your Annabelle, to you Dale, your son's and their families!
May God wrap you all in His loving arms and hold you tight as you grieve your loss!
Colleen (Schauer) Hansen Ord\Scotia NE

Colleen Hansen - August 13, 2021 at 08:47 PM



“ For the school year of 1986-87, I was a student at the former Kearney State College. I was a music education major with an emphasis on percussion. Many connections are made in college especially within groups of musicians. During the first semester, I was asked to fill in for Jeff Leaf as the drummer for the Nebraskats. Jeff had enlisted in the National Guard and was in basic training for part of that semester. I happily accepted the role as drummer and was welcomed into the group. When second semester rolled around, Jeff would return. Annabell saw no reason for me to step aside and so Jeff and I became "co-drummers" for the Nebraskats the remainder of the school year. One of the first performances we played was for the inaugural ceremonies for former Nebraska Governor Kay Orr. This seemed like quite an honor. Annabell was such an encouraging teacher and faculty member. I struggled with my classes as a music ed major. By the Spring of 1987, I was told by my one of my instructors that my name had been discussed about my future within the department. But, my instructor told me that Annabell was one of the faculty that was pushing for me and believed in me. I ended up changing music to my college minor and my major to Broadcast Journalism. I would still run into Annabell through the years. In the early 90's, I was living and working in Omaha. She passed by me one day in one of the Omaha malls. As she walked by, I surprisingly yelled out her name loudly and it startled and scared her. But, I apologized and we laughed about it. By the late 90's, I had moved back to the Kearney area and would see her around town and I would attend the annual Nebraskats Spring concert. She always welcomed back the Kats alumni as one big family. I became very active with the Kearney Community Theatre in the late 90's and early 2000's and a lot of the cast members that participated in the shows were also members of the Nebraskats as well. Together, we all had a connection to the wonderful woman we all knew as Annabell!



Dave Ferris - August 13, 2021 at 03:38 PM

BW

Dave that was a great tribute. I mentioned to John Dart how she believed in us more than anyone. I'm glad you shared in that. Annabell was a gem!

Bob Widdowson - August 21, 2021 at 10:24 PM

TB

“*Aunt Annabell, I will always remember the fun I had with you. I have such fond memories of shopping, singing, cooking, and reminiscing. You taught me so much and filled a huge void when mom passed. I will miss you more than I can express. See you soon, Tasa*

Tasa Barnett - August 13, 2021 at 02:56 PM