

Heidi Jacobus, co-founder of Cybernet Systems, dies at 63

Longtime member of Ann Arbor tech community co-founded Cybernet Systems

By Tom Henderson

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Heidi Neubauer Jacobus

Heidi Neubauer Jacobus, a longtime member of the local tech community, died Thursday. She was 63.

A reception is scheduled for Feb. 13 the **Nie Family Funeral Home** at 3767 W. Liberty Road in Ann Arbor.

Jacobus graduated from **Trinity College** in Hartford, Conn., with a B.S. in psychology. She then studied the Programmed Logic for Automatic Teaching Operations (PLATO) system as a site administrator for medical education at the **University of Connecticut**.

In 1986, she joined the **University of Michigan's Center for Ergonomics**. That year, while pursuing a doctorate in computer science, she co-founded Ann Arbor-based **Cybernet Systems Corp.** with her husband, Chuck Jacobus, and became chairman and CEO.

Over the years, Cybernet created the Automated Tactical Ammunition Classification System for the **U.S. Department of Defense**, a system that can inspect more than 5,000 rounds of ammunition an hour; a prototyping package for modeling vehicle systems and components for the **U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center**; and MedStar, a Web-based outpatient care solution that collects physiological data from personal patient devices.

Jacobus was active on the board of the **National Center for Manufacturing Science** and was co-chair of the **Small Business Technology Council**.

Jacobus' list of awards include her company being named one of the 50 Michigan companies to watch; the Tibbetts Award for Small Business Excellence, admission to the **NASA Space Technology Hall of Fame**, named as one of the top Michigan women in computing, the **Small Business Administration's** Award for Excellence and two lifetime achievement awards from the SBTC.

She is survived by her husband; daughter Monica Anne Jacobus; son Patrick Jacobus; her mother, Emma Neubauer; and a brother, Phillip Neubauer.

Memorial donations may be sent to the **Cosmos Middle School** Scholarship Fund care of: Charles Jacobus, 432 Riverview Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.