

Avid Cook

Erin was in second grade when her mother gifted a book titled, "Science Experiments You Can Eat". The rest is history! She was fascinated by the engineering, growing of food, and invention of dishes; the anatomy of cuisine intrigued Erin. She could have been a professional chef. Erin approached her Michelin Star worthy creations like a scientist. Cutting, dicing, mixing, and constructing in the kitchen was a place Erin returned to throughout her life; an escape from the demands of her career providing needed relaxation. An accomplished southern cook like her mother and grandmother before her, Erin surpassed them. Her baked items were works of art, expert productions tantalizing the taste-buds of those who gathered round her table, and those receiving her holiday food baskets. Platters of Erin's Southern-styled deviled eggs were always in high demand! A collector of vintage dishes and glass, Erin filled six china cabinets, so her food was displayed on antique depression and cut glass, old pottery and ceramics. Artistic presentations.



Brining, smoking, and injecting meat with all manner of solutions, syringing and basting. Erin was a mad scientist at work in the kitchen. You left her to it and enjoyed the results. For a while, the study of "cuts of meat" was a focus and Erin sought out courses she could take. Erin could have been a candidate for a "Meat Science" degree from Texas A & M University. Yes, that is a degree one could obtain! The science of it all captivated her brilliant mind. What an operation unfolded behind her garage every summer and fall! Between smoking all cuts of meat in a smoker and her annual Turkey Frying Project with her dad for the holidays, all elements of science and chemistry, weights and measures took over Erin's space and time. Passionate, indeed, Erin often talked about opening a restaurant or getting a food truck when she was older, a "second act". It would have been a popular place to feast, for sure.

World Traveler

Erin traveled all over the United States. Her bags were always packed for travel to Paris, Spain, England, China, Puerto Rico's Rain Forest. Erin had a fondness for "Island Time". Hawaii, Martinique, Antigua, St. Maarten, Tortola, St. Thomas, St. Croix, Aruba, St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Johns, Grand Cayman, Cozumel, Bahamas, and Cabo San Luca journeys followed. But Walt Disney World was a favorite.

Our mission: "To see young women of science succeed, and young minds learning and well-read."

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The Erin Nicole Simpson 204 Books Project and Science Scholarship Fund

In Memory of Erin Nicole Simpson
September 9, 1978 - August 14, 2019

"A Little Girl Who Loved to Read and Learn"



"I shall find out thousands and thousands of things - I shall find out about people and creatures and everything that grows - and the secret garden bloomed and bloomed and every morning revealed new miracles." Frances Hodgson Burnett

PERHAPS THEY ARE NOT STARS,
BUT RATHER OPENINGS IN
HEAVEN WHERE THE LOVE OF OUR
LOST ONES POURS THROUGH & SHINES
DOWN UPON US TO LET US KNOW
THAT THEY ARE HAPPY.

*Having a daughter means knowing
You have given the world
Something beautiful and good*

Erin Nicole Simpson, is the beloved daughter of Roger and Pamela (Kester) Simpson. Loving older sister of Emily Kay Simpson. Erin was only 40 when she was taken from us, but throughout her life, Erin was -

"more than was hoped for"

To keep Erin's light burning, her family established this science scholarship and book project. They wish to honor Erin with a yearly science scholarship, given to a deserving young woman; and by donating 204 books each spring to local libraries.

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204 BOOKS:

A voracious reader her whole life, when Erin was only four years old, she was already reading at a 5th grade level. As a small child, Erin won 1st place at the local library's summer reading program contest by reading 204 Books. In honor of Erin, the fund will donate 204 books to local libraries each spring.



Cherished Animals

Erin's first love was her doggies. During her 40 years on Earth, Erin shared her life with four different Poodle Pals. Throughout her high school years, Erin was a Vet Tech, so giving care to animals was a life-long journey. Her pets were her children and loves of her life. We know that "All Dogs Go to Heaven" so the thought of Erin being in Poodle Heaven with Chelsea, Fievel, Simon, and Teddy comforts her family.

Passionate About Science

During high school, Erin excelled by taking AP classes, college courses, volunteer work, and belonging to honor organizations. From being published in *Who's Who Among American High School Students* and course work at Johns Hopkins University, as well as studies at Beijing University, to an internship at Cook County Hospital, Chicago; Erin was an accomplished academic. She once even had the privilege of presenting a paper at Brigham and Women's Teaching Hospital, Harvard University.

A 2000 graduate of Illinois Wesleyan and a 2003 graduate of Columbia University, New York, with a Master's Degree in Public Health. Erin always followed her passion for science. A former employee of Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, Erin worked in tandem with the doctors who set up the Gunnar Esiason Adult Cystic Fibrosis & Lung Disease Program.

Erin co-authored a published article on Asthma in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*. In her "spare" time, she was a free-lance editor and researcher for various books and scientific publications; *Aids Epidemic, diseases in America, heart disease related to tobacco, and a study on crack injections.*

Once moving back to Chicago, Erin worked at the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab (formerly Rehabilitation of Chicago) and more recently, Erin was a Senior Research Administrator at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine; working at the Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

*SCIENCE PERMEATED, INFLUENCED,
AND OCCUPIED ERIN'S TIME*

Caretaker of Gardens

A passionate gardener, Erin spent years creating an English Garden; complete with ancient stonework. Erin's companion vegetable garden became an endless source of research. True to her scientific roots, spring and summers were spent experimenting with all manner of trees, shrubs, and flowers. Preserving heirloom tomatoes, researching and analyzing root systems, pest control, and grafting and propagating hybrid collections. Erin's horticulture curiosity led her to seek out new and unusual discoveries, even traveling to London to attend the Chelsea Flower Show and visit the Chelsea Physics Gardens; established by Apothecaries in 1673 to grow plants to be used as medicines. Erin contained an endless flow of information on horticulture and Life Sciences. Thankfully, Erin's Lilacs and Peonies are in abundance each spring for her family to still enjoy!

Music Aficionado

Musicology wasn't Erin's thing, but she was a walking volume on Classic Rock. Each summer, a spread sheet was required to track the numerous concerts she attended with family and friends. Erin had quite the T-Shirt collection from all those concerts. Music fed Erin's soul, so there was always music! On a trip to Paris, Erin even visited Père-Lachaise, the Paris cemetery where Jim Morrison of the Doors is buried; along with other persons of literary and theatrical fame. Those who were present at her "Celebration of Life" memorial service wore their favorite concert band T-Shirts in her honor.

Rock On, Erin Nicole, Forever & Always!



*Remember when you were young,
you shone like the sun -
Shine on! (Pink Floyd)*