Messages from former students, associates, and colleagues
To Dr John Huizenga:

You gave me the opportunity no one else would take a chance on. You went out of your way to help a student way out of your field. No one else would have that compassion for education. I will never forget how many doors you opened for me. And look, it all worked out ok. Highlight of my education was scoring 100% on the nuclear chemistry final. I am sorry I missed this great day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Dear John,
Due to health problems, I find myself unable to attend your birthday celebration.

I came to Rochester 39 years ago in the fall of 1967. The first tour I took through the lab was truly impressive. I found the research area filled with state-of-the-art equipment, the Emperor-accelerator, the Enge spectrograph, to name just two major components. In addition, there was a library containing almost everything needed for nuclear research. There was ample office and laboratory space. In my recollection, the lab ranged among the top university-based laboratories in the U.S., if not in the world. There were numerous research groups engaged in various aspects of nuclear research, nuclear structure as well as nuclear reaction mechanisms. In addition, the development of new detector systems and the application of computers for data acquisition and analysis were the subject of ongoing and successful research.

John - I wish to thank you again for inviting me to join your research group at the NSRL 39 years ago and participate in the fascinating research going on at that time. For the coming years I send you my best wishes. I trust, you and all those attending the celebration will have a nice and long remembered meeting in Rochester. Thank you.

Tom

Thomas Elze
Dear John,

I am sorry that I cannot join your birthday party. Renate and I wish you all the best for your birthday.

We still remember the year 1979, when we arrived in Rochester and when I joined your group. At the beginning it was not so easy for me, since I came from a nuclear structure group. You, as an excellent teacher, helped me to enter the very interesting field of nuclear reactions, so that I became a full member of your group within half a year. Nowadays, as a manager of the RISING (Rare Isotopic Investigation at GSI) project, I am still using the Rochester interaction radius parameterization when we investigate radioactive nuclei at 200 MeV/nucleon.

For the very fruitful two years in Rochester I will always be very grateful to you.

Best regards

Hans-Juergen Wollersheim
Dear John,

Sorry that I am unable to join you for this celebration. We are in the midst of moving (part-time) to Arizona.

Sue and I have nearly completed a book on the science and politics of nuclear waste disposal. In the course of trying to find a publisher I have come to realize I owe you a large debt of gratitude for doing all the leg work in getting our book on Nuclear Fission published. In spite of the hassles Sue and I have found researching the nuclear waste issue very interesting. Now we are learning how to walk away from the computer to enjoy the sunshine.

I hope you can continue to do this in North Carolina.

Sincerely,
Bob V.
... Unfortunately, because of some health reasons, I will be unable to join in your party for John Huizenga. Please send my very best regards to John.

I got to know John at a Herzegnovi Summer School in Yugoslavia before the mid 1960’s. He was there with the whole family, and we were together with Gerry Brown, Sven Gösta Nilsson, Ove Nathan, Nicola Cindro, among many others. It was one of my first travels abroad as speaker/teacher at a meeting. Johns huge knowledge of nuclear physics impressed me. It was the start of a long friendship with him.

I benefited over the years very much from his deep insight in general physics. Always with his sound grasp of reality.

I hope that you will have a nice Fest and Symposium in the real John Huizenga spirit.

Give him my very best regards and congratulations!

Yours sincerely

Jakob Bondorf
Dear John,

my warmest congratulations to your 85th birthday!

My thoughts are going back 3-4 decades, when I came to Rochester and you visited Frankfurt. The stimulation from you was important and I always will treasure it. I am proud to have known you and your wonderful wife personally.

The older we became the faster the time flows. It is a pity that this flow is always in one direction only. Again, this is very basic physics.

Best wishes, dear John, for many more years to come; hopefully in good health for you.

With personal regards,

yours sincerely

Walter Greiner
Dear John.

All of our warmest greetings on the occasion of your 85th birthday!
We are so sorry that we cannot be with you all to join in the celebration.

Jim and Mary Griffin
Dear John:

I am sure that, in terms of praises, you must be close to saturation by now. So, let me temper the atmosphere with a few words of reproach.

While you were with us we looked up to you for example, direction and guidance. Now, without you, we are like sheep without shepherd (Somebody might correct that as shepherds without sheep, given the shortness of graduate students). You kept us with your steady hand, to the straight and narrow of Nuclear Science. Now we are led astray by the physicists with phase transitions, negative heat capacities, bimodalities etc., all things that a good chemist of the old school with his thermodynamical good sense would have stayed away from like the devil from holy water. I myself, I must confess, have been tempted by that, and I have even done the unthinkable of trying my hand with quark gluon plasma, for which I now stand aside red faced.
Hi John

Congratulations on 85 years! What a milestone. I really regret not being there personally to help you celebrate. You have been an inspiration to me since the early sixties when I was a graduate student and then post-doc. I have always admired your work. I have also always appreciated your enthusiasm and your intellectual honesty and tried to incorporate as much of that as possible into my own work. Looking for pictures of us together I found this one from the Fall Creek Falls meeting in 1977. Unfortunately it confirms my fears- I have aged while you continue to remain young.

Best wishes for the next 85.
John, here are some more of your friends and colleagues