

It is with profound sadness that we share that **Reed Alexander Oei** died on April 15, 2022 after a year-long battle with bile-duct cancer.



Reed is survived by his brother, Michael, his mother, Lori Jean, his father, Charles Oei (wife Tina Chase), his maternal grandmother, Dorothy Golichowski, and his paternal grandmother, Laney Oei.

[Reed accomplished a tremendous amount](#) in his short 23 years.

Reed graduated from St. Joseph's High School in South Bend, where he was a key member of the Quiz Bowl team, contributing to their winning the Rotary State Championship all four years. Reed joined the tennis team as a freshman and was the #4 singles player in his senior year.

Reed graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in 2021 with two bachelor's degrees: one in Computer Science from the College of Engineering and another in Math from the College of Liberal Arts and Science. As usual, he chose the harder route of getting a double major, when there were easier ways to obtain both math and CS degrees. In addition to developing a new computer programming

language he named Psamathe, Reed also continued studying Latin, something he started in high school, and also took French language classes at UIUC.

Reed wanted to be a researcher and in his freshman year at UIUC, sought opportunities to learn to conduct research in math and computer science. After his freshman year, Reed was offered a summer research internship which led to at least one published paper. He then spent two summers at Carnegie Mellon University in its summer research program, which led to additional published papers. In addition he had other ongoing research in both CS and math. In total, Reed has 9 published papers as an undergraduate, 5 of which he was either the first or second author. Reed's Google Scholar page can be found [here](#).

Reed's research efforts were recognized by the national Computing Research Association which named him a Top 10 Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher for 2021.

Reed was also awarded a Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation, which meant he could attend any PhD program in Mathematics completely funded for tuition, room and board, plus a stipend. He was accepted into the UCLA Math PhD program and successfully passed the PhD entrance exam on the first try. Reed completed his first quarter at UCLA with an B+ average, even while undergoing chemo treatment and enduring complications which caused him to miss many weeks of classes due to multiple hospital stays.

In addition to research, Reed was an extremely gifted cook who enjoyed cooking with and for family and friends. He developed an interest in the history of culinary arts and began writing a cookbook of ancient recipes. Reed also enjoyed visiting art museums, traveling, archery, hiking and camping.

**A celebration of Reed's life is planned for Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 1:00pm (Eastern Time) at the [Eagle Lake Sailing Club](#), Edwardsburg, Michigan.**

**In lieu of flowers**, we are accepting donations that will be used to fund an annual scholarship in Reed's name to be awarded to a budding young mathematician, for either college or graduate level studies. Please [contact us](#) if you are interested in donating to this scholarship fund.