

Edward Evenson, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences and distinguished scientist of glacial geology, passed away August 7, 2023 at his home in Mackay, ID. He was 80.

Born in Wisconsin in 1942, Evenson had an internationally respected reputation as a Quaternary geologist and glacial geomorphologist.

Ed had a passion for geology that was contagious and his breadth and depth of geological knowledge was truly incredible. Many EES friends and alumni fondly recall the transformative experiences associated with the Geological Sciences/EES geology field camp (EES 341) that Ed developed, led for 29 years, and instructed for another decade prior to his retirement. Field camp became an important part of the EES departmental culture and it remains so.

Evenson received his PhD from the University of Michigan in 1972, and after one year with Exxon, he began teaching at Lehigh where he would stay for the next 50 years. He earned widespread acclaim as a prolific scientist and popular teacher. Ed's research took him extensively, and almost exclusively, to high latitudes and high elevations. He sought to answer important big picture questions including: Were the well-documented Quaternary Ice Ages in the Northern Hemisphere synchronous or asynchronous with those in the Southern Hemisphere? (The answer is yes, mostly). Along with his students, Evenson sought to increase our understanding of glacial sediments and processes surrounding the Great Lakes, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the Rocky Mountains, Tierra del Fuego, Patagonia, the Chugach Mountains of Alaska, and Iceland. He was among the first to apply rock magnetic properties to describe the deformation and flow of till beneath an ice sheet, as well as cosmogenic nuclide exposure dating on glacial boulders to determine the timing of ice sheet advance and retreat.

As a teacher and mentor, Evenson helped launch scores of careers. He had a knack for inspiring non-majors in the classroom and in the field. Many of these students went on to change their majors to EES and then continue into top graduate programs. His graduate students benefited from his expansive understanding of geologic processes, some of whom would go on to be close colleagues and collaborators.

Evenson, is survived by his wife, Laura Cambiotti, and his son, Mark.

We move that this memorial resolution be made a permanent part of the faculty record by being included in the minutes of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Earth and Environmental Sciences,

Ken P Kodama
Frank J Pazzaglia

