

A MEMORIAL OF PROF. JOHN E. ESTES

A Sketch of Prof. John E. Estes' Life



Born on July 21, 1939
Died on March 9, 2001

(Posts at the time of his death)

Professor of Department of Geography, University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB)

Director of Remote Sensing Research Unit, Department of Geography, UCSB

Chairperson of International Steering Committee for Global Mapping

Member of Space Station Science Utilization Advisory Committee, NASA

Member, Earth System Science and Applications Advisory Committee, NASA

Member of Space Applications Board and Mapping Science Committee, National Research Council

Areas of Specialization: Remote Sensing, GIS, Land Use Study

Vita

1962 B. A., San Diego State College

1963 M. A., San Diego State College

1969 Ph. D., University of California

1969-1975 Assistant Professor of Geography
University of California, Santa Barbara

1975-1979 Associate Professor of Geography
University of California, Santa Barbara

1979-2001 Professor of Geography
University of California, Santa Barbara

1987-1989 Visiting Senior Scientist
NASA Headquarters

1992-1995 Senior Visiting Scientist
US Geological Survey

1996- Chairperson, International Steering Committee for
Global Mapping

1981 American Society of Photogrammetry,
1981, Ford Bartlett Award

1989 Honorary Chief Editor, GeoCarto International

1994 Awarded, Remote Sensing Medal
Association of American Geographers

1994 American Society of Photogrammetry
Certificate of Appreciation for Meritorious
Service for 1994

1996 National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Commendation: "Contributions to Mission to
Planet Earth"

1997 NASA, Office of Mission to Planet Earth,
Rotary Stellar Award Nominee

1999 Association of American Geographers
Lifetime Achievement Honors

1999 NASA and United States Department of Interior
Pecora Memorial Award

I saw Jack Estes first in Santa Barbara in 1996.

I saw him last in Hiroshima six months ago.

We, Jack and Claire and Karen and I, became firm friends in those four short years.

To me Jack was larger than life. Domestic life at least.

A big bright bundle of warmth and wit and wisdom, impossible not to be drawn in.

And I'm glad I was.

Jack's passing has left a void. It has also disclosed the magnitude of his works. I am proud to have helped in one of these. His Global Map.

Rest easy my friend. Let others now take the load.

Peter Holland, 15 May 2001

General Manager, Australian Land Information Group
Vice- Chairperson, ISCGM



Professor John (Jack) E. Estes, age 61, died suddenly on March 9th, 2001 after a fight against cancer.

Professor Estes was a member of the UCSB Geography faculty for over 30 years, and was a friend and colleague who will be much missed. Dr. Estes career was memorable. Receiving his BA and MA from San Diego College, Jack moved to UCLA to work with Dr. Norman Thrower toward the Ph.D., which he received in 1969.

Despite periods in the 1960s working with the US Federal Government and Texas Instruments, after 1965 Jack's ties to academia remained unbroken, beginning at UCSB in 1969, and reaching the rank of Professor in 1979. He published 4 books, 33 book chapters, 61 peer reviewed journal articles, and an additional two hundred other publications, including pioneering early use of remote sensing for oil spill detection. Jack's first research award was given in 1970, and his research funding was then continuous over 31 years, involving 73 projects totalling \$23M in funding.

Jack served on numerous committees, especially for NASA, and including the National Academy's Mapping Sciences Committee from 1987-92.

At UCSB Jack will be best remembered by his students, having chaired 45 MA and 16 Ph.D. committees. His loyalty to, and joy discovered in the work of these students were remarkable, and unlike any I have seen before.

I will miss Jack greatly, as will the whole remote sensing and mapping communities.

Keith Clarke

Chair, Geography Department, University of California, Santa Barbara

I first met Jack Estes at Sioux Falls in June 1998 where I was representing France at the 4th ISCGM meeting. By the end of the meeting Jack's vision and leadership had played a part in convincing me that I wanted to be part of the project, and that's the way it turned out.

I discovered a common passion with Jack in a discussion held during one of those breaks that often turn out to be the most creative parts of a conference. Jack was a very knowledgeable student of Japanese culture in general, and a collector of Japanese art. In particular I remember a leisurely conversation in Cape Town, when we discussed the personality of Miyamoto Musashi, one of the most striking characters of medieval Japan. Miyamoto Musashi is certainly the most fabulous swordsman of all time, having never lost a single fight, due not only to his technical skills, but what he described as 'strategy'. Having retired in his mid-years, he dedicated the rest of his life to self development and arts. He created calligraphy and paintings of exceptional beauty, some still visible in a Kumamoto museum, that were the heart of our Cape Town conversation.

Let's also remember Jack as the indefatigable strategy fighter he was in the service of a global vision.

Claude Luzet

EuroGeographics Executive Director, Chair of ISCGM WG3



photo by Claude Luzet

Last November, Jack visited Hiroshima, one of Japanese big cities, to attend Global Mapping Forum 2000. It is needless to report to the readers of this newsletter how he played an important role in the forum. I would like to introduce here another work he did then in addition to his main task. He gave a lecture to the pupils of junior high schools who filled up the main hall of International Conference Center Hiroshima where the forum was held.

Showing some color slides, Jack explained the present state of the global environment and emphasized the importance of global environmental conservation to the young audience who were listening to him with a big impression. In the last part of his lecture, he showed a small sphere made of glass containing a small globe in the center surrounded with liquid and gold leaves. After stating that he had brought this sphere as a gift to Mayor of Hiroshima, he said to the audience swinging it, " I hear that black rain fell just after the throwing down of an atomic bomb in Hiroshima. From now on, thus let golden rain fall on the earth! ".

Jack executed this lecture enduring the pain in the back to satisfy the request by Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima City. I met Jack complaining of his pain in the back just after he finished the lecture. I could not imagine his serious disease then but merely thought he was suffering from a crick in the back. Nor could I forecast the sad occurrence that would terminate our friendly intercourse within a few months.



Looking back upon a lot of activities Jack has shown before my eyes, I am surely convinced that we could not see such a satisfactory progress of Global Mapping Project without Jack, Prof. Dr. John E. Estes, an excellent and warm-hearted leader of the project.

Kunio Nonomura

Professor, Hiroshima Institute of Technology, ex Director General GSI

"Feeling the absence of Jack Estes at GSDI 5 in Cartagena, Colombia"

Many and very important persons have contributed meaningfully to the development of a Global Spatial Data Infrastructure. Professor Jack Estes was one of them. He was a very active member of the GSDI Steering Committee. This year the 5th Conference of GSDI took place in Cartagena, Colombia on 21-26 May. His presence was there every day of that week: At the Opening Session, when the correct word or the way to better summarize an argument was missing, at the event photograph or when conceiving the set of conference resolutions.

On 26 May 2001 the 8th ISCGM Meeting took place. There significant advances for Global Mapping were attained, in terms of funding for participant nations, GM Version 1.0 dynamics and key sector engagement, as in the case of the there created Industry Working Group. These important results were, in a way, Jack Estes final contribution to earth mapping.

In thinking about these achievements at Cartagena, unavoidably, there are these mixed feelings of sadness, since Jack did not live to see this, and joy because, in a not too far situation, from a distance, he will be the first to realize the viability of his dream and its contribution to sustainable development.

Santiago Borrero

Director General, Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute of Colombia

Chair, GSDI Steering Committee

From the Secretariat

Prof. John E. Estes (Jack) served ISCGM as Chairperson ever since its inception. In Nov. 1994, the International Workshop on Global Mapping was held in Izumo, Japan, which marked the starting point of this internationally collaborative initiative. Jack was one of the nineteen experts convened from worldwide and vigorously contributed to drafting the Resolution of Izumo Workshop, which defined the fundamental principles of Global Mapping, incorporating his idea on responsibility of national mapping agencies in the world to global environmental issues.

In Feb. 1996, the Second Workshop was held in Tsukuba, Japan, in which ISCGM was established. Jack was elected unanimously as the first Chairperson of the committee. In Nov. 1996, the Interregional Seminar was held in UCSB. Jack chaired the seminar and concluded with a declaration of the Santa Barbara Statement. In 1998, Jack sent a letter through the UN inviting all National Mapping Organizations of the world to participate in Global Mapping. In response to his call more than eighty countries have participated in Global Mapping, which covers 80% of the global land. In Nov. 2000, the Global Mapping Forum was held in Hiroshima, Japan commemorating the completion of the first phase of Global Mapping and the start of releasing the initial outcome of this initiative.

The ideas and views he embraced are not yet the complete reality but they are steadily on the way. Professor Estes, we thank you again for your leadership and friendship, which we will long cherish and look up to in time of difficulty. With all our prayers, please rest in peace.

Minoru Akiyama, Secretary General of ISCGM



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