

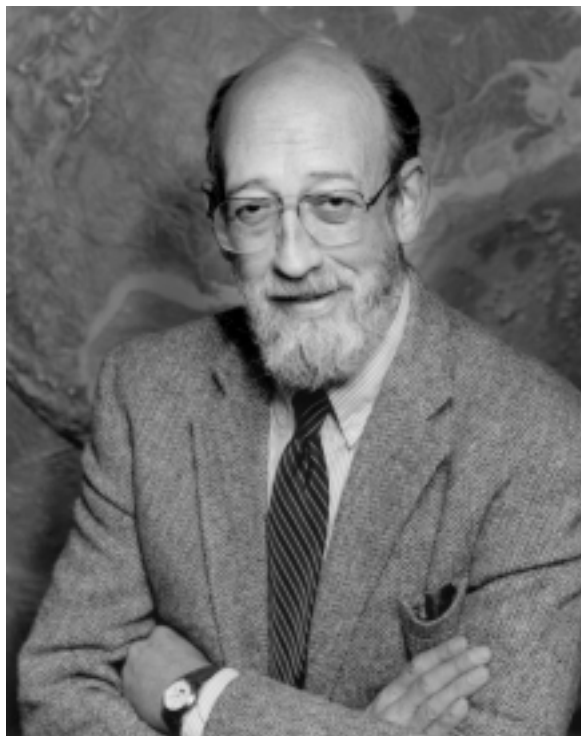
# A MEMORIAL FOR JOHN STEINHART

*Herb Wang, Bob Dott, Charlie Bentley*

Professor Emeritus John Steinhart was born on June 3, 1929 in Chicago, Illinois. He died April 4, 2003 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he lived following his retirement to pursue his many interests, which included solar energy, writing, music, woodworking, and jewelry making.

Steinhart earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Harvard in 1951 where he starred in varsity swimming. He then taught English for one year at Morgan Park Military Academy in Chicago before serving in the U.S. Navy for four years. In 1956 he came to study geophysics with George Woollard in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at UW-Madison. He completed his PhD in 1960 with a thesis entitled "Explosion Studies of Continental Structure." Steinhart was an avid amateur cellist, so he organized a group of chamber musicians who played all the Haydn string quartets nonstop during one spring break. Between 1960 and 1968 Steinhart was a scientist at the Carnegie Institution of Washington's Department of Terrestrial Magnetism in Washington D.C. where he conducted research in seismology and heat flow. Steinhart served on the staff of the White House science advisor in both the Johnson and Nixon administrations with responsibilities in energy, resources, and marine and atmospheric sciences. He was elected fellow of the American Geophysical Union in 1967 and fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1968.

John joined the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the rank of Professor in 1969 with one half of his appointment as Associate Director of the Marine Studies Center. He was charged with bringing together social scientists, lawyers, natural scientists and others to identify and work on problems of the marine environment in a truly interdisciplinary manner. He was a founding faculty member of the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, which provided a natural home for



*John Steinhart*

his multidisciplinary scholarly interests. During the 1970s Steinhart's appointment evolved to 50% in the IES instructional program and 50% in the Department of Geology and Geophysics. He helped establish within IES an Energy Analysis and Policy Program in 1979, which he chaired from 1983 until his retirement in 1991. He also coauthored three books on energy with Carol Steinhart.

Steinhart was one of the Institute's most colorful and well-liked faculty members. His colleague, Gretchen Schoff, once wrote to him: "Stegner's judgment of Benny DeVoto could as well apply to you: 'It's impossible for him to be dull.'" He supervised the graduate studies of 31 students, most of whom

obtained master's degrees in land resources with an energy certificate. A former student characterized him as "gentle yet sharp, patient but insistent, lofty and amazingly precise all at once." His popular courses included "Science and Government," "Energy Resources," and "The Future of Technology." He was noted for his ability to convey his knowledge and insight about energy issues to audiences eloquently. He frequently used succinct topic statements that were attention-getting, then backed up these provocative statements with facts, analysis, and careful reasoning. The University recognized him with a Distinguished Teaching Award in 1991. Steinhart wrote that he would like to be remembered by "He liked teaching a lot!"

On June 21, 2003, approximately 40 of John's former students, colleagues, and several family members gathered at the Pyle Center on the campus to celebrate his life. Some of the remembrances expressed there help us to remember John's unique personal qualities. Former students noted that he understood and encouraged the unconventional student, which seems to reflect his own rather unusual academic career from economics and English to seismology, then to energy analysis, and the relationships of science and government. His eclectic nature must have

attracted John to George Woollard, who was himself a bit unconventional. Students testified further that John was a great teacher and showman, who had a rare ability to explain clearly such complex concepts as exponential growth and the second law of thermodynamics. John was a master of Socratic teaching, typically arranging his classes in a large circle to facilitate discussion and then having students evaluate each other's presentations. One former student noted that he had an unusual ability to tolerate academic bureaucracy in order to do what he wanted to. He was a great cook and gardener as well as an ardent golfer. One of the greatest surprises for the group was learning from a former student that John and he had started writing a novel about the U.S. tricentenary, which would invoke a metaphor of government and a never-ending fugue such as Haydn's Opus 20. Articulate young granddaughter, Mariana, had the last word at the gathering with "We must not forget Grandpa John. We must keep him in our hearts."

Of peculiar interest was a story told to Bob Dott at the June gathering by Jeffrey Smith, Professor Emeritus of

mathematics at Kalamazoo College, who had traveled from Michigan. Jeff and John met at the U.S. Naval Officer Candidate School during the Korean War and their association became life long. Both were planning graduate studies after the Navy, and when John decided that geophysics sounded interesting and he had been accepted to work with Woollard, he urged Jeff to apply to Wisconsin for study in mathematics, which he did. After both arrived at UW, John helped arrange for Jeff to work for Woollard doing data analysis. Jeff was a violinist and was a member of John's string quartet, which played that spring vacation Haydn marathon. After both completed their PhDs and John went to the Carnegie Institution, lo and behold Jeff followed. When John left Carnegie, Jeff joined the faculty of Kalamazoo College. There could be no finer tribute to John Steinhart as a devoted friend than Jeffrey Smith's story.

John Steinhart's memory may be honored by gifts to the UW Foundation for the School of Music's Norman Paulu Pro Arte Quartet Fund or to the Energy Analysis and Policy Program in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies.

## ALUMNI DEATH NOTICES

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### **Margaret Huddleston, BA 1926.**

Passed away May 4, 2001.

### **Wallace Chickering, PhB, 1940.**

Passed away August 1, 2003.

### **Robert A. Suckow, BS 1951.**

Bob passed away on December 3, 2002. His knowledge of the sciences and search for new technology followed him in his career as an industrial sales manager to his retirement where he enjoyed reading, traveling, and his grandsons.

### **Gene H. Hollenstein, BS 1957.**

Passed away April 16, 2001

### **Gordon H. Reinke, BS 1957.**

Passed away on Feb. 11, 2003, in Madison, at the age of 74. He was born in 1928 in the township of Springfield in Dane County and he graduated with high honors from East High School. He earned a BS degree in geology in 1957 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and attended graduate school in geology. He worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for 21 years. He was a hydrogeologist until 1976 and then he was chief of the Mine Reclamation Section. Upon his retirement in 1994 he received the "Governor's Special Award" for his dedicated service. He is survived by his wife, Jane Addamo-Reinke, a daughter, a son, a stepson, six grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

### **Ronald K. Sorem, PhD 1958.**

Died December 22, 2003 in Tekoa, Washington at the age of 79. He received a master's degree in geology from the University of Minnesota and worked as a geologist for the foreign branch of the U.S. Geological Survey for several years studying manganese deposits in Cuba and in the Philippines. He earned a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1958 and became a professor at Washington State University in Pullman. He taught graduate courses in Ore Microscopy and X-ray Analysis and his own research focused primarily on the study of the mineralogy of marine manganese nodules. He was part of an international scientific team that studied manganese nodules and the impact of deep ocean mining. He co-authored the volume *Manganese Nodules: research data and methods of investigation*. His collection of manganese nodules was unique in the world and resides at the Smithsonian Institution. After the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens, he became a regional "ash specialist." Interested in scientific and medical information about the ash, the Washington State University Council of Deans formed the WSU Volcanic Ash Study Committee, on which Sorem served as the panel geologist. He was a dedicated teacher and an avid conservationist. His former wife Judy and four children survive him.

### **Donald E. Owen, PhD 1964.**

Passed away January 13, 2001. He was a professor at Indiana State University.