

Eiler L. Henrickson



Photo thanks to Maria Peterson '85

1920 - 2009

*A Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for the life of Eiler L. Henrickson
Skinner Memorial Chapel
Carleton College
Friday, June 18, 2010, 10:00 am*

Order of Service

Prelude

Molto Adagio from String Quartet #15, Opus 132 Ludwig van Beethoven

Invocation and Welcome

Opening Hymn

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past” New Century Hymnal #25

Readings

Psalm 8 Marion (Henrickson) Fox '50
“Advice from a Mountain” by Ilan Shamir Pat Forsyth

Reflections

Kurt Henrickson
Stephen R. Lewis Jr.
Ed Buchwald
Eldon Spencer '69 and John Hagen '71
Mary Savina '72

Musical Selection

Cavatina from String Quartet, Opus 130 Ludwig van Beethoven

“Eiler Stories”

All who wish to share a personal remembrance of Eiler are invited to come forward to do so.

Reading

Selection from Abraham Joshua Heschel

Hymn

“For the Beauty of the Earth” New Century Hymnal #28

Benediction

Postlude

“Eiler’s Schottische” The Sometime Geology Field Trip Band

You are invited to a gathering of family and friends in the Chapel Narthex immediately following the service.

Carolyn Fure-Slocum, College Chaplain
Stephen R. Lewis Jr., College President, Emeritus
Lawrence Archbold, College Organist

String Quartet:

Gail Nelson, Professor of Mathematics (first violin)
Lisa Olson (second violin)
John Metz, College Librarian, Emeritus (viola)
Tim Vick, Technical Director in Geology (cello)

The Sometime Geology Field Trip Band:

Miki Beavis '11 (fiddle)
Reid Fisher '80 (fiddle)
Glenn Lee '78 (accordion)
Tim Vick, Technical Director in Geology (fiddle)

Professor Emeritus Eiler Henrickson '43 Memories



Eiler Henrickson, age 89 of Northfield, passed away Thursday, December 10, 2009 under the wonderful care and support of the staff of Three Links Care Center. Funeral Services were 11am Friday, December 18th at the First United Church of Christ in Northfield with burial at the Oaklawn Cemetery.

Eiler Leonard (Lenhard) Henrickson was born April 23, 1920 in Crosby, Minnesota to Eiler Clarence Henrickson and Mabel M. (Bacon) Henrickson, the third of nine children. Eiler grew up in Deerwood, MN and graduated from Crosby-Ironton High School. He came to Carleton College in Northfield, MN as a freshman in 1939. Following his graduation from Carleton in 1943, Eiler served in the U.S. Army and was a member of Eisenhower's Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, as well as working with the U.S. Geological Survey. In 1946, he returned to the Carleton Geology Department, where he was to remain for 41 years, teaching, serving as department chairman, and emphasizing and implementing field trips for students as an integral part of their education. Annual student field trips to Alaska, Eiler's favorite place, were one of these accomplishments.

His 1949 discovery in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, of the first uranium in the United States outside the Colorado Plateau made the front pages of newspapers all over the world. When this occurred, he was exploring for a steel company which had a contract with the Atomic Energy Commission. It was also at this time and place that Eiler discovered his first wife, Anita (Swanson) Henrickson. Eiler and Anita were married 25 years and this union produced four children: Eiler Warren (Ike), Kristin Louise, Kurt Eric and Ann Elizabeth. In the 1960's Eiler traveled to Greece with his family, there working with Argonne National Laboratory's "Copper Project" to trace artifacts back to their geological sources and thus recreate ancient trade routes. During this period, he traveled to 15 European countries and lectured at 23 colleges and universities.

However, Eiler's career at Carleton was not all science. He was a three-sport, nine-letter athlete as an undergraduate. Henrickson was both captain and twelve-year coach of the wrestling squad, played football and ran track. He was undefeated in dual wrestling meets at Carleton and in tryouts for the Olympic team. In 1957, with Eiler's coaching guidance, Carleton won the Midwest Conference Championship, beating nationally ranked Cornell College for their first conference defeat in 26 years. He was called back to coach the 1975 season and again in 1984, at the age of 63. Eiler was elected to the Carleton College "C" Club Hall of Fame in its first such ceremony and in 1986 was named to the Minnesota Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Upon retirement from Carleton in 1987, Eiler moved to Colorado Springs, CO where he was Chairman of the Geology Department at Colorado College for an additional ten years. He then returned to Northfield, where he lived the remainder of his life.

Eiler is survived by his four children: Eiler "Ike" Henrickson and Kristin (Jonathon) Graff of Austin, MN, Kurt Henrickson and Ann (Lon) Rossow of Northfield. Brothers: Everett (Lina) Henrickson, Graceville, FL and Richard (Janice) Henrickson, Isle, MN. Sisters: Ramona Mohs and Mabel Spengler, St. Cloud, MN and Marian (Allen) Fox, Twin Bridges, MT. Grandchildren: Reidun, John, Rachel and Lindsay Henrickson, Katherine (Katie) Rasmussen, Jeremy, Christopher and Megan Rossow, Matthew and Nathan Graff. Great-grandchildren: Evan and Gabriella Graff; his very special friend, Patricia Forsyth, as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. He was preceded in death by his Father: Eiler Clarence Henrickson, Mother: Mabel M. (Bacon) Henrickson, Brothers: Norman and Phillip Henrickson and Sister: Lorraine Lundgren.

Professor Emeritus Eiler Henrickson '43 Memories

Sorry to learn of Eiler Henrickson's passing. I spent many hours with him on various geologic tours. Eiler was one of a number of great friends during my days at Carleton from 1946-1949. Last time I saw him was at our 60th reunion.

Doug West '49

Eiler and I go back a long way. I was one of but 5 in the class of 1953; we were a small but very gung-ho group. Our spirit was due mainly to the dedication of Eiler and Dunc as they mentored us in the pursuit of our Carleton education. I have always said they'd cut off their right arm if it would help us to understand the subject of geology. Eiler was not a particularly gifted orator, but his enthusiasm was totally infectious, and this more than anything else powered us. It certainly has stayed with me in my own teaching ever since. Eiler was a storied Carleton athlete, and my only less than nostalgic memory of him involves the fact that that he led calisthenics and wind sprint drills for the football team. He was awesome and I wasn't. I really miss him but I don't miss the drills!

Gary Ernst '53

It is hard to believe the "Iron Man" is gone! But I understand he was in assisted living for quite a while and that didn't fit my Coach or my Prof!

When I was living in Burton I had gone down the hall to the bathroom and glanced out the window to see Eiler drive up, sort of park and run into his apartment in Severance. One small problem, he didn't set the brakes! His car rolled down the hill until it hit one of the trees! So I went down to his apartment to tell him and he didn't believe me! I did get him to go out and look! OUCH!

I lettered 4 years and Eiler coached three of them. The last time I saw him was in Colorado. The two Chapels are the same!

The tough part about getting old is the loss of friends! I had 4 roommates at Carleton, two have passed. A few of my body parts are not working as built but health is good. I never expected to live this long (82) after so many "standard" Eiler warm ups.

Half mile two sweat suit + neck towel on the indoor track, three mile run in the ARB, ten trips up the stadium steps, three cool down laps on the indoor track. Then sit ups and push ups by the clock not by the count! We were in good shape!

Learned a lot about trilobites too, Olinalus Trumani & Ogegopsis Clotsi. No idea how to spell after 60 years!

I enjoyed Eiler and his excitement for Geology! As a coach he knew how to push fitness! When I didn't think I could do something he taught me how and convinced me I could. He was right 80% of the time! I even got a take down on Glen Brand in the Carleton gym! Glen got a gold in London the year before!

Eiler taught me I could do anything if I would do the work. Thanks Coach!

Paul Fossum '50

What an amazing life Eiler had, almost too big to even remember all of it.

There are a few classes in the late 70's - early 80's where there may have been several people like me, for whom the biggest influences in their academic life were Eiler and Shelby. What a privilege that was for us. What an effect it had on our life paths. Now both of them are gone and will be missed.

Bruce Nelson '77

Professor Emeritus Eiler Henrickson '43 Memories

I had just collected a newspaper article on Lituya Bay for him. He would have enjoyed knowing that it still has many secrets. Eiler will be missed a great deal.

Meg Hayes '72

Eiler was the person that inspired me to study geology. When my husband Ken Boyer (Colorado College) and I visited him this summer at Three Links, Eiler did not get out of bed, but he had stories to tell about Carleton. I had mentioned the Dacie Moses House, and Eiler talked about his undergraduate application to Carleton, that apparently Eiler's son had recently found. He said that Dacie wrote a note on Eiler's behalf. Eiler was quite the gentleman and story teller.

Maria Peterson '85



Late 1970's field trip, probably in Northern Michigan.

I will never forget Eiler in his short sleeve shirts at the snow-covered outcrops on field trips, completely oblivious to the weather while the rest of us were huddling into our parkas. I can't express how much I appreciate Eiler's support of my interests in geoarchaeology. He rummaged around in some cupboard and came up with some samples of Bronze Age slag from an archaeological site in Austria--it opened a whole new world for me. He's the reason I was a geology major; he set the whole tone of the department.

Alison Rautman '80

I wish I could be there with everyone in Northfield to celebrate his very long and rich life!

Kimberly Jones '80

He was nuts. I still remember a field trip to Michigan, gathered on an outcrop with Eiler explaining at length the significance of the feature we were standing on, and waving his rock hammer in the air. All pretty normal, except we were in the middle of a severe thunderstorm. The students were trying to slink back to the trees, and Ed Buchwald kept calling out, "Eiler, Eiler, we've got to get out of here." Nothing would keep Eiler from teaching.

Peter Besenbruch '79

Eiler seemed timeless, ageless, in many ways. His death reminds me of my own, seemingly less permanent, arc of life.

David Purkey '83

Professor Emeritus Eiler Henrickson '43 Memories

I am sorry to hear that Eiler has passed away. So many memories from years of his dedication to teaching. At every turn he taught us how to fully live life. I'll never forget him running into the lake on a fall field trip (Black Hills maybe?) carrying a student on his shoulders and throwing her into the chilling lake. Then we all jumped in! What a fun and thoughtful man.

Carolyn White '84



Eiler's car painted by Geology majors and residents of Parr House, late 1970's. Photo thanks to Dave Rodgers '81.

I feel Eiler's spirit and influence is alive in all who knew him, the passion, the care, the fire, the leadership. Remember the flames painted on the side of his car and his response to Dick Ramette, "so what color are the students painting it?" One in a million kind of guy!!!

Rob Alexander '83

We had so much fun with Eiler in class and on field trips. I will never forget when we (class of 1980) hid in the chalkboard and poured water on Eiler to make Eilerite (sp?).

Libba Huntley Hughes Wiede '80

This ends quite a wonderful era.

Russell Urban-Mead '85

The end of a great era, and another reminder of the urgency of living.

Heyo Van Iten '81

I'm sorry to hear this news about Eiler. While I haven't seen him in many years, he was such an integral part of the Carleton Geology department, and was so strong in setting the atmosphere in the labs and on the field trips, and I think of him just about every time I think of Carleton Geology. I never had him for a lecture class, but I remember he was a great teacher in the field. I also remember that there were occasions during finals weeks when as many as five geology undergrads, many taller than Eiler, tried to pull him under the emergency showers in the hallway to give him a drenching. They never succeeded. Later, I understood how it fit with his skill as a wrestler. And it was always in good humor.

Peter Sauer '88

Eiler's grin and his energy are part of my Carleton memories. I never had a class from Eiler, but so often I would see him as I zipped between the two domains of Nourse Hall and Mudd. He never failed to greet me, and I think now what a rare thing that is for busy people everywhere.

Mary McMillan '84

Professor Emeritus Eiler Henrickson '43 Memories

I wanted to let all of you know that Eiler and his family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Eiler was my comps advisor and friend...because he also participated in sports while attending Carleton, he provided me with much encouragement and advice on how to balance being a football player and a science major at Carleton, and to work hard at being the best I can be. While I'm currently an attorney with the Environmental Protections Agency in Seattle and not a "practicing geologist," I still occasionally am able to use my geo knowledge in my current work, and Eiler's advice still helps me today.

Eiler also taught me how to walk VERY fast from one outcrop to another. Speed walking is still something I'm accused of doing by my wife and kids, and I tell them it gives us "more time to spend banging on rocks at the next rock outcrop" (which they find puzzling because we're at the mall shopping). Eiler also taught me about the joys of balancing work and fun and not worrying so much about things I can't control. I'll always appreciate his work ethic and good humor! Such a wonderful person....we will all miss him, but part of Eiler lives on in all of us.

Keep walking fast to the next outcrop...Eiler will be waiting for us there!

Dean Ingemansen '84

This may strain credulity, but despite our size difference, Eiler had to borrow clothes from me at field camp, which was on John Schwartz's ranch in the Bearpaw Mountains of Montana. He had packed a bag, of course, but got distracted (sound familiar?) and left all of his belongings in his Leighton Hall office when the vans departed and headed west. Needless to say, I felt honored and amused...even then I knew how much I owed him.

Eiler played a very important role in my life. I had signed up to take a different Freshman Seminar my first year at Carleton, and after attending the first class, it was clear it was a mistake. Suddenly it became very important to me to take Eiler's Geology 8 (Freshman Seminar) class. The only problem was--being after the first day of class, the enrollment was already full. So there I found myself, for the very first time in a professor's office, trying to persuade Eiler to allow me to take Geology 8 even though there was no available room in the vehicles (this was back in the days of station wagons), which he finally agreed to do even although, as he said with his grin, I'd probably have to sit in someone's lap. That became our private joke the remainder of my first semester at Carleton, and beyond.

I guess that was something that really impressed me--that here was this extraordinary teacher who in my natural inclination I would be very reserved with, but instead he was like an instant friend. I never quite got over how easy it was to talk to Eiler.

Well, that was 37 years ago, and now I've been a professor for 22 years and not too surprisingly I have a similar role in our department, taking a lot of students on their first field trips and supervising field based research projects. I still follow three rules that Eiler taught me: (1) always look like a geologist, (2) always walk very fast, and (3) it is never cold outside. If no one has patented those rules, they should. Eiler would be pleased.

Jim Evans '76

Eiler was a teacher and coach both for me and for my dad! Eiler and I wrestled one on one at noon time for a couple of winters -- he thought he could teach me how to wrestle -- and, while he had limited success at this, I did end up being the head wrestling coach at Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts after my graduation (Bob Edwards alma mater), and teaching his style of wrestling allowed Deerfield to become the New England Prep School Champions.

Mark Timmerman '80



Eiler's birthday, around 1970. Photo thanks to John Sharry '73.

Professor Emeritus Eiler Henrickson '43 Memories

There are so many things to remember about Eiler. He and Ed Buchwald introduced me to Geology in Carleton's first-ever Freshman Seminars and he wore me out on field trips in the Black Hills.

But for me the most important was in the spring of 1972 when he turned to me after a five minute phone call to Konrad Krauskopf at Stanford, and said "OK - you're in." I packed up for California that summer and it changed my life forever.

Mark Taylor '72

I never took a course from Eiler and only experienced teaching from him on department trips and being a T.A. for his petrology course. However, I ran into him many times at Goodhue for meals even before I was a Geology major, and he convinced me probably more than anybody else to major in geology.

Mark Gordon '84

Eiler was definitely opened my eyes to the wide array of possible adventures that a geologist might experience with his tales of exploration in Alaska. I'll never forget his retelling of narrowly missing being wiped out by a tsunami in Alaska (I think this was the 1964 Easter Earthquake). They had a coastal camp setup several hundred feet above sea level, and were doing a short exploration jaunt further inland. Bad weather preventing the helicopter from picking them up, and while they were stranded the earthquake struck. When they were picked up and taken back to the location of their coastal camp, they found it had been destroyed by the tsunami. I think that whetted my appetite for adventure-based geology, and I think about this story almost every summer when I go into remote parts of British Columbia to study glaciovolcanic deposits...

Ben Edwards '89

Perhaps the most caring, kind man I have met in my life.

John Bregenzer '61

He was an amazing man, and I feel proud to have been one of his many geology students!

Marie Del Toro '79

Eiler certainly had an impact on my life at Carleton and the years after. He will be missed.

Will Maze '76



Missouri 1970's.
Photo thanks to Will Maze '76

The incomparable Eiler Henrickson was the epitome of strength and vitality. Eiler was my first geology professor. His devotion and enthusiasm were central to my decision to becoming a geology major. For this life-altering experience, I'm permanently in his debt.

Godspeed Eiler as you embark on another journey. You were a good man through and through. Few have matched or ever will match your contributions to students and the college.

Mark (Gonz) Gonzalez '83

Professor Emeritus Eiler Henrickson '43 Memories

Sorry to hear about Eiler's passing. He is a great human being and wonderful spirit.

I am presently in China and will not return to the USA for a couple of weeks until December 21, 2009, so will miss the funeral service. Please pass on my condolences to the members of Eiler's family. There is a very warm spot in my heart and memory for Eiler and his wisdom. I see now in my mind's eye his loving and compassionate smile, as he warmly welcomed me into the field of Geology.

Jean Chu '73

The facial expression of Eiler in the rain on top of Jasper Knob who was challenging us to explain the structures within the banded iron formation, when we noted the approaching lightning. Yes, he allowed, we could continue the discussion back at camp...

Steven Miller '80

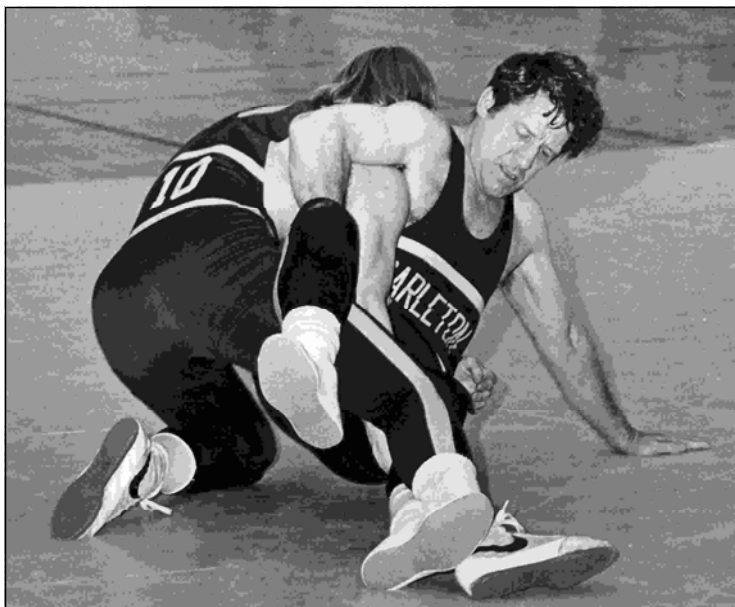
Dan and I are already in Florida for my son's graduation from University of Tampa (Saturday, Dec 19). So we will sadly miss Eiler's memorial on 12/18. Please please let Pat and the kids know that we are so sorry to be out of town. I hope we'll be able to attend the June 18th service. We're so grateful for your email last month about Eiler entering hospice, as it motivated us to see him again sooner rather than later.

It's an end of an era...

Mary E H Binger '78

I am extremely grateful that several of the class of 59 wrestling team and fellow geologists were able to talk to Eiler at our 50th reunion in June. It was the highlight of the reunion because Eiler was an inspiration for all of us as athletes and scholars. In particular, he was the most important mentor of my life. I met Eiler, the best referee I encountered as a high wrestler, and began our friendship. Although I began my college career at Mankato State, a wrestling powerhouse, Eiler persuaded me to come to Carleton my sophomore year. It was the best and most important decision of my life. I began as a zoology major, but again Eiler persuaded me to make the second most important decision of my life to be a geology major. As a consequence, I have had the richest life possible roaming the world and studying geology on every continent and ocean on earth. Also, from Eiler I learned a work ethic and curiosity for the natural world, a physical fitness regime and a zest for life that has stayed with me ever since. For example, who can forget Eiler running across campus in shirt sleeves at 25 below zero. Or Eiler teaching all day and then spending another three hours each day plus weekends coaching the first Carleton wrestling team to win the conference title. Eiler was a man in full and lived a full life that inspired many others to do the same, and we are all very thankful for having him in our lives, but very sad to see him gone.

Hans Nelson '59



Eiler wrestled "all corners" during the half-time of Carleton basketball games in the 1970's

Professor Emeritus Eiler Henrickson '43 Memories

In the spring of 1955 Dunc and Eiler took two carloads of geology majors on a Cuyuna Range field trip in Minnesota. In the course of our travels, Bill LeMay '55 and I met a couple of local girls and arranged a date for Saturday night. Without wheels, we asked Eiler if we could borrow his car. His response was that he knew about one-night stands with Iron Range gals, but that he would chauffeur us for the evening! Being from the Cuyuna, Eiler knew of all the night spots and he took us to them all. It was a fine time! (I found out later that my "date" was the daughter of the county sheriff.)

At the end of the summer field season in 1957, Eiler and I were working for Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. in Ishpeming, Michigan, and Eiler had to get back to Carleton for the start of freshman week. He asked me to drive him back to Northfield. Our route took us through Hurley, Wisconsin ("Sin City Of The North"), where we stopped for a meal at the Club Caravan, a strip club and café. A very tall blonde dancer finished her act and came into the dining area, surveyed the room, and immediately called out "Eiler Baby!" and came over and gave him a serious hug. Without missing a beat, Eiler turned to me and introduced me to Miss Chi Chi LaRue, a long-time performer at the Caravan whom he had known for many years during his summer J&L employment.

Having worked with Eiler for a couple of summers following graduation, and also tagging along on a few field trips while in grad school, I might have gotten to know him a bit better than the average student. Maybe my dating his sister-in-law in Ishpeming might have had something to do with it.

Dick Buchheit '56

I think my favorite memory of Eiler is from ? year in 1970's on one of the departmental field trips. I don't recall whether it was South Dakota or SE Missouri, but all were standing around campfire chatting and laughing and my friend, Karen Hoffman '76, and I said something to challenge Eiler or joke with him. Then, all of a sudden, he picked us up - one under each arm- and carried us over to U-Haul trailer and gently threw us in on top of a pile of sleeping bags, before we even knew what was happening. It was so quick and done with such ease that we and our fellow students were totally surprised and very impressed. Maybe we were talking about his strength or former wrestling talents. Many good times on those field trips!! Thanks Eiler.

Virginia Gillerman '75

It is a sad day for Carleton and former students of Eiler....what a man, what a legend!! I put him right up there with Gould.

John L. Lufkin '62

Eiler is my grandfather and I just wanted to thank everyone for their outpouring of memories and respect for him. As an Alum myself, it meant a lot to hear all the stories about all he did for the college, and his students. You all meant the world to him.

Katie Rasmussen '05

Professor Emeritus Eiler Henrickson '43 Memories

It's spring semester of 1963. I'm a senior majoring in Geology. And I have one mega project to finish before I can hope to get the Carleton Sheepskin saying I have a BA to my credit.

Bill North and I are the only Geology majors this year. This is way before Geology at Carleton became so popular. Bill and I need to complete a detailed topographic map of campus as part of a course Eiler teaches (field methods?). We've already spent oodles of time around campus turning angles, taking stadia rod readings, measuring the footprint dimensions of buildings, etc. (This is way before GPS instruments were available). Each of us now has to draft up the surveying results as a formal inked map on mylar.

I spend hours and hours hunched over a big sheet of mylar on a drafting table in one of the Geology labs. I'm almost through with the final touches — verbal and graphic scales, contour interval notation, north arrow etc. I come by the lab one afternoon to finish the job. My map is laid out on the drafting table, where it's been from the day I inked the first lines.

As I walk into the room, I see that all my work has been ruined! What? Rats!!! At least it looks that way from ten feet away. I won't try to reconstruct what I probably said (but it must have been the word for what could someday become a copralite) when I saw the tipped bottle of black ink, with a puddle of its spilled contents covering half the mylar sheet.

I walk closer to view the damage. And then I see the truth. The ink bottle is old, empty, and dry. The apparent puddle of ink is a cutout from a sheet of black paper. Eiler suddenly appears. He looks at me. His distinctive laughter fills the room. I don't remember what, if anything, I said. But I'm sure my pulse went from racing to normal in short order.

Eiler continues a long hearty laugh, and I join him. That man has a sense of humor. He also has a sense of fairness. Because I was sure that even if an accident of the sort Eiler faked had happened, he would have given me full credit for the map project. He knew well the time and effort that had gone into the project, and for that he would have rewarded me. He was that kind of person.

Wendell Duffield '63

Professor Emeritus Eiler Henrickson '43 Memories

A successful life is one which touches others' lives in positive ways. By that definition, Eiler Henrickson lived a very successful life. Like any human being, he had his faults... in his case, both literally and figuratively! Who can forget the many long hours spent hunched over geologic maps and cross sections, solving problems for Eiler's Structural Geology class? As tedious as those could be, the practice still helps me think in three dimensions at work each day.

Eiler changed some of our lives, and changed a bit of the world in the late 1970s. In 1977, several seniors had applied to work for some mining exploration companies whose managers knew Eiler. When one manager in particular called Eiler and asked only about the male students, Eiler inquired why, when some of the best students in the class happened to be female, he was checking only on the men. In his pleasant but firm manner, Eiler cajoled the manager into hiring another woman and me for the summer. That job led to another, and on to my attending University of California, Berkeley in order to study with Professor Charles Meyers. It turned out that I was part of a group of students that went from Carleton to Berkeley. But, without Eiler convincing the manager to hire me, that would not have happened.

Much later, Eiler told me that the same mineral exploration manager contacted him and took him out to lunch. At lunch, the manager admitted that Eiler had been correct--the women he had hired were at least as capable as the men. That may seem minor or quaint today, but in the late 1970s, it was a big step to take for a mining company. In the late 1990s, I attended a field trip out of Colorado College that was in honor of Eiler. That time, my husband and 18-month-old son came along. While others looked askance at a baby on the trip, Eiler reveled in the idea of another generation being introduced to the joys of geology. He welcomed people of every age and level of education on the ride. That is just who he was--as much a kid as a professor. I'll bet that, if there are rocks in the afterlife, he has probably already introduced them to my mother (Carleton grad in international studies)!

While the structural problems may have changed, Eiler's elf-like joy in teaching, field work, and helping to start careers on a good path continues. Thanks, Eiler, and please explain "migmatites" to my mom--she never quite understood what my senior thesis was about....

Holly Huyck '77

Professor Emeritus Eiler Henrickson '43 Memories

Eiler Henrickson was one of the strongest influences on my life and my career. His death in December 2009 still has me numb. I thought he would live forever. Perhaps that is why I have been tardy in writing about my love for this extraordinary person.

I chose Carleton, or it chose me, in large part because I was thinking of majoring in geology, and the Carleton Geology Department at the time had the reputation for a strong program. When I arrived in the fall of 1960 and started to learn from the two professors in the department, Duncan Stewart and Eiler, I knew I had made the correct choice. In addition, Larry Gould, the President of the College and Antarctic geologist and hero, taught my introductory course that first semester, Physical Geology. These three men had teaching abilities, talents to motivate, and personal charisma that were extraordinary. There have been few days since those Carleton years that I do not think back and remember all three. By the time I graduated, I was in overdrive: I was the first or second at the Dept. of Geology, University of Texas to go straight from B.A. to Ph.D., which was attained in 4 years, also a record. After a 1-year teaching gig, I returned to Carleton during the academic year 1969-70 to temporarily take over for Eiler, who had gone on sabbatical leave to do research in Greece. That was the year that Dunc died, and Ed Buchwald and I did the teaching. After that, I began a 30-year career with the U.S. Geological Survey.

I am not sure what made Eiler Henrickson one of the best professors I ever saw. Certainly he was not technically gifted as a great orator, and commonly his lectures were disorganized. Partly because he demanded excellence and hard work, all of us spent our spare hours in the library reading the geologic literature on our day's topics. Especially as we prepared for comprehensive exams our senior year, our hours spent on geology easily outdistanced that of majors in any other field. But probably the most important part of Eiler was the motivation he provided. Certainly he was a human tornado, charging across the campus, and this energy and excitement were imparted to all for the rest of our lives. Also, his curiosity about everything, especially if it related to geology and the out-of-doors, was infectious. But perhaps most important, he was probably the most supportive person I ever met. He was always positive and his office and home were available if we had questions about course work or we had personal problems. Although he was in his 40s, he seemed much younger and he was always "Eiler" to us, never "Dr. Henrickson." Yet he had our utter respect, for like Larry Gould, he was a man's man and regaled us with stories about wrestling and Lituya Bay; we assumed that he could probably beat up any man in southern Minnesota if that were his nature. His specialty was everything geologic, especially field geology. Even though southern Minnesota is not blessed with geologic features other than Pleistocene glaciations, field trips nearby or far away (Canada, Upper Peninsula, Black Hills) were scheduled for many weekends and most vacations. Eiler led all these field trips, where we camped out, absorbed like sponges, and had wall-to-wall fun and adventures! All of us were field geologists, or at least wanted to be, by the time we graduated.

Eiler's legacy is that he and the others created what I have always considered to be the best undergraduate geology department in the country. Because his tenure was so long, much of this credit belongs to him. Although the number of geology majors when I was there was not more than a half dozen each year, that figure crept, then vaulted upward to the 30 per-year range as he hired well and beefed up the department: Ed Buchwald, Mary Savina, Shelby Boardman, etc. I mentored many Carleton undergrads by hiring them as field assistants and interns with the USGS, and all were terrific, so clearly the program maintained excellence. I have no doubt that Carleton geology remains the best in the U.S.! Somehow, some way, Eiler must live on in spirit in the geology building!

Peter D. Rowley '64



Don Davidson '61

Eiler Henrickson '43

Jeff Hanor '61