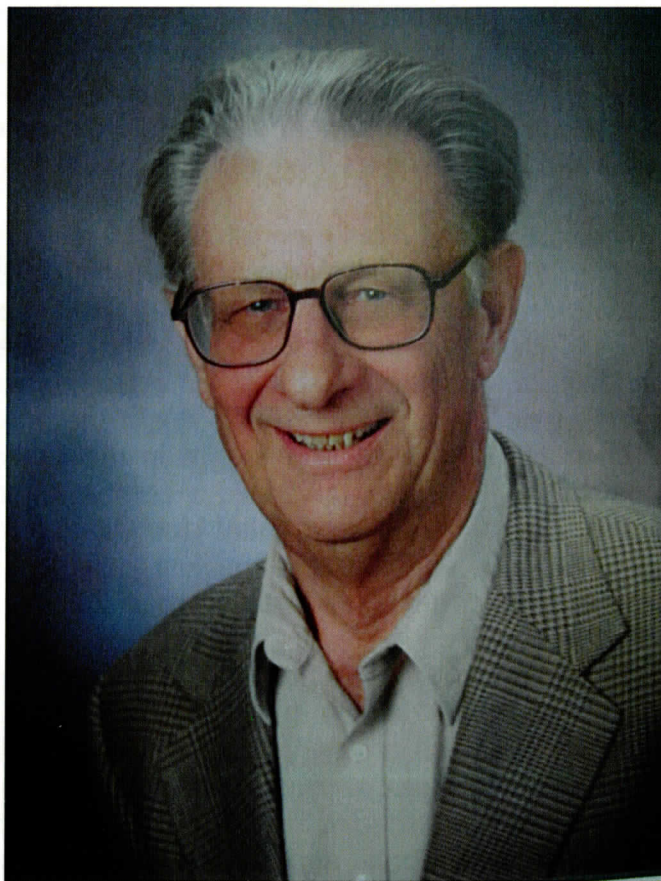


Remembrances: Charles R. Stearns
(1925-2010)



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1225 W. Dayton Street
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Charles (Chuck) Richard Stearns - renowned polar researcher, professor, colleague, and friend - passed away unexpectedly on 22 June 2010 at his home in Oregon, Wisconsin. He recently celebrated his 85th birthday. Chuck was a professor in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science and Senior Scientist at the Space Science and Engineering Center, both at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was a deeply respected colleague with a generous spirit who spent nearly 30 years instrumenting the Antarctic continent in order to explore its weather and climate as well as their impacts on the rest of the world.

He was born in McKeesport, Pennsylvania on 21 May 1925 to Fenton and Lois Stearns. He graduated in 1943 from J. Sterling Morton High School in Cicero, Illinois, where he also attained the rank of Eagle Scout. His association with the University of Wisconsin-Madison spanned over a period of 67 years. He started his career as an undergraduate student at the University from 1943 to 1950 earning a Bachelor of Science in physics. During this period, he served in the United States Army from 1943 to 1946 and fought in the Leyte and Okinawa campaigns during World War II. He was awarded a combat infantryman badge, bronze star with oak leaf cluster, and Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism. He served as platoon leader during the last month of the invasion of Okinawa and was promoted to technical sergeant upon discharge.

Chuck began a career in meteorology after completing his undergraduate studies and receiving a Master of Science degree in Meteorology in 1952 working with the Professor Reid Bryson. He went on to try a hand at farming for a few years. Chuck spent a year as Chief Physicist at Winzen Research, Inc. in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from 1956-1957. He returned to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, to work with Professor Verner Suomi, and assisted in his early efforts with satellite instrumentation on the Explorer VII satellite. He also returned to graduate school, studying under Professor Heinz Lettau, and received his Doctorate of Philosophy in meteorology in 1967. His thesis was entitled "Micrometeorological Studies in the Coastal Desert of Southern Peru."

He served as a member of the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison starting in 1965, before completing his doctorate. He was chairman of the Instructional Program for the Institute for Environmental Studies from 1972-1974. He taught 11 courses during his career including micrometeorology, meteorological instrumentation, weather and climate, and atmospheric dispersion/air pollution. He was involved in over 9 field projects including Micrometeorology of the Pampa de La Joya in Peru, Cooperative Field Experiment in Davis California, Lake Wingra International Biological Program in Wisconsin, Portage Power Plant Dispersion monitoring in Wisconsin, Washington Island Wind Energy monitoring project in Wisconsin and Antarctic & Greenland Automatic Weather Stations Projects. Chuck was advisor to 30 students over his career, and provided significant assistance to a half dozen other students in the US and abroad with their research.

Chuck was the principal investigator of the Antarctic Automatic Weather Station (AWS) Program from 1980 to 2008, his longest running project. The AWS project was the first large-scale meteorological instrumentation of the Antarctic continent. He deployed to Antarctica 18 times. His work on instrumenting and observing the Antarctic was world-renowned. In 1992, he developed a method for the generation of satellite composite imagery over the Antarctic continent and adjacent Southern Oceans used in forecasting, research and education. This led to the founding of the Antarctic Meteorological Research Center at the Space Science and Engineering Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In 1982, he was awarded the Antarctic Service Medal by the National Science Foundation for his scientific achievement under the US Antarctic Research Program. He was elected a fellow of the American Meteorological Society in 2004. He was posthumously awarded the Goldthwait Polar Medal at the 5th Antarctic Meteorological Observation, Modeling and Forecasting Workshop in Columbus, Ohio on 12 July 2010.

Chuck served on the AMS Committee on Polar Meteorology and Oceanography (1986 to 1988) as well as the AMS Committee on Atmospheric Turbulence and Diffusion (1972 to 1976). He served as the program chairman of the 2nd conference on polar meteorology and oceanography. Chuck served on the National Science Foundation Committee on Antarctic Operations and Engineering from 1996 to 2003. He was Associate Editor of the American Geophysical Union's Antarctic Research Series. He was also a member of the International Commission on Polar Meteorology from 1997 to 2001.

Additional interests included working on his farm, spending time with his family and more recently raising alpacas. He continued to consult with the university and Antarctic programs well into retirement. He was a member of the town of Oregon planning commission for 21 years, and chairman for 15 of those years.

Jon Martin, Chairman of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences notes of "...his dedication to the assistant professors in the department, myself included. He routinely checked in on us and made sure that we were getting what we needed to succeed. This was a quiet, personal mission of his – undirected by the department – and it meant a lot to a lot of us."

He is survived by a son, James of Oregon; a daughter, Laura (Ken) Drescher of Athens, Ga.; a sister, Carolyn Spacek; nieces, Anne (James) Gerlach and Lynne (Dan) Toth; a nephew, David F. (Sandra) Spacek; grand-nieces, Wendy Spacek, Dana Ballard and Sherri (Dennis) Lindsey; grand-nephews, David M. Spacek and Eric Ballard; and two great-grand-nephews, Oliver Lindsey and Gabriel Ballard; and cousins, Helen Clark and Edna Mae Thorpe. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lois and Fenton Stearns.

Charles was intrigued by the untamed quality of nature and science and was fond of this saying: "Mother nature always bats last."

That's real sad news. Chuck was one that'd been with the department almost from the very beginning.

Pao K. Wang, Professor
Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
University of Wisconsin-Madison

That is indeed sad news. I personally will miss Chuck, he was a great friend and colleague.

Gregory J. Tripoli, Professor
Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Sad news indeed. Think I still might have my Met 420 notebook somewhere in the basement and will share some of the quotes from it if I can scrounge it up. One of my favorite exchanges during Chuck's instrumentation class goes as follows:

Stearns) Who can tell me how to measure the height of the meteorology building with a barometer?

Class) Silence - except giggling from Linda Rausch

Stearns) Tie a string to the barometer, throw it off the roof, and measure the length of the string after it hits the ground!

John Zapotocny, Chief Scientist
Air Force Weather Agency

Once upon a time, I worked part time for Chuck Stearns. It is a sad day.

Kathleen Strabala
Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies (CIMSS)
University of Wisconsin - Madison

I am sure we all have our own Chuck Stearns stories and many fond memories of him. We will all miss him greatly!

The Antarctic science community has lost one of its pioneers. Many of us worked in Antarctica before the days of the Automatic Weather Station (AWS). The AWS network of stations that Chuck Stearns had the foresight to establish has made working in Antarctica much safer and has also lead to our ability to learn about a site in advance of actually spending a field season there. As I told Matt there are many of us who remember the WAIS meeting where Chuck first showed the satellite loop of weather systems spiraling into the Antarctic continent. That was a real eye opener and gave many of us our first glimpse of what the storm systems really looked like around Antarctica. I feel honored to have known such a great Antarctic scientist and such a nice person as well.

This is a sad day for Antarctic Science. We all benefit greatly from the hand that Chuck played in the Automated Weather Station (AWS) network around the continent and all of his contributions to the USAP.

Julie M. Palais, Glaciology Program
Office of Polar Programs
National Science Foundation

I'm so sorry to hear about Dr. Stearns. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, and your group (also like family, I'm sure).

Deborah J. Stakem, Manager, Argos User Services Group
CLS America, Inc.
Largo, MD

Thanks for keeping us in the loop with this sad news. Chuck will indeed be missed. And do let your group know that we here at NSF are sad with his passing.

Scott Borg
Division Director, Antarctic Sciences
Office of Polar Programs
National Science Foundation

Ah nuts... my absolutely most sincere condolences to his family and immediate colleagues. With fond memories and many thanks, my very best wishes to you all.

Christopher A. Shuman - Assoc. Research Scientist
UMBC Goddard Earth Science and Technology Center
Planetary Geodynamics Branch, Code 698, NASA GSFC
Greenbelt, MD

I am very sad to hear the news. Even more so since I did not have the opportunity to attend last years AMOMFW to see him one last time. Please accept our condolences on Meteorology's and Antarctica's great loss.

Chester (and Brenda) Clogston
Meteorology Manager
SPAWAR Office of Polar Programs
Charleston, SC

Sad news indeed. His passing marks the end of a generation of Antarctic meteorologists.

John Turner
British Antarctic Survey
Cambridge, UK

I am greatly saddened to learn of Dr Stearns' passing. He filled a lot of space and will indeed be sorely missed. Best Regards to you and the Madison-Wisconsin family.

John Rand
Raytheon Polar Services Company
Centennial, CO

He was a legend, and will be missed. I helped two of his field team set up a AWS at the head of Beardmore Glacier in 1985-86. I escaped in the helo that dropped them off, returning later on a very windy and cold day.

John Spletts

Heartfelt sympathy to the family. So glad Chuck was a part of our lives. We (and many others) have fond memories of getting Christmas trees at his place. He was always generous and helpful.

Melanie Woodworth, retired
CCR, University of Wisconsin-Madison

As a graduate student in the late 1970s, I was privileged to have Chuck as my instructor for two courses in air pollution and meteorological instruments. His great sense of humor and down-to-earth manner really connected with me and so many of my UW meteorology classmates. He will be missed greatly. God truly blessed us with Chuck!

Bart Adrian
FOX-6/WITI-TV
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Sad news. So sorry to hear.

Elaine Hood, Communications Specialist
Raytheon Polar Services Company
Centennial, CO

Although my contact with Chuck was brief, I remember him very well. He was a charismatic person.

Professor Hayley H. Shen, Associate Director, Honors Program
Dept. Civil and Environmental Engineering
Clarkson University
Potsdam, NY

My deepest condolences on the passing of Dr. Stearns.

Peter Rejcek
Editor, *The Antarctic Sun*, U.S. Antarctic Program
Raytheon Polar Services
Centennial, CO

I think it may have been Charles Stearns that I met in Boulder at our AWS meeting. (I am not good with names!) In any case, assuming that I am correct, the gentleman I talked with was extraordinarily generous with his time, interest, and information. This was for me a great privilege and kindness, as I found myself in way over my head in such a gathering -- as you may recall.

Best regards,
Roger Lynds
NOAO

Thanks for the sad news, I had not heard. I remember Chuck from a "Met Instruments" class I took from him in 1966 (it must have been one of the first courses he taught in the old UW Met Dept, BTW - Dennis Thompson, Penn State instrumentation professor, was the TA in that class!). I also remember him from when he sent my good friend Al Riordan to winter over on the Ice in 1968 to instrument the Lake Vanda area to see what was causing the dry valleys to exist (it seems like he was interested in the Antarctic very early in his career!). Yes, he will be sorely missed.

Dr. Bruce Berryman, Director of Assessment
Adjunct Professor, Atmospheric Sciences Department
Lyndon State College
Lyndonville, VT

I just heard about Dr. Stearns. I wanted to pass along my sympathies and such. He was such a fun person and a kind one too. I know you worked with him extremely closely over the years and that you will feel his loss more than most others. I guess we all knew this time would come but it doesn't make it any easier when it does. I hope all is well with you and yours and know that I'm thinking of you all at this sad time.

Take care,
Kathie Baker
Raytheon Technical Services
Formerly at Raytheon Polar Services Co., South Pole Meteorology Office

Sad news... but great life! He lived it fully.

PJ Charpentier
United States Antarctic Program

Over the years I had the pleasure of working with Chuck many times in Antarctica. I never had any concern about his field team working in remote locations. He trained them well! Chuck was never bothered by chances in schedules, weather delays, flight schedule changes due to higher priorities.....it just was something to deal with and he understood that. We will all miss him greatly but he leaves an outstanding legacy, the system of AWS now copied by many other nations, the modeling, and the large number of students who will carry on his work. Thanks Chuck! Chuck was so different from the majority of the research folks I have worked with over the years, and I mean that in a positive way. He understood field operations and logistics; it was not a surprise to him when flights were canceled or schedules changed at the last minute. He was great to work with, told you what he needed, thanked you for the support he got and did his job. Those that worked for him in the field were never a problem and I think I know why.....I certainly would never want Chuck to be on my case if a screwed up. That made a big difference to me when I was at McMurdo. I knew I never had to worry about Chuck's team. He will be missed but his contribution to the United States Antarctic Program and Polar Meteorology will be with us for many years to come, both from the equipment in the field, the modeling and vastly improved forecasting capability and the many students he trained. Please pass on my condolences to family and friends next week. I am sure that Chuck would not want us to be sad on the occasion.

Dave Bresnahan, Bresnahan Consulting
Formerly with the National Science Foundation

We have lost a remarkable man and great scientist in our polar community. Professor Charles "Chuck" Stearns has passed on. For those who knew Chuck, you will have your memories and stories of this amazing person. For those who never had the chance to know him, ask those "older" folks for a story. They will be great. He had a magnetic personality, impeccable scientific curiosity, and a mentor to so many. We all will miss him. I personally send my condolences to his colleagues, friends and family. He will be remembered and greatly missed. Matthew Lazzara at the University of Wisconsin forwarded this information about Chuck. I especially express my sincere condolences to the SSEC members who had the opportunity to see him every day during his time at UW.

Mark Twickler
Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space
University of New Hampshire Durham, NH

I only met Chuck once at the first Madison AWS meeting I attended back in 2001. After I made my presentation on the early Stanford stations he told me we had done well with out limited resources. That single comment gave me the right encouragement to keep pursuing this path and I thank him for those simple words. Please convey my sympathies.

Ronald Ross
Australia (formerly associate with Stanford University)

This is very sad news but thanks for thinking of letting me know. Chuck was a delightful colleague. He would be the first to understate his contributions to polar meteorology, but without his sustained focus on Antarctic atmospheric research we would have been without an extraordinary suite of fundamental data. I had always been amazed at what he accomplished with modest support. And along the way, he trained many excellent scientists (like you) who represent his legacy and enduring impact on the field.

Dr. Robert Bindschadler, Emeritus Scientist
Hydrospheric and Biospheric Sciences Laboratory
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD

This is very sad news.

Brian M Goodman, PhD
Adjunct Faculty, Department of Natural Sciences
Madison Area Technical College

Sad times.

Terri Gregory, retired
SSEC, UW-Madison

Thank you so much for let[ting] us know Charlie's gone. I'll be thinking of him, smiling to myself, maybe even laughing, remembering a story or two. I was out loading my saddle, etc., in preparation for a long, hard ride tomorrow. I'll be alone a fair bit at the beginning, helping a friend gather hundreds of cow/calf pairs and move them along toward summer pasture. We'll be in the high desert, which is green, green, green this year. It will be good to have the time to look out on that rugged land and think about Charlie. I'll let him laugh at me as I make a false move here and there. What I know about cows wouldn't fill a thimble. But I do love to ride and I do love Wyoming. Again, it means a lot you called. Feel my hug. Charlie. (I didn't notice everyone else always called him Chuck. Charlie he is to me.) I suppose I met him in '85 or '86, when I was worker bee at the Berg Field Center, but my Charlie stories and smiles start in 1988-89 when my friend Lou Czarniecki (now Albershardt) and I took him (and George) out in the hovercraft Maxine to what would become the Pegasus blue-ice runway. Lou and I got to see what it takes to set up an AWS in less-than-perfect weather. We also just simply had fun. I am no colleague, but I certainly enjoyed working with him. Charlie (and his entire group) always sensed my curiosity and interest and took the time to tell me stories of deep field or ship ops, bothering to share their lives with me. Charlie's teasing was easy to take. And I like how my mind's eye can see him laughing, hooting at all the malarkey that comes our way. Thanks, Charlie. Maybe I'll see you further on down the road.

Sarah Krall
Raytheon Polar Services
United States Antarctic Program

Thank you for informing us of the sad news. I worked closely with Chuck throughout my 25 years in Antarctic research and always found him to be a generous and supportive colleague. The energy that he put into the Antarctic Automatic Weather Station Project was incredible and it will remain a monument to his dedication. All of us at BAS who knew Chuck would like to offer our sympathy to his colleagues at Madison and to his family.

Regards,

Dr. John King, Science Leader
British Antarctic Survey
CAMBRIDGE, UK.

I talked to Matt Lazzara and I thought I would extend to you that Chuck passed quietly in his sleep with his heart just stopping. He was in fine health to this point and looking forward to your up coming meeting. Chuck was a good friend and extremely inspirational to me and I know he could be a pain to many, maybe that is why we got along so well. I know many of you knew him at one level or another and all of us benefit from his work daily.

Art Cayette
SPAWAR Office of Polar Programs
Charleston, SC

Chuck was an icon of Antarctic science. A real gentleman in his own distinct way, and a great colleague and friend. He'll be very deeply missed. I'm deeply grateful I had the chance to know and work with an amazing person like Chuck. He'll be missed. An amazing colleague and friend.

Susan Solomon
NOAA/AL
Boulder, CO

I'm saddened to hear of Dr. Stearns passing. He was the father of USAP meteorology and will be missed. My sympathy to his family, friends, and you.

Sincerely,
Steve Kottmeier
Raytheon Polar Services Company
Centennial, CO

My most heartfelt condolences go out to Dr. Stearns' family and colleagues. He was well respected and I admired him greatly. He will be sorely missed.

Most Sincerely Regards,

Bob Vehorn
SPAWAR Office of Polar Programs
Charleston, SC

I was saddened to hear of Chuck's death. George Widener told me a couple of months ago that Chuck retired to his Oregon farm to raise alpacas, but he said nothing of any health issues. Was his a sudden death? Matt, you surely must have learned a great deal about instrumentation and field work from Chuck. He certainly knew his stuff. I believe that the only faculty left among all those that were at UW when I came for my MS degree in 1965 are Don Johnson and Bob Ragotskie. Kutzbach, Stearns and Phil Smith were all finishing up their PhDs at the time.

Joe Zabransky, Professor
Department of Meteorology
Plymouth State College
Plymouth, NH

This is very sad news.

Jean Philips, Librarian, Schwerdtfeger Library
SSEC, UW-Madison

Very sad news - he will be missed...

Rob Bauer
Antarctic Glaciological Data Center
University of Colorado-Boulder/CIRES
Boulder, CO

I'm so sorry to hear about Chuck. I thought he was such a wonderful person. I often seem to reflect on conversations I had with him over the years. I'll miss him terribly.

Jerry L. Mullins, Coordinator, USGS Antarctic, Arctic & Canadian Programs
US Geological Survey
Bureau International Programs
Reston, Virginia 20192

Sorry to hear the news. But inspiring reading--many of the World War II era scientists seemed to have such colorful, well-lived and diverse lives,

Tom Wagner, Program Scientist, Cryosphere
NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC

At the very beginning of my Antarctic experience, I met Professor Stearns at the University of Wisconsin: it was December 1985. His warm welcome - despite his accent, unintelligible to me! - his enthusiasm, his helpfulness convinced myself to go on. Although I know the importance of Prof. Stearn's scientific and field work, when I think of him I remember the nice person I met more than 25 years ago. And I'll never forget the last time we all met him, at his farm, two years ago. I'll miss him, like, I do believe, everyone who met him. I'll not be able to attend the AMOMFW next July, but I'll be with you celebrating 30 years of Professor Stearn's AWS project.

Andrea Pellegrini
CNR, PNRA
Rome, Italy

How sad, although he did have a, "good innings" as we say here. My very sincere condolences Matthew, it is always very sad to lose someone, especially someone so admired and respected. I remember him from the very early days of my employment in the program. Thank you for letting me know.

I will pass this on to Margaret, I am not sure if you copied her on this or not, I can't tell from the address you this to? Actually Matthew, there is a number of science personnel within the program that are getting up there in years.....geez, the time goes by so quickly one simply doesn't notice until something like this happens.

Marlene McLennan
Assistant Supervisor , CDC
Raytheon Polar Services NZ Ltd
United States Antarctic Program

We are sorry to hear about Professor Stearns and know he'll be missed by friends and colleagues.

Ruth A. Musgrave, Director
WhaleTimes.org

I am terribly sorry to hear of Chuck Stearns' death. It has been a long time since I last saw him, but I have fond memories of travelling twice to Antarctica with him aboard the USCGC Polar Sea in December 1990 and December 1991. He was good company and a source of encouragement and inspiration to an early career researcher (as I was then). George Weidner was aboard the ship with Chuck on those occasions. Please give my regards to George.

Sincerely, Martin Jeffries
National Science Foundation and University of Alaska

I was fortunate enough to go down to the ice twice (1992 and 1996) to help with the initial setup of AMRC. Chuck was always very appreciative of the work we did. Whatever we could do for him, he thanked us for. I had great experiences down there. But the best thing I got in the end was the US Antarctic Service Medal that he acquired for me. It proudly hangs on a wall in my house. I'll always think of him when I walk past it. Thanks for everything Chuck.

John Pyeatt
Formerly, SSEC UW-Madison
CDW

I was fortunate enough to cross paths with Chuck many times in the Antarctic and was always impressed by his energy, his enthusiasm, and his unique ability to integrate the experiences of his generation with the younger scientists surrounding him. It was clear that what he learned as a combat soldier in the Pacific stayed with him throughout his career - his ability to take on hard tasks right through to the end and his intuitive thinking. The scientific community has lost a great champion of Antarctic science, but we have a great legacy to follow.

Paul Andrew Mayewski
University of Maine

I met Chuck at two times in Wisconsin. The first time was in 1994 and the last time was in 2008. With the aid of Chuck, George, Matthew, Linda and other members of the AMRC, our Japanese group have installed four AWS units on the Antarctic ice sheet since 1995. I cannot forget a party held in Chuck's farm in June 2008 during the 3rd AMOMFW meeting. Thanks for everything Chuck.

Dr. Takao Kameda
Snow and Ice Research Laboratory
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Kitami Institute of Technology, Hokkaido, JAPAN

The most important thing Dr Chuck Stearns taught me was to look at observations with a skeptical eye. He afforded me an opportunity to perform synoptic meteorology research in a data sparse environment. The Antarctic Meteorology Research Center will always be a testament to Dr. Stearns passion for the weather on that continent. Rest well Chuck, you earned it.

Bruce Sinkula
Weather Central, Madison, WI

Chuck Stearns: A Remarkable Life. Chuck's passing is one of a unique individual whose life and career in our Department of Meteorology (now AOS) spanned the decades of its growth and achievements. He was a WWII soldier, then an undergrad student, then a farmer, then a researcher with the internationally-known Prof. Heinz Lettau, a grad student, and finally a faculty member starting around age 40! Hard to top that marvelous story, but he did so with his follow-up development of the Antarctic program around the age of 60.

He spun his web of life adventures around our university in a most memorable way. His emphasis of observations as a foundation of our science had roots in our department's early days, and continues with great meaning in our new millennium.

John Young Fellow AOS Faculty Member for our entire careers

Anecdotal memory: Sometimes blunt, Chuck was often a source of down-to-earth wisdom. When I was selected as the new director of the Space Science and Engineering Center in late 1999, Chuck told me that "They made me platoon leader because all of the good guys were dead!". Coming from my friend and colleague, Chuck, I took this as a blend of encouragement and a vote of confidence, since I knew he had been a successful platoon leader and was still alive.

Hank Revercomb, Director,
UW-SSEC

Chuck and I were graduate students together in 1950-53. Along with Pete Kuhn we were the first graduate students in the two professor department of Reid Bryson and Verner Suomi. Chuck helped me put lights on an array of buoys in University Bay in support of a field test of my dynamic model of Daphnia distribution in Lake Mendota. Later Chuck helped Reid and I with internal wave measurements in lake Mendota. After Heinz Lettau joined the department in the late 50's Chuck designed and built the Second Point micrometeorological station in Lake Mendota. The data from this station was the basis for an immense amount of boundary layer work by Lettau and his students, including the famous Christmas tree experiment. When I returned to the department in 1959, Suomi was working on net radiation measurements, first in a corn field and then from aircraft. Chuck was doing much of the instrument development work in the 4th floor lab on Science Hall. Based on this work Suomi conceived the idea for the measurement of net radiation from a satellite. However it was Chuck Stearns, who did much of the hardware development that ultimately ended up on TIROS, the first meteorological satellite. Chuck's Antarctic work is well known and continued right up to his death. The hallmark of this work and everything else he did was his unselfishness and willingness to help others. Yet he never sought fame or recognition for his accomplishments. Chuck and I shared a special memory from World War II. In early August 1945 the 96th Division in which Chuck served throughout the Pacific war had returned from the battle of Okinawa and was recovering on the island of Mindoro in the Philippines. The 90th Bomb Group in which I served was at the same base. On August 6 the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. On August 10 Japan sued for peace and the war was over. This meant that the 96th Division did not have to play a lead role in the invasion of Japan and the 90th Bomb Group did not have to fly cover for the invasion. Even though we did not know each other then we later talked about the wild celebration that night. Chuck was a great friend, and the University and the world is a better place for the life he lived.

Bob Ragotzkie
Professor Emeritus, AOS UW-Madison

I first met Chuck in the early 1980s when I was involved in developing a network of Australian AWS in Antarctica. He was very supportive of our efforts, which complemented his own in a different part of the continent, and gave us much encouragement. But he always thought his own network was better (he was undoubtedly right). I met Chuck several times in the subsequent decades, and corresponded with him regularly. You always knew exactly where you stood with Chuck – he was honest and forthright. But he was above all a dedicated and honest scientist who retained his interest in science to the end. Vale Chuck, and thanks for all the great encouragement along the way.

Ian Allison, Australia Antarctic Division

I was fortunate to meet Prof Stearns when I was a GRA at OSU/BPRC. I used the AWS data a lot and that helped me with my thesis and dissertation. Thanks Chuck, your work memory will stay forever in the inner core of Antarctic science. Adios Chuck.

Jorge Carrasco, Director Chilean Weather Service
Santiago, Chile

Dr. Stearns taught oceanography when I was at the UW. I recall his easy-going style as he taught class, He was one of my favorite instructors.

Steve Nieman
Formerly SSEC/CIMSS, UW-Madison

Pam and I send our condolences to Chuck's daughters, and his friends and colleagues at Wisconsin. We were very good friends, both socially and professionally. It was a really great feeling to have participated in the process to have Chuck made an AMS Fellow; he was certainly deserving of that honor for many years.

With our appreciation;

Pam (Grube), Retired, Lyndon State College
&
Austin Hogan, Retired, CRREL

Thank you for passing on the news. I am saddened by the news. Please pass my condolences.

Rob Holmes
Formerly at SSEC, UW-Madison

This indeed is a loss. A loss both to our community and to science. My condolences most highly to his family, to colleagues, his students now and in the past, and to science that he contributed so much to.

Fred Branski
NOAA

Although I don't think I have ever met Charles (or did I in Brest?), I can feel all the miss. I've passed on the information here at LGGE, and I associate with my colleagues to send our condolences.

Best regards,

Christophe Genthon, LGGE CNRS
Saint Martin d'Herès Cedex, FRANCE

I'm very sorry for your loss. I'm sure you were close, and it's always hard to lose a friend and mentor.

Sincerely,

Dave Beverstock Chief - Infrastructure Branch
Division of Information Systems
National Science Foundation

Thank you for the emails. I have been able to follow along with the responses. I am truly saddened at the passing of Chuck. I always enjoyed his presence at the birthday lunches and the attempts to get him to call me by my real name instead of Noah. But that will always be a fond memory that I will have of Chuck, and that is what will truly make him timeless to me. If it weren't for Chuck starting the AWS group I would not have been able to experience the Antarctic and the educational and professional pathways would have been considerably different, and for that I will always be grateful for Chuck's efforts. Please send my sincerest condolences to Chuck's family and thank you again for the updates.

Regards,
Jonas Asuma
Formerly at AMRC/SSEC, UW-Madison

Let me add my voice to the many others who have responded re Chuck's passing. Although my research in recent years was not connected with Antarctica, in the 1980s and 1990s Chuck's assistance was invaluable to me in my work on polar mesocyclones and for helping me see the bigger picture of Antarctic meteorology and climatology. I used data from a number of stations comprising the AWS network that he established. Without that information, and Chuck's insights on which variables and which stations to use, my research results would have been the poorer. Chuck was always highly approachable and willing to discuss science. He will, indeed, be sorely missed.

Sincerely,
Andrew Carleton
Penn State U.

Thank you for passing on the news, sad though it is. Both the Antarctic and global climate communities owe Chuck an immense debt for championing an important set of measurements (that without him might not have been made).

Christina Hulbe, Associate Professor
Portland State University
Portland, OR

Thanks for passing this on. I never met him in person but knew him through correspondence during the southern ocean GLOBEC work starting in 2000, when he helped us get two of your units for that program. He was very helpful and friendly. I know he will be missed greatly by you and others who knew him well.

Robert C. Beardsley
Department of Physical Oceanography
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woods Hole, MA

The meeting here in Columbus in July will definitely NOT be the same without Chuck in attendance. I will miss his enthusiasm not only for his work but for life in general. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and with you.

All the best,

Lynn R. Everett
Byrd Polar Research Center
The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH

I always enjoyed talking with Chuck over the years when our paths crossed at meetings. He was also very helpful back in the day when it seemed a lot simpler to request an AWS near a project site, and then work with the Wisconsin group on installation and servicing. I hope you folks can persevere in the weather station game in these rapidly changing times.

Stan Jacobs
LDEO/Columbia

Thanks for sharing this, and very sorry to hear about Chuck's passing.

Douglas A. Wiens, Professor and Chair
Dept. of Earth and Planetary Sciences
Washington University
St. Louis,

My sincere condolences to all family and friends.

Marc De Keyser
Antarctic Weather Forecaster, ALE

This is very sad news. I remember the early AMPS-AMRC meetings well when Chuck was very much involved and really enjoyed our meal at Chuck's farm a few years ago. I know he will be very sorely missed.

Dr. Neil Adams (SPOB), Regional Manager Antarctic Meteorological Section,
Tasmania and Antarctica Region, Bureau of Meteorology,
Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

Thanks you for letting me know this sad news he will be greatly missed by a lot of people.

Steve Colwell
British Antarctic Survey

Very sad news.

Bryan Baum
SSEC/CIMSS, UW-Madison

One of the things about Chuck that was so fantastic professionally was his real dedication to the Assistant Professors in the Dept - myself included. He routinely checked in on us and made sure we were getting what we needed to succeed. This was a quiet, personal mission of Chuck's - undirected by the department - and it meant alot to alot of us.

Sincerely,

Jon Martin
Chairman, Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
UW-Madison

I was sorry to hear about Chuck's passing. Please convey my condolences to his family and let them know that his name is a familiar and respected one to many people here who never met him.

Best regards,

Patricia Jackson, Planning Support Manager
U.S. Antarctic Program
Raytheon Polar Services

Woouo, so sorry to hear about Chuck.....

Dear Chuck's Family,

I share in your loss of Chuck. I had the pleasure of working with him in Greenland and Antarctica where he was always great to have in camp. He was an inspiration to all of us for his humor, good spirit, enthusiasm, and dedication. I wish you the best in this difficult time.

Kendrick Taylor Professor Desert Research Institute
Nevada System of Higher Education
Chief Scientist: WAIS Divide Ice Core Project
Reno, NV

I did get the news about Chuck -- He was a good role model for keeping at science well beyond the normal retirement age (since I just turned 65 this year I appreciate such things).

--

Dr. William Neff, Director, Physical Sciences Division
NOAA/OAR, Earth System Research Laboratory
Boulder Colorado

Sorry to read about Chuck Stearn's passing. He will be missed by those of us who were lucky to know him.

We (my then Antarctic partner in crime Roger Smith and I) first met him in the late 1980s, when scientists stayed at the Hotel California. Chuck and Bill Cassidy (tektites, Pitt) took us under their wings and trained us in things Antarctic -in particular getting the Morale and Welfare Card (read the ability to obtain anything drinkable at MacTown) properly. The photos for the card had to be taken on Thursday afternoon and the card was made available late on Sunday. The latter, of course was after the store was closed and then one had to wait until Tuesday to purchase the goods.

Inevitably, we were then shipped to Pole on Mondays, meaning that we would have to wait until we returned to MacTown. But, upon return to MacTown, we would be able -finally- to get the bottle of Cream Sherry to add to the coffee. It did improve the local Navy-brewed coffee immensely...

Please give my condolences to his family. Best regards,

Gonzalo Hernandez. Professor
Department of Earth and Space Sciences
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Professor Stearns was one of what I call my "teacher's teachers." He was a professor to my undergraduate professors when they were graduate students at the University of Wisconsin when they were in the formative years of their careers. In my first coming to Wisconsin – it was with awe that I am able to work in such a storied place that included folks like Chuck Stearns.

I first met Chuck Stearns in late spring/early summer of 1994. I had been asked by JT Young, then program manager at the Space Science and Engineering Center's McIDAS group, to join the newly formed Antarctic Meteorological Research Center (AMRC) - part time. It was an extension of the work I was doing with the McIDAS Project at SSEC (a weather computer project). At my first meeting with Chuck, he declared to me: "You're going to get to know who is God and who is Jesus Christ!" I was absolutely floored: Was working the United States Antarctic Program a religious experience? While that very well may be, I later learned what Chuck meant: It was an analogy for the program managers and chief scientists that I would be working with in the Antarctic Program (besides all of the data I would be wading through). Chuck was teaching me. It was the first of many lessons Chuck would teach me – all steeped in real world experience.

Chuck was uncompromising with a set of values that I come to cherish to this day: Providing data and service to the community, free of charge. His early career experiences lead him to this philosophy, the seeds of which have reaped more than a hundred fold. Far more scientists published and far more understanding was gained thanks to Chuck's generosity. He was never selfish. Working for Chuck for over 14 years, I got a front row seat to this. He was teaching me again, by example.

When things were progressing along well with our project's efforts, he would often be caught saying "Good for you! Carry On!" He appreciated the importance of feedback, be it brutally honest, for which he was famous, or as exemplified here, providing positive encouragement. Chuck was teaching the value of being supportive.

As noted, Chuck was fond of saying "Mother nature bats last." It is one of the four laws of ecology:

1. Everything is connected to everything else
2. Everything must go somewhere
3. There is no such thing as a free lunch
4. Nature knows best

I first heard Chuck quote this when I had him for a course in Air dispersion and air pollution. It is that last one from where Chuck's favorite quote is derived from: Mother Nature bats last. I have known very few people having such a keen appreciation for the environment like Chuck. His favorite quote is yet again a place Chuck is still teaching me - and all of us - to this day.

In late 2001, my mother was quite ill, suffering from the last stage of an 18-year battle with breast cancer. Due to my family's situation, I needed to go home to help care for her in her last weeks of life. Chuck let me go - forgoing a trip to the ice even - to be home. His allowance is something I may never be able to fully repay. He was teaching me again - how to treat others and help in a time of need.

The world has lost a very special person and is a poorer place without him. However, he would not want us to be sad. It is an opportunity to reflect and celebrate a man who touched so many lives. Thank you, Chuck.

Matthew Lazzara
AMRC/SSEC/UW-Madison



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
SPACE AND NAVAL WARFARE SYSTEMS CENTER ATLANTIC
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
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JUL 06 2010

Dr. Henry Revercomb
Director, Space Science and Engineering Center
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1011 Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Science Building
1225 West Dayton Street
Madison, WI 53706-1612

Dear Dr. Revercomb:

The Antarctic Support Team at Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic notes with sadness the passing of our friend and colleague Dr. Charles R. Stearns. Throughout his storied career as a research scientist and founder of the Antarctic Meteorological Research Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dr. Stearns kept the needs of the operational community in the forefront. He ensured a key focus of his research was to provide meteorological professionals with the necessary tools to accurately forecast weather conditions in the most inhospitable location on earth. The data collected by his array of remote weather stations across the Antarctic Continent was instrumental in providing a greater understanding of the climate in the region and is used today to enhance mesoscale forecast models used by our forecasters. The relationships he fostered and his contributions to our mission have, without doubt, contributed to aviation safety in Antarctica.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. C. URBON", is written above the typed name.

B. C. URBON
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer