



George Edward Ewing

January 1, 1933 - August 23, 2011

George Edward Ewing, 77, of Bloomington, passed away on Tuesday, August 23, 2011, at home with his loving family after a long illness.

He was born November 28, 1933, in Charlotte, North Carolina to Allen Conover Ewing and Margaret M. Ewing. He was married to Louise S. Ewing of Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

George believed his most valuable education came from his parents, family, teachers, and friends. He graduated high school from the Phillips Exeter Academy in 1952, completed his undergraduate work at Yale University in 1956 (where he most enjoyed being a member of the Mountaineering Club), and received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. Upon graduation he worked for Jet Propulsion Laboratories in Pasadena, California and then at Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey, before joining the faculty at Indiana University in 1963.

George was Chancellor's Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Indiana University. Over the years, he and his students studied the chemical and physical properties of molecular complexes, liquids,

surfaces, atmospheric particles and ice. Over one hundred papers have resulted. Thousands of students have studied with him ranging from undergraduate non-majors to Chemistry PhD candidates.

George received a number of honors and invited lectureships including: Directeur des Recherches (Ecole Polytechnique, FRANCE); Guggenheim Fellowship (Oxford, ENGLAND); Isaac Taylor Visiting Professor (Technion, ISRAEL); Chancellor's Professorship (Indiana University); Chapman Lecturer (University of Alaska) and Quatercentenary Visiting Fellowship (Cambridge, ENGLAND).

George loved the city of Bloomington and especially the woodlands and countryside of Southern Indiana. He had a passion for walking and spent much time in Brown County's Yellowwood State Forest and on Pate Hollow Trail in Hoosier National Forest. He was a regular at his favorite local haunts including Soma, the Runcible Spoon, Laughing Planet, Uptown Café, the Monroe County Public Library, and the late Ladyman's Café. He appreciated Bloomington's many cultural offerings such as the Art Museum and enjoyed evening strolls to musical and theatrical events.

He volunteered as a cook in the Hunger Relief Program at the Shalom Community Center, was concerned about environmental quality and served on the Air Pollution Control Board for the State of Indiana, was a member of the Bloomington Coalition for Death Penalty Issues and a longtime member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Always an active man, he became a yoga enthusiast in his later years.

George was a devoted family man and will be missed by his wife,

Louise; four daughters, Alice Ewing of San Diego, California, Chrisstina Hamilton of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Tamara S. Ewing and husband of Nantes, France, and Sasha MacKenzie and husband of Naples, New York; two sons, James Ewing and wife of Brooklyn, New York, and Ross Ewing of Bloomington; four grandchildren, Luther and Josephine Hamilton, T ea and  mile Hazebrouck. He is preceded in death by his mother and father, and survived by his two sisters Susan Fisher and Katherine Ewing.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to one of the following: the Hunger Relief Program at the Shalom Community Center, the Sycamore Land Trust, or Bloomington's community radio station WFHB Firehouse Broadcasting. A memorial service is planned for October 15th, 2011.

The family encourages all those who wish to honor George's memory to take a walk in the Indiana woods, perhaps along the Scarce O'Fat Trail which was his favorite.

Allen Funeral Home 4155 South Old Highway 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org.

Tribute Wall

“ Louise,

I cannot tell you how saddened I was to open the newspaper on Sunday and see George's handsome face among those in the local obituaries! I hadn't seen George in awhile and did not realize he was ill, or I would have called and tried to arrange for a visit.

George was one of a kind -- a scientist-humanist whose command of literature, science, and science writing left me in awe. He was such a wide-ranging thinker, and his book on the science of ice, which was shaping into something of strong literary quality, was something I greatly looked forward to reading!

Speaking of the book, the students in my literary journalism class were inspired when George came to class to talk about his writing years ago and about the process he was going through to put together a book project on a topic that drew him. I myself was immensely grateful that an accomplished scientist like himself was willing to present an early draft to students for their feedback. I was taken by his humility and by his deep understanding that some of the best teaching we can do is to reveal ourselves as receptive learners!

This experience alone endeared me to George...but I have many other recollections, including meeting him for the first time decades ago at Quaker meeting and discovering he'd just read an obscure book in which I was quoted...and remembered my name!?! Then joining the two of you for dinner at your warm in-town home. Two decades later, I recall the mutual sense of good fortune at running into one another on the streets of Cambridge while he was there (I believe on a Guggenheim) and we were on sabbatical. So many other casual meetings too -- at Soma, the Spoon, many street corners sharing stories of Maine or family (there was always something going on in your big brood!) or shared concerns about the world!

Along with George, I was thrilled when he won a contract for his Ice book with Yale University Press -- the press of his alma mater yet!

I just wrote our mutual friend (and my former colleague), Carol Polsgrove, about George's passing. She is working in a writer's colony down South right now, but she too had conferred with George several times on the book, and was deeply saddened to learn of his passing.

It is hard to imagine Bloomington without this fine man, and I'm sure you are going to find it hard to live in the presence of such a large absence. Please know you will be in my heart and prayers as you and your children walk into such uncharted territory.

Holly

Holly Stocking - October 26, 2015 at 04:22 PM

DO

“*I only learned today of George's passing almost three months ago from a former graduate student colleague. As someone newly returned to academia, I see George as one of my principle role models. He was a great teacher, a creative researcher, an inspiring but also understanding doctoral advisor, and above all a true humanist.*

Donald Lupo - October 26, 2015 at 04:22 PM

GE

“ I just now (Nov 15) became aware of George's death via the Yale Alumni Magazine. He and I were classmates and chem majors together and he took me rock climbing and we skied together in Vermont. I went to med school and became a pathologist and a biochemist at NYU school of medicine. You may recall visiting us in Westchester when George was at Bell labs around 1970. He was a good friend and a true individualist. I think of him often with great fondness. Please accept my most sincere condolences and know that he will continue to be remembered by me as long as I may live. With all best wishes George Teebor

George Teebor - October 26, 2015 at 04:22 PM

GU

“ My heart goes out to all of his children in this time of sorrow. George was always very welcoming to me, even just a few months ago when I ran into him outside Soma. I will always hold a fond remembrance of him, and his family.

Gus Savage - October 26, 2015 at 04:22 PM

SU

“ I met George a few years ago under the unfortunate circumstances of vigils at the Federal Penitentiary here. Many people came, and George is one person I specifically remember speaking with - a gentle spirit with great convictions. May great peace be on his soul and for the hurting hearts of those who loved him.

Suzanne Carter - October 26, 2015 at 04:22 PM

TE

“ Dear Louise and family,

I'm so sorry to hear of your loss and will be at the memorial service on October 15 to recall my many fond memories of George.

Terry

Terry Cosgray - October 26, 2015 at 04:22 PM