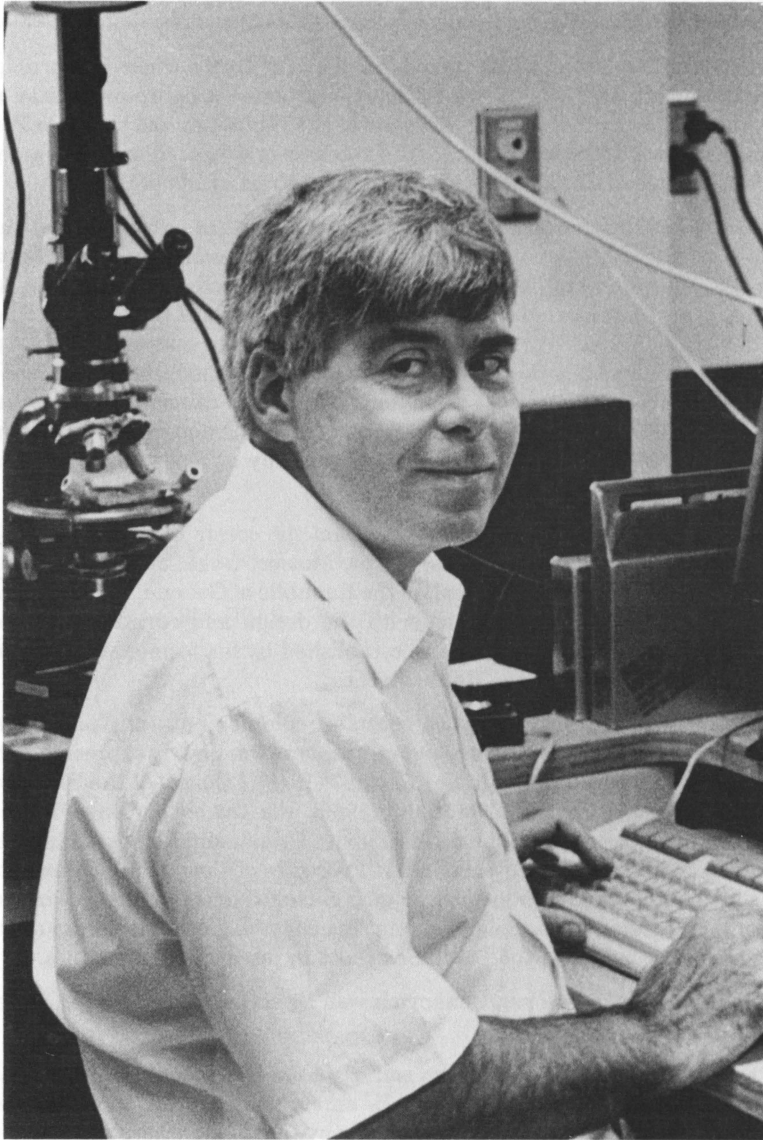


In Memoriam

Robert H. Osborne



Professor Robert H. Osborne passed away on July 13, 1994. Dr. Osborne was 55; he was stricken with the Creutzfeldt-Jacob disorder, a rare neurological process for which there is no cure.

Bob Osborne earned his B.S. degree in geology from Kent State University. He earned his M.S. from Washington State University in 1963 and his Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1966 before joining the faculty of the Department of Earth Sciences of the University of Southern California (USC). He progressed through the ranks to full Professor in 1979 and served as Chairman of the Department from 1985–1989. Bob also served on numerous University and Faculty Senate committees and was a founding member of the Sedimentary Geology Section of the Geological Society of America. He served as secretary

of the section and was active in its affairs. Bob was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, and an active member of professional societies in his field as well as Sigma Xi and Phi Kappa Phi.

Professor Osborne administered an active graduate research and educational program with funding from the National Science Foundation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Sea Grant Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. His students occupy positions of responsibility in industry, federal agencies and academia. Bob was a demanding professor who encouraged his students to realize their maximum capabilities. Their appreciation of his counsel and dedication is evidenced by the continuing "family" relationships that kept them in touch. As word spread of Bob's illness, the Department of Earth Sciences at USC received calls from his graduates from every part of the country.

Dr. Osborne's scientific interests were in the general areas of sedimentary geology. His earlier work was with Paleozoic depositional environments of classic mid-continent Paleozoic rocks. With time his interests moved to modern coasts and depositional systems. His most recent work pioneered the use of Fourier grain-shape analysis as an indicator of processes and sources of beach sediments. He was regularly called upon to serve as an expert witness in coastal problems and on problems of beach nourishment.

Bob taught core courses in sedimentary geology, stratigraphy and geostatistics at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He also taught general science courses and freshman seminars. He was a well-prepared lecturer and used the Socratic method to advantage in his major courses. His passing leaves a large void in our Department.

Professor Osborne is survived by his wife, Sally and his two sons Mark and Todd, both USC graduates. The Department of Earth Sciences has established the Dr. Robert H. Osborne Memorial Fund in his memory. This fund will support student research and education in the earth sciences.

D. S. Gorsline

A. C. Lee