

Memorial to Declan G. De Paor

1951–2018

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Declan G. De Paor, professor emeritus of geophysics at Old Dominion University, passed away peacefully at his home in Galilea, Mallorca, on 30 May 2018. He was with his wife, Carol Simpson, and two sons up until the end.

Declan was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1951. He took his B.Sc. from the National University of Ireland–Dublin in 1973, and his M.S and Ph.D. from the National University of Ireland–Cork in 1976 and 1981, respectively. His Ph.D. research and subsequent work in the 1980s developed new methods of geological stress and strain analysis, themes which continued throughout his career. Declan was a junior lecturer at the National University of Ireland–Galway from 1978 to 1983, and then was a Fulbright Senior Scholar at the State University of New York Albany, where he worked with Win Means on methods of strain analyses. Declan joined the faculty at Johns Hopkins University in 1983 and grew a strong research program that focused on deformation processes in contractional mountain belts with field sites in the Arctic, Alps, Appalachians, and Pyrenees. With a cadre of graduate students, he developed new methods for balancing geological cross sections. In collaboration with Carol Simpson, they demonstrated the kinematic importance of general shear (sub-simple shear) in high-strain zones and ductily deformed rocks.

In the mid-1990s, prior to taking a position as research professor at Boston University in 1999, Declan taught at Harvard University. At Boston University, he helped develop the Ireland Field Program and expanded his research into the newly developing fields of digital field methods and visualizations. He was an early advocate of Google Earth and the use of virtual globe visualization technologies in the Earth sciences. He founded Earth'nWare Inc. (late 1980s) and ScienceProf.com (late 1990s) to both develop and disseminate computer software for geological research and educational uses.

Declan moved to Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 2005 as a research professor in geophysics, prior to taking a position as professor of geophysics and director of the Pretlow Planetarium at Old Dominion University in 2008. Declan and Carol retired from ODU in 2017, after which they moved to Mallorca, Spain, to be nearer to Declan's family.

Declan was a visionary geoscientist who made lasting contributions in structural geology, computational geology, and education-focused visualizations and modules for earth and planetary science for more than four decades. He was energetic in everything he did and brought enthusiasm to all he encountered. Declan was happiest in working at the "bleeding edge" of newly developing research directions and pushing the boundaries of what could be accomplished. His spirited mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students throughout his career is best repre-



sented by his many collaborative publications and short course/workshop presentations at professional meetings. He was equally adept at inverting matrices in his head, dashing up mountain slopes, or writing code to make Google Earth display novel animations that it was never meant to do. He will be missed by the many who have been influenced by his brilliance and enthusiasm, but his legacy lives on in his former students, collaborators, publications, and educational learning modules that continue to make us think about the Earth in new and unexpected ways.

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