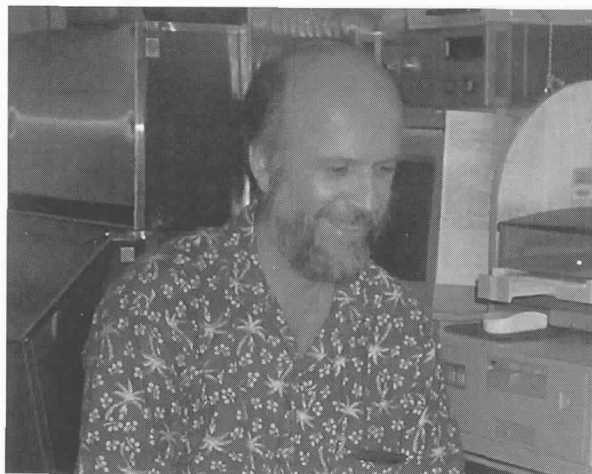


ALAN BRATKOVICH, OCEANOGRAPHER 1951–1995



IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that we announce the passing of our friend and colleague Alan Bratkovich. Alan exemplified the true, focussed scientist that many of us aspire to be. He was a dedicated and disciplined physical oceanographer committed not only to his scientific research, but to the people in the science. Alan's discipline and focus enabled him to keep his priorities balanced by giving time to his family and community, as well as to his profession.

He began his oceanography career as a graduate student at Scripps Institution of Oceanography where he learned his core discipline of physical oceanography, completing his Ph.D. in 1981. In 1983, he joined the faculty at University of Southern California as a research assistant professor in the Department of Geological Sciences. During these years his research was directed toward coastal processes off California including tidal processes, deep basin exchange, buoyant effluent plume dispersion, and the California Current System. Alan's interests in interdisciplinary problems began during this period through his involvement in BIOWATT and a study of the effects of ocean outfalls on the coastal ocean physics and biology. In 1988, Alan accepted a position as oceanographer at the

NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) in Ann Arbor where he continued to focus on coastal processes and further expand his interests in interdisciplinary problems. His research at GLERL included studies of coastal dynamics in Lake Michigan, physical dynamics in the South Atlantic Bight Recruitment Experiment (SABRE), and the Mississippi River plume as part of the Nutrient Enhanced Coastal Ocean Productivity (NECOP) program. In recent years he became increasingly interested in frontal processes, plume dynamics, and physical-biological interactions in the coastal zone.

Alan served on the UNOLS Fleet Replacement Committee as a representative from USC. In recent years he served on the NOAA Coastal Ocean Program "Observations and Predictions" Steering Committee and on the NOAA Ship Usage Committee.

As devoted husband and father, Alan spent much time with his family and was closely involved with school and community. He volunteered his time and expertise to local ecological projects and educational programs. In order to spend more time with his children, Alan arranged his work schedule so that he could be home in the afternoons. During this time Alan

would involve his children in reading, playing with the computer, swimming at the neighborhood pool, or their favorite—canoeing in the Huron River.

Alan was a good friend who was ready for discussion on a topic of any sort. His friendly and engaging nature led Alan's friends to kid him that one of his personal goals was to know every living oceanographer and to have lunch with them as well. Colleagues also knew him as a generous and loyal ally who never seemed to turn down a request for help, which resulted in his participation and leadership in many research and nonresearch activities including several planning committees and serving as vice president of GLERL's employee union. Alan was a man of integrity and reason who was unafraid to state his opinion while remaining open-minded. He was always quick to impart his strength, confidence, and encouragement. Even in his illness he remained optimistic and forward-looking to the end.

Alan passed away on January 7, 1995 after a brief bout with pancreatic cancer. He is survived by his wife, Deborah, and his two children, Erin and Gregory.

We are thankful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Alan. We will miss him greatly. □