Jules R. DuBar, of Charlottesville, Virginia, passed away on 17 March 2009. Born on 30 June 1923, in Canton, Ohio, the son of Joseph and Inez DuBar, he is survived by his wife Susan, daughter Nicole, son Scott, and two grandchildren.

After graduating from high school and prior to attending college, DuBar served in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II. Jules attended Kent State University where he graduated with a B.S. degree in geology in 1949. Jules then completed an M.S. degree from Oregon State University in 1950, and earned a Ph.D. in stratigraphy and paleontology from the University of Kansas in 1957 under the tutelage of the well-known and noted paleontologist R.C. Moore.

Dr. DuBar began his teaching career as an instructor of geology at Southern Illinois University from 1951 to 1957 (except for the academic year 1953–1954, during which time Jules taught invertebrate paleontology at the University of Kansas while finishing his Ph.D.). He was assistant–associate professor of geology at the University of Houston from 1957 to 1962, where he directed numerous graduate theses studies; visiting professor, University of North Carolina, summer 1963; associate professor and director of graduate studies, Duke University, from 1962–1964; and chairman and professor of geoscience at Morehead State University, Morehead, Kentucky, from 1967 to 1981.


He was a member of 17 professional scientific societies and a fellow of both the Geological Society of America and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, but the membership he cherished most was that of a fellow in the Explorers Club, New York. He was also the recipient of many honors and awards both nationally and internationally.

Jules was truly an independent researcher who embraced the disciplines of stratigraphy, sedimentology, and paleontology throughout his illustrious career. His primary field of interest for four decades was Cenozoic mollusks of the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Provinces and their relationship to changing depositional environments. His research was characterized by painstaking field observation, innovative experimentation, sparkling synthesis, and yes,
renegade thinking. He was awarded more than $250,000 in research grants from the National Science Foundation to pursue these studies. Jules approached each day and each problem on the Carolina coastal plain with vigor and passion. He spent innumerable hours studying outcrops and collecting samples; examining maps, air photos, charts, and cores; and constructing geologic cross sections in search of insights into the geologic mysteries of the coastal plain—exhilarated when the picture seemed to come into focus, frustrated when it once again blurred, but always confident that one day it would all come clear and the truth would be revealed. His intense love and desire for fieldwork became a trademark throughout his teaching career. He often said, “The best geologist is the one who sees the most rocks.”

As a researcher, he taught his students to look with curiosity, to think critically, to pursue with fervor the science, and to not ignore new, unconventional ideas. It was his long-held view that it was the students that made it all worthwhile, never the money or the administrative duties.

Jules had an exemplary record of scientific productivity with over 63 authored and co-authored publications spanning journal articles, edited memoirs, systematic monographs, guidebooks, bulletins, geologic maps, abstracts, and popular books. In addition, he compiled many unpublished company and contract reports.

Jules’ approachability and his willingness to engage in discussion led to his playing a major role in the encouragement and development of many younger scientists around the globe. His enthusiasm and passion for the geological profession were truly contagious. The number of undergraduate and graduate students and industry trainees Jules has influenced is immeasurable. He never compromised his standards, demanding a high standard of achievement from students in his stratigraphy and paleontology classes. Those who survived the rigors of those courses emerged with a firm grounding in principles and report writing that served them throughout their careers.

Jules’ influence on our science has been profound and an inspiration to his colleagues and students. Anyone who knew him treasured his mentorship, leadership, and most importantly, his friendship. Jules, you will truly be missed but never forgotten.