

Memorial to Janis Driver Treworgy (1954–2015)

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Janis Driver Treworgy, chair of the Department of Geology at Principia College in Elsah, Illinois, passed away peacefully on 7 April 2015, at her home in Grafton, Illinois. Janis joined the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) in 1975, and for the next 25 years, she conducted research and published on the stratigraphy, depositional environments, and tectonic history of Illinois, with a focus on the Illinois Basin. In 2000, pursuing her love for teaching, she accepted a faculty position in the Department of Geology at Principia College, her alma mater. In addition to conducting research and teaching, Janis was active in her community and devoted to her profession. She served on local and national committees for the Geological Society of America (GSA), Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM), and National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT). In 2005, Janis was named a Fellow of the GSA. A beloved wife, mother, sister, and friend to many, she is remembered for her warm personality, devotion, compassion, enthusiasm, and leadership.



Janis was born 6 February 1954, and raised in Santa Monica, California. She graduated from Pasadena's Polytechnic High School in 1972 and received her B.S. (geology major with a minor in mathematics) from Principia College in 1975. It was at Principia College that she first met Colin Treworgy. They married on 9 August 1975, and both began their careers at the ISGS.

Janis continued her education at the University of Illinois, receiving her M.S. degree in geology in 1983 and her Ph.D. in 1985, while carrying out her research and service work at the ISGS. Her Ph.D. dissertation was titled "Stratigraphy and depositional settings of the Chesterian (Mississippian) Fraileys/Big Clifty and Haney Formations in the Illinois Basin" (Treworgy, 1985, 1988). She was involved in a wide variety of resource and environmental investigations, including the assessment of coal resources, mapping of fault systems, and evaluation of geologic structures suitable for underground compressed-air energy storage. She was senior author of a presentation on the subsidence history of the Illinois Basin that received the 1989 Vincent E. Nelson Memorial Best Poster Award, Eastern Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Janis was a major contributor in the development and construction of a detailed and insightful network of structural cross sections of the Paleozoic succession in the Illinois Basin (Treworgy and Whitaker, 1990; Treworgy et al., 1992, 1994, 1997).

In the early 1990s, as her children Bonnie and Eric reached school age, Janis was concerned with the quality of education in the public schools of Champaign-Urbana and decided to seek other options. She and a group of like-minded citizens founded the Countryside School of Champaign, a K–8 school that emphasizes hands-on, application-based learning through invention and problem solving. Janis volunteered her time as president of the board (1992–1995) and board member

(1995–1999). She also served as construction manager of the new school facility (1995–1997). Countryside School continues to be a model of success in east-central Illinois.

During the mid-1990s, Janis was asked by ISGS management to develop earth science curriculum materials and workshops for middle school teachers to address the new science standards approved by the Illinois State Board of Education. The program, called Near and Far Sciences for Illinois, was a perfect fit for Janis's interests, organizational skills, and leadership abilities. She formed a multidisciplinary team of geoscientists and liaison K–12 teachers, developed an extensive workbook of exercises and field trip guides, and organized a series of two-day workshops held at seven sites in Illinois. The success of the program was in large part due to Janis's leadership.

Janis subsequently became active in the Central Section of the NAGT, serving as its secretary/treasurer, first vice president, second vice president, and president. It was after she joined the faculty of Principia College in 2000 that she became active in NAGT at the national level. During her term as NAGT president, the *Journal of Geoscience Education* transitioned into an online publication, the Geo2YC Division was established, and NAGT began publishing *In the Trenches*. After her year as past-president, Janis was elected to serve as NAGT secretary/treasurer.

In 2000, Janis returned to Principia College, answering the search for a professor of geology. In terms of her experience, knowledge, leadership, and commitment to the principles of Principia, she was ideally qualified for the position. Before Janis's arrival at Principia, an unusual circumstance and opportunity arose: A backhoe operator working on campus inadvertently unearthed part of a mammoth tooth in the 17,000-year-old loess deposits that blanket the college grounds. Janis quickly realized the significance of the discovery and the potential to make it a learning experience. In the spring of 2002, the site was excavated and additional skeletal remains were uncovered, including more teeth, a skull, and tusks. A shelter was built over the open pit, and for the next 10 years, the site was a virtual laboratory open to students and visiting scholars. All the remains were eventually moved to the Principia Science Center for final preparation and display.

During her 15 years at Principia, Janis developed and taught college courses and oversaw the mammoth excavation. She led geology field programs for college students and adult learners to Mongolia and the western United States and gave tours and presentations on the mammoth project to thousands of school-aged children and individuals from the community.

No proper memorial to Janis would be complete without mention of her love of the great outdoors and sports. This was evident in the yearly Christmas card photos of the family shown pausing for a snapshot during a hike on a faraway seashore or exotic mountaintop. Janis also was a smart, dogged, high-energy hockey and soccer player. Her intelligence and determination more than compensated for her diminutive size. Janis was fiercely competitive to the final bell. Winning was fun, but for her, how the game was played and the postgame camaraderie were the most important factors. It is no surprise that Janis was a founding member of the Women's Hockey team at the University of Illinois (1992), given her leadership and athleticism. She continued to play while raising her children and maintaining a busy career.

Janis is survived by her husband of 40 years, Colin Treworgy of Grafton, Illinois, her sister Nancy Driver of Lakewood, Colorado, and her two children, Bonnie Treworgy of Nice, France, and Eric Treworgy of Los Angeles, California. She was devoted to her family, the geological profession, her church, and the local community, and will long be remembered for her integrity, grace, warmth, upbeat personality, and infectious laugh. She was greatly admired by all who knew her and will especially be missed by the geoscience education community. Janis was an extraordinary person—absolutely one of a kind. She lives on in the hearts and minds of her family, friends, colleagues, and students.

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