



International Association of GeoChemistry

www.iagc-society.org

IN LOVING MEMORY OF STEVEN BANWART

Our hearts are heavy as we come together to honor the memory of our cherished friend and colleague, Steven Banwart, affectionately known as “Barney” to many of us. It is with deep sorrow that we share the heartbreaking news of his passing on December 30, 2023 due to a massive cerebral hemorrhage stroke. Steve’s departure has left an irreplaceable void in our lives, but as we gather to celebrate his extraordinary life, let us also reflect on the enduring legacy he leaves behind.



Steve was not just a scientist; he was a beacon of inspiration in the world of scientific discovery. He dedicated nearly three decades of his life to the development of the “critical zone” concept, leaving an indelible mark on the British, European, and global critical zone communities. His roles as Dean for Global Development, Director of the Global Food and Environment Institute, and Leadership Chair in Integrating Soil/Agriculture/Water Research at the University of Leeds underscore his commitment to groundbreaking research.

Among his many accomplishments, Steve’s leadership as the Principal Investigator of the European SoilTrec project from 2009 to 2014 stands as a testament to his visionary spirit. This project played a pivotal role in uniting the European critical zone community and set the stage for similar initiatives worldwide. Steve’s unwavering dedication and passionate advocacy for an integrative scientific vision enriched our understanding of the critical zone.

Yet, Steve’s greatness extended far beyond his scientific achievements. He was a compassionate and empathetic human being, always lending a listening ear to his colleagues. His authentic concern for others, coupled with his unwavering belief in the significance of critical zone research, made him a beloved figure in our scientific community.

Steve’s commitment transcended the confines of the laboratory. He actively contributed to the IAGC community as the Chair of the GES working group and served on the council since 2012. His tireless efforts in promoting our association’s mission exemplified his dedication to advancing our shared goals.

For many of us, our connection with Steve extended beyond the boundaries of science. His infectious spirit and camaraderie endeared him to us as not just a colleague but a cherished friend. Steven was not only a friend but a guiding light who helped us navigate the complexities of life and science. Though his absence leaves a void that cannot be filled, his legacy will forever inspire us. In his memory, we pledge to carry forward his important research and uphold the values he cherished. While we mourn his passing, we find solace in knowing that his spirit lives on in the hearts and minds of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

As we grieve the loss of this exceptional individual, our hearts reach out to his family during this difficult time. We share in their sorrow and offer our deepest sympathies.

To Steve’s family, we extend our heartfelt condolences. Rest in peace, dear friend.

Cont’d from page 56

W skarns and fluorite occurrences in the Erzgebirge culminated in pioneering studies on the genesis of ore-bearing granites and the role of associated mafic magmatism. In parallel, he acted as a mineral exploration consultant and visiting lecturer in Australia, Asia, and South Africa. In 1973–1980, he led the highly published IGCP project 26 ‘Metallization associated with acid magmatism’.

Mirek was a founding member, general secretary, and honorary life member of IAGOD. He was president of the Czech Geological Society (1990–1994), served on the board of directors of the Geologische Vereinigung (1992–1996), and was president of the Czech national geological commission (1996–2000). After political changes in Eastern Europe, Charles University promoted him to full professor (1993), and he became director of the geoscience analytical facilities (1994–1998). He taught economic geology and phase equilibria for nearly 50 years until his retirement as emeritus professor in 2010. He received the Cyril Purkyně award from the Czech Geological Survey and the Kutina-Smirnov medal from IAGOD in 2018.

Mirek was a remarkable international scientist with many worldwide collaborations. Those who met him admired and sought his insight and perspective, rational advice, and generous encouragement. We have lost an excellent scientist, a modest colleague, and first and foremost, a friend. He will be missed by many.

By **Prof David Dolejš**, University of Freiburg, Germany



Elements
An International Magazine of Mineralogy, Geochemistry, and Petrology

DON'T MISS AN ISSUE OF ELEMENTS.
Join a participating society today!



