Memorial Resolution for Emeritus Professor of Geography Clinton R. Edwards

Emeritus Professor of Geography Clinton R. Edwards died on November 24, 2009 after a protracted battle with kidney disease. Born in California in 1926, Clint received his doctoral degree in 1962 from the University of California-Berkeley, where he was greatly influenced by the legendary geographer Carl Sauer. He joined the Geography Department at UW-Milwaukee in 1966, and remained a member of the UWM faculty for 35 years, retiring in 2001. Professor Edwards chaired the Geography Department during a particularly challenging period from 1972 to 1975, when he demonstrated administrative skills to match his abilities as a scholar and teacher.

Clint was a highly distinguished cultural and historical geographer, who contributed especially to understanding the role of watercraft in the processes of cultural diffusion and discovery. His regional specialty was Latin America, particularly the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, where he worked in the field over a span of more than three decades. He made significant scholarly contributions to maritime cultural and historical geography, the study of sixteenth century European exploration and discovery, Latin American cultural and historical geography, and the study of environmental problems and development in Latin America.

His scholarship was an inspiration to his colleagues and to the numerous students who worked under his supervision. He was a dedicated teacher who stimulated the intellectual curiosity and development of undergraduate and graduate students alike. He contributed significantly to the national and international reputation of the University and he served diligently the Department of Geography, the College of Letters and Science, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and the University in many and varied contexts, always espousing strong academic principles and advocating concomitant standards. In recognition of Prof. Edwards’ many contributions to the UW-Milwaukee Geography Department and the discipline of Geography, the Clinton Edwards Fund was established in 2007, and provides an award each year to support fieldwork conducted by a Departmental graduate student as part of their thesis or dissertation research.

In addition to his scholarly endeavors, Clint Edwards was a dedicated family man, a stimulating colleague and companion and an avid and highly competent mariner. He played a pivotal role in bringing to fruition the construction of the Great Lakes schooner Dennis Sullivan, and he was widely known and respected throughout the nautical community.

We, his colleagues, mourn the loss of his wise counsel and wish his spirit a peaceful voyage on the oceans of eternity.

Michael J. Day, Department of Geography
Mark D. Schwartz, Department of Geography