Everett Lindsay – short biography

I am very honored to receive this recognition from the SVP. When I read the list of Honorary Members I am delighted to see names of many of my old heroes, role models, mentors, and friends: it is a prestigious group, and I cherish the opportunity to join this distinguished group. I only hope this doesn't mean that I have to act dignified now.

My first SVP meeting was 39 years ago, at UC Berkeley, where I was an eager and inexperienced graduate student. That was before powerpoint so the graduate students got to run slide projectors and mess up the sequence of slides for esteemed speakers. I regret that graduate students no longer have this opportunity, but hope that they will find some other means to disrupt our hallowed proceedings. Let me take this opportunity to formally apologize to all of the speakers (and students) that I have harassed over the years, and I hope that humility and candor will be hallmarks of SVP meetings for all time.

I started my academic career as an athlete and am eternally grateful to a former football coach, who was also my freshman biology professor, when he pointed out to me that I had more talent in the classroom than on the football field. I changed my major to biology, and after graduation thought that I wanted to become a mammalogist. Again, I am grateful to my mammalogy professor, Herbert Wright, who explained to me that the questions I was asking (How are cats related to dogs? How are deer related to cows?) were not the type of questions that mammalogists ask, but were the questions that vertebrate paleontologists ask. Several years later I was teaching science at Yuba City Union High School in California when Sputnik was launched, igniting the drive to upgrade (and broaden support for) our educational system. I joined the band wagon and with financial help from the NSF obtained a good background in geology (and Master's degree) at Cornell University before admission to graduate school, at the age of 32, at UC Berkeley.

In 1967 I took the job teaching vertebrate paleontology at the University of Arizona, following John Lance who had been a close associate of my major professor, Don Savage, before and during their military service. Lance had temporarily left the University of Arizona about 1964, taking a job with the NSF in Washington, D.C. so that he and his family could be near his daughter who was being treated for cancer at Bethesda, Maryland. His daughter died in 1965 and the Lance family returned to Tucson where John taught at the University of Arizona during the 1966-67 school year. In June 1967 the NSF requested Lance return to direct the Geology program, and he did so, after consultation with Don Savage, opening a position for me at the University of Arizona.

I taught at the University of Arizona until my retirement in 1996. I have always been interested in small mammals, inspired by John White who, along with Dave Webb, taught the mammal taxonomy class at UC Berkeley so that my professor, Ruben Stirton, could concentrate on research. Stirton died suddenly in 1965 and Don Savage kindly took me on as his student. I was fortunate to have excellent instructors and mentors at UC

Berkeley, doing first class research. My training and professional preparation were second to none.

At the University of Arizona I had numerous opportunities to advance our profession and science. ____ students completed their dissertation and ____ students completed their thesis under my guidance and direction. I am very proud of their achievements, and thankful for their friendship and support. We share too many exciting and memorable experiences to mention.

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MS

Jon Powell
Barb Standhardt
Lou Jacobs
Lou Taylor (?)
Larry Flynn
Jon Baskin
Jeff Saunders
Yun Mou (?)
Jessica Harrison
Bob McLand
Yuki Tomida
Dick Haskins
Jim Honey
~~McClanahan~~ Kathy Flanagan

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PhD

Jeff Saunders
Lou Jacobs
Lou Taylor
Larry Flynn
Yun Mou
M. Casiliano
Yuki Tomida
George Lammers