

In Memoriam

James Bryan Mercer, 1940-2021

Dr. Bryan Mercer passed away peacefully on September 30, 2021 in Calgary, Alberta. For more than 30 years, he was actively involved in ISPRS, never missing any Congresses, attending many Commission Symposia and numerous Working Group meetings.

Bryan received his B.Sc. in Physics from the University of Alberta in 1962, and then a PhD in Astrophysics in 1967 at the University of Calgary. As a postdoc and young researcher, he travelled a lot and spent longer periods of time in Italy and the UK before settling back to Calgary, where he played a key role in initiating an arctic remote sensing program. In 1984, he joined Intermap Technologies as Chief Scientist, a position he held until his retirement. His primary interest was in radar technologies, in particular airborne SAR, and soon he became a world renown expert in the commercial SAR practice, including airborne data acquisition, processing and product development.

Bryan's involvement in ISPRS activities started at the dawn of the digital age, with the introduction of softcopy photogrammetric workstations and the transition to digital sensors and fully digital workflows in the late 80's. From 2000 to 2012, as Chair and Co-Chair, he contributed to WG II/2 efforts, including organizing two very successful WG meetings in Banff, Canada, that attracted over 100 attendees from all over the world, including ISPRS Council members. At that time, WG II/2, on SAR and LiDAR systems was one of the most active WGs in TC II, as interest was very high in these rapidly developing technologies. Bryan's scientific contributions were widely respected by the ISPRS community, he was active until TCII Symposium in Denver in 2014, though he kept following ISPRS activities at large afterwards.

Bryan, a born optimist, was not only a very bright scientist, but he was an exceptionally kind and supportive person. He treated everyone with honesty, respect, humility, and professionalism, and always had warm words for everyone around him, and, being an excellent speaker, was always ready to share some nice stories. As a globetrotter scientist, he met many people all over the world and developed long-lasting friendships in the ISPRS community. Bryan was a well-rounded person, as besides being a devoted professional, he had a life outside the office too. As a family person, he enjoyed nothing more than to share time with his children and grandchildren. He loved nature, the mountains, especially the Canadian Rockies where he found lots of joy, including camping, hiking, skiing and biking. He liked movies and books; a good book, as well as his eternal optimism, had always accompanied him on his numerous trips all over the world. While he loved jazz his entire life, it was fairly late when he started to play the saxophone, something he could enjoy till the very end.

Bryan is survived by his beloved family including wife Diane; his children Larissa and David and stepdaughter Robin; grandchildren Caelan, Athan, Noah, Maya and Fiona. He will be missed by his family, friends and colleagues.

Charles Toth

Vice President