



Henry Hilgard

Oct.9,1936-April 13,2013

Resident of Santa Cruz

Henry R. Hilgard died unexpectedly from cardiac arrest at Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz, California. He had lived a rich and active life for 76 years. He was among the first group of biology department faculty at the University of California, Santa Cruz, arriving in Santa Cruz with his wife, Galen and their three young daughters in 1967.

A gifted teacher, Henry received "The Distinguished Teaching Award" at UCSC in the 1990's. He loved synthesizing complex information and presenting his knowledge in a unique and clear way. He deeply enjoyed sharing ideas with colleagues, friends, and family whether the topic related to history, science, medicine, numismatics, or life. Known for his upbeat and engaging style, he could picture and analyze serious subjects, and make people laugh. As Henry's friend, Sheridan Downey wrote, "for me his counsel, insight and common sense were the gold standard, as they were for his wife, daughters and grandchildren." Fascinated by the study of immunology, Henry carried out research in this field for many years, and kept abreast of new immunological findings until the day he died. Henry received an "Established Investigatorship of the [American Heart Association](#) ," among other grants. His immunology and human biology courses were among the most popular classes in biology at UCSC, and he played a key role in the introduction of several "non-major" biology courses at the university, such as "Cardiovascular Disease and Health," and "AIDS: Perspectives on an Epidemic." Henry enjoyed serving on the Premedical Advisory Committee at UCSC, and he had great admiration for his students, many of whom went on to become physicians, biologists and science writers. He served as chair of Biology at UCSC from 1989 - 1992, becoming emeritus in 1994. Henry co-authored the book, "The Biology of People" with Sam Singer (published by W.H. Freeman and Company, San Francisco, in 1978.)

Born and raised in Palo Alto, California, Henry was the son of Josephine Rohrs Hilgard and Ernest R. Hilgard, professors at Stanford University. Henry received his undergraduate degree at [Harvard University](#), his M.D. at Stanford University, and having developed a strong interest in research and teaching, he subsequently earned a PhD in the field of microbiology at [University of Minnesota](#). An exciting predoctoral stint was pivotal in Henry's science career when he worked with Nobel Prize winner Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet in Melbourne, Australia. Galen and their baby daughter, Julia, accompanied him; and the whole family stayed in many wonderful cities over the arc of Henry's career.

Between 1968 and 1970, Henry served as Lieutenant Commander in the US Navy, working as a scientist in Bethesda, Maryland, and in San Francisco, California.

Henry's passions included the natural sciences, numismatics, walking with friends, and taking adventurous trips with Galen. He also enjoyed working outdoors, sports, reading, music, dance and theater. He was a fan of the 49ers and SF Giants. His great joy was talking and visiting with his daughters and their husbands, and playing with his six grandchildren.

Henry is survived by his wife of 53 years, Galen Howard Hilgard, by his daughters and their husbands, Julia Hilgard Ritter and John Ritter of Ligonier, PA, Galen Rohrs

(Hilgard) Roll and Gunnar Roll of Santa Cruz, and Adaline Josephine Hilgard and Kyle Noone, of San Francisco, and by his grandchildren, Madaline and Clayton Ritter, Turner

and Adaline Roll, and Josephine and Kellen Noone. He is also survived by his sister, Elizabeth Jecker and her husband, Jerry Jecker, of San Luis Obispo, and their two grown children; and by many beloved cousins and friends.

A celebration of Henry's life will be held Saturday July 6th at 2:00 pm, at the First Congregational Church at 900 High Street, Santa Cruz, California.

A contribution in Henry's memory may be made to the [American Heart Association](#), to The Nature Conservancy, to Shakespeare Santa Cruz, or to a charitable organization of one's choice.

Henry Hilgard

Hilgard, Henry R. Professor dod 04/13/2013

2013 Apr 29

Henry Hilgard

from Matt Sands

Stanley,

Henry Hilgard died on 4/15. He was an emeritus professor of biology -- though maybe not a member of the emeriti group.

I have nowhere seen a notice of his death. Should the emeriti group be alerted?

Dear Matt:

Thank you very much for this information. Yes, indeed. Henry was a member of the Emeriti Association.

I'll follow up with some other biologists to see if they know anything. But, I'll definitely pass it along.

Thanks again,

Stan

Dear Professor Bowman:

Todd Newberry told me by phone that you have a blurb about the death of Henry Hilgard.

He was a member of our UCSC Emeriti Association.

As Secretary-Treasurer of the EA, I would appreciate it if you would forward to me that announcement so that I might send same to our Membership.

Thanks very much,

Stanley D. Stevens sstevens@ucsc.edu

Librarian Emeritus
Secretary-Treasurer
UCSC Emeriti Assn.

from Barry Bowman (bbowman@ucsc.edu)
4/29/13

It was short, as below.

Professor Emeritus of Biology was a Member of the UCSC Emeriti Association from 1997.

I have sad news to report concerning Henry Hilgard. He collapsed with a heart attack on Wednesday, never regained consciousness, and died on Saturday. Henry was among the first group of Biology faculty on our campus, coming in 1967. He had gotten an MD from Stanford but was very interested in research and subsequently earned a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. His research focus was in immunology, having done postdoctoral work with Nobel Prize recipient Frank Macfarlane Burnet in Australia. Henry was an outstanding teacher. His immunology course was perhaps the most popular course in Biology. He also played a key role in the initiation of several of our non-majors courses like Biology of AIDS. From 1989 to 1992 he served a Chair of Biology, then retired in 1994. Henry was always an upbeat, engaging person with a great sense of humor.

— Professor Barry Bowman

5/19/13
from Michael Nauenberg
Hi Stan,

This morning I read the sad news that Henry died of cardiac arrest on April 13. In case it was not announced to emeriti before (I did not receive it) I suggest that it be forward to our emerit.
Regards, Michael

5/19/13
Dear Michael:

Thank you for bringing this to my attention.
I had not yet read today's paper.
I did send an announcement to our Membership on April 29:

At the time I sent that message the newspaper obit had not appeared. Now that today's paper gives the date of the Celebration of his Life, I will send the obit to our membership. Let me know if you DO NOT GET IT.

Stan

5/19/13

Part of my previous message included a note that I clipped from the Obituary, but it failed to reproduce in the message. It was:

Please note that "A celebration of Henry's life will be held Saturday July 6th at 2:00 pm, at the First Congregational Church at 900 High Street, Santa Cruz, California."

Stan