

# Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research

An Interdisciplinary Journal

ISSN: (Print) (Online) Journal homepage: [www.tandfonline.com/journals/uaar20](http://www.tandfonline.com/journals/uaar20)

## Jack Ives, 1931–2024

Gifford H. Miller & Patrick J. Webber

To cite this article: Gifford H. Miller & Patrick J. Webber (2024) Jack Ives, 1931–2024, Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research, 56:1, 2422220, DOI: [10.1080/15230430.2024.2422220](https://doi.org/10.1080/15230430.2024.2422220)

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15230430.2024.2422220>



© 2024 The Author(s). Published with license by Taylor & Francis Group, LLC.



Published online: 22 Nov 2024.



Submit your article to this journal [↗](#)



View related articles [↗](#)



View Crossmark data [↗](#)



IN MEMORIAM

## Jack Ives, 1931–2024

Gifford H. Miller<sup>a</sup> and Patrick J. Webber<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>INSTAAR & Department of Geological Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, Colorado, USA; <sup>b</sup>Department of Plant Biology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, USA





Indian House Lake, Quebec, Canada. 1958. Photo by Pauline Ives.

John David (Jack) Ives, former director of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR) and professor of geography at the University of Colorado Boulder, died 15 September 2024 at the age of 92 in Ottawa, Canada, where he had been living for several years. His wife, Pauline, preceded him in death by two years. He leaves behind his four children, Nadine, Tony (Mary Ann), Colin (Rebecca), and Peter (Adele). Jack was born in Grimsby, England, on 15 October 1931. He attended the University of Nottingham, where, in addition to his studies, he organized and led that institution's glaciological research expeditions to Skaftafell and Vatnajökull, Iceland, in the early 1950s, during which he met Pauline Cordingley, who was also planning an expedition to Iceland; they married on 11 September 1954. The couple emigrated to Montréal,

Canada, where Jack completed his PhD at McGill University in 1956.

The Institute of Arctic and Alpine Ecology was created by John Marr in 1951 at the University of Colorado Boulder after he noted similarities between Colorado alpine plants and those of the Arctic during World War II deployment to Arctic Canada and Greenland. Marr also realized the value of the university's "Science Lodge," which became the Mountain Research Station, and the nearby extensive alpine settings.

In the mid-1960s, wishing to expand the university's strength in cold-regions research, the graduate school dean opened a search for a new Institute of Arctic and Alpine Ecology director and offered the position to Jack Ives, who was at the time director of the Geographical Branch at the Canada Department of Mines and Technical Surveys in Ottawa, where he had overseen research expeditions to then-rarely visited Baffin Island. In negotiations with the dean, Jack managed to secure the promise of five additional faculty positions, for which he could hire whomever he wanted (and without a search committee) and place them into whichever tenure home he thought they best fit. Jack, in consultations with colleagues, created the acronym "INSTAAR" and then hired his former British colleagues: Roger Barry (geography; mountain climatology), Nel Caine (geography; geomorphology), Pat Webber (biology; geobotany), Harvey Nichols (biology; palynology), and John Andrews (geological sciences; glacial geology). These hires reflect the post-World War II European "brain drain," where research opportunities after the war were limited for a newly minted fellowship of talented researchers. With the new faculty, Jack started this journal, now in its fifty-

**CONTACT** Gifford H. Miller  [gmill@colorado.edu](mailto:gmill@colorado.edu)  INSTAAR & Department of Geological Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder, 4001 Discovery Drive, Boulder, CO 80309.

© 2024 The Author(s). Published with license by Taylor & Francis Group, LLC.

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited. The terms on which this article has been published allow the posting of the Accepted Manuscript in a repository by the author(s) or with their consent.

sixth year, and hired Kathleen Blackie Salzberg (geography) from Scotland as managing editor, as well as Canadian Rolf Kihl to oversee the new Sedimentology Laboratory.

Early INSTAAR arctic research focused on northern Alaska and Baffin Island, and Jack expanded alpine research centered on the Mountain Research Station. He was active in bringing the Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) program of the U.S. National Science Foundation to alpine Niwot Ridge and adjacent valleys, which has been funded since 1980.

A host of students who earned their PhD degrees at INSTAAR now populate faculty at university and college campuses across the country, where they carry on and expand the INSTAAR-nourished fascination with cold regions everywhere.

Throughout his distinguished career, Jack held significant roles, including senior advisor to the United Nations University and co-founder of the International Mountain Society and its journal. His contributions to geography and mountain research earned him numerous honors, including the King Albert Mountain Award in 2002, the Knight's Cross of the Order of the Falcon from Iceland in 2007, and the Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal in 2015.

Jack was INSTAAR director from 1967 to 1979, and the rest is history that you can explore at:

[https://instaar.colorado.edu/uploads/history/50th\\_Anniv.pdf](https://instaar.colorado.edu/uploads/history/50th_Anniv.pdf)



Skaftafell, Iceland. 2016. Photo by Nadine Ives.

<https://journalhosting.ucalgary.ca/index.php/arctic/article/view/67650>

<https://ottawacitizen.remembering.ca/obituary/john-ives-1091235706>

### **Acknowledgment**

We thank the Ives family for providing the photographs.

### **Disclosure statement**

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).