In Memoriam

Doug Tolderlund, 1938-2008

In January, Doug Tolderlund, 69, of Old Lyme, passed away peacefully at home. He was a dedicated friend of the ocean as well as to those who work, play, or travel upon it. We at Sea Grant knew Doug through his affiliation with the Coast Guard Academy, and he served on our Senior Advisory Board for several years. In the 1960s, when Doug had a commission in the U.S. Navy, he made cruises on several vessels to the western Pacific and to the Barents Sea, above Norway. He earned his doctorate in Oceanography from Columbia University and did his dissertation at Lamont Observatory.

After a brief stint in 1969 with Raytheon, analyzing the impact of a nuclear power plant on the Hudson River, Tolderlund joined the faculty of the Coast Guard Academy, and was head of the Science Department for eight years. His “dream career” as a civilian professor with the U.S. Coast Guard Academy lasted 29 years. He taught Marine Fisheries, Marine Geology, Marine Pollution, and Polar Oceanography. He traversed the Northwest passage on the Coast Guard icebreaker Polar Sea and traveled to the South Pole on the icebreaker Polar Star, where he landed on Shackleton Glacier. Tolderlund retired with professor emeritus status in 1999.

A Celebration of Life honoring Tolderlund was held at the Academy’s Memorial Chapel in February. His spouse and family suggest that donations in Doug’s name may be made to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, designated for the Marine Science Endowment.

Thanks to Ed Monahan for contributing this information.