

Remembrance from Zorka Saleeby:

To his colleagues, Jason will always be known as a brilliant scientist, with a childlike enthusiasm for natural world, particularly geology. He also had a great curiosity about the nature of our existence as well as the secrets of the universe.

From Alaska, to California's Sierra Nevada, from Dinaric Alps of Croatia, to the Caucasus, his research brought greater understanding and insights into our planet's complex history.

While working with him at Caltech for thirteen years, I had a great privilege and joy to corroborate with him on research of Southern Sierra and adjacent San Joaquin basin geology. This research resulted in publishing several seminal works for this region.

His latest passion was looking for the clues of the Younger Dryas meteor/comet impacts, as well as likely Sun's coronal mass ejections.

He and I spent many summers in my homeland Croatia, basking in the sun of one of the most beautiful coasts in the world. But we also engaged in the geological fieldwork there, trying to figure out the origin of widespread tectonic carbonate breccias, young, but never successfully dated. We hoped to go back there some day and look for possible connection of the origin of these breccias with cosmic impacts.

Jason has also been blessed with studying his favorite playground of the Goddess Pele, the active volcanos of the Big Island of Hawai'i. For couple of decades, he led Caltech graduating students to the Puu Oo's, active lava flows, sharing his knowledge, as well as his love for this magnificent and spectacular natural phenomenon. He loved to surf, but he was equally skilled in kayaking, snowboarding, and martial arts.

To most of his students he was a surrogate father figure, and the only thing that rivaled his love of geology was his love for his students.

I personally will always be grateful for the adventure, and the joy and love he brought to my life.