



Carl Kisslinger, a geophysicist who furthered scientific and international understanding through his tireless devotion to his field, died on December 31, 2008, at his home in Boulder, Colorado, USA.

Kisslinger served on the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU) faculty since 1972. He arrived from Saint Louis University, where he chaired the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and where he had earned undergraduate and doctoral degrees. For seven years he served as Director of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), a partnership between the University of Colorado and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). According to the CIRES web site, "The casual, respectful, and mutually supportive atmosphere among the institute's scientists and staff was established by his example, as was its dedication to excellence in all endeavors." Esteemed by generations of undergraduate and graduate students and colleagues, he received the University Service Award from the CU Board of Regents in 1993. Among his many roles as a university citizen, he most recently served as President of the Retired Faculty Association.

His career grew out of a passion for understanding and explaining nature. A seismologist, Kisslinger focused much of his research on earthquake fault zone processes, earthquake aftershocks, remote triggering of earthquakes, earthquake hazard analysis, and earthquake prediction. Much of his observational work was based in the Aleutian Islands, where he worked in the 1970s on problems related to the monitoring of underground nuclear testing. Author, coauthor, and editor of countless articles and books, he was one of four international editors of the *International Handbook of Earthquake and Engineering Seismology* (published in 2002), an editor of the 26-page brochure entitled "The International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior: Cooperation for Better Understanding of the Earth", and the author of *CIRES, 1967-2002, Pioneering a Successful Partnership*.

Kisslinger left a profound impact on the professional organizations in his field. For the American Geophysical Union (AGU) he served as International Secretary (1974-1984), and as Secretary (1964-1968) and President (1970-1972) of the Seismology Section. For the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) he served as a Bureau Member (1975-1979), Vice-President (1983-1991), and as Chair of the Colorado Host Committee for the 1995 IUGG General Assembly held at the University of Colorado. In 1974, as AGU International Secretary, he helped initiate one of the first American scientific exchange visits to the People's Republic of China, causing *Smithsonian* magazine to note in the Nixon-Kissinger era of détente that the visit was inspired by "an energetic young scientist named of all things, Kisslinger."

His international connections led to travel and friendships around the world and a spirit of adventure and cross-cultural understanding. In 1967 the Kisslinger family lived in Tokyo while he taught at a UNESCO institute for earthquake studies. Carl Kisslinger is survived by his wife, Penny, five children, and seven grandchildren.