

Larry Spencer

Biography

I was born in Palo Alto, California, but since my father was in the Coast Guard we moved pretty much every four years. This provided me with an understanding regional similarities and differences of west coast and east coast cultures. This also characterized my professional career. I taught biological topics for most of my career at a very small university. When I started at Plymouth in 1967 it was a college of 1500 students. When I retired 45 years later it was a university of 4000 students. During my time at Plymouth, I took a sabbatical every seventh year. These sabbaticals took me to Cal-Berkeley, University of Hawaii-Manoa, Instar-Boulder, Suzhou College of Silk Technology-PRC and Lincoln University-New Zealand. These experiences provided me knowledge of science teaching and research in the US and abroad.

I have been an active reader for my whole life. I have reviewed books for *Choice* (a publication of the *American Library Association*) for more than 50 years. In the past decade I have written four bibliographical essays for *Choice*; books on environmental history, books on the history of dinosaur paleontology in the US, books on Yosemite, and most recently books on the cephalopods. Each of these essays reviewed more than 50 books on the topic.

Although I taught at a small college, I was very involved in national societies and organized a number of sessions at annual meetings. One was science comes to the west coast; another was science in the Rocky Mountains.

Although I technically retired from active teaching in 2012, I have an office in the science building. In the spring of the year, I mentor from two to five students who are enrolled in our capstone course, Biology Seminar. I help them prepare a fifteen-minute presentation on a topic where they review the primary literature of a topic of biological interest. I have also begun a long-term book project on the history of the glacial geology of North America.

As noted on my CV, many of my local duties stopped in 2024. That is because my wife and I moved to a senior living community in Concord, NH and the change in residency meant I could not continue my membership on those groups. My wife and I are active travelers and as I write this biography are in France for a Viking River Cruise on the Rhone River.