

Evelyn Satinoff (1937-2008)

With the death of Evelyn Satinoff, psychology has lost not only a pre-eminent researcher and teacher, but also a real character. As a professor and pioneer in the field of thermoregulation, she could be intimidating; as a friend she was warm and loving.

Evelyn was born in Brooklyn, New York, on April 25, 1937, the daughter of Joseph and Rose Rosenstein. After first attending the City College of New York, she graduated from Brooklyn College in 1958. She received a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 1963 and remained there, first as a NIH Postdoctoral Fellow and then as a research associate. In 1973 she and her then husband, Phillip Teitelbaum, moved to the Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she became a full professor in 1977. She also held an appointment as professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, and was an active member of the Neuroscience Program. In 1993, to the surprise of many, Evelyn left Illinois to become chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of Delaware (UD). She served in this role until 2000 and continued at UD as a professor until her death.

Her influence on the field of thermoregulation cannot be overstated. Moreover, her leading role in this domain was evident from the beginning of her career: two of her first four papers were single-author papers in *Science*. She went on to publish four more papers in *Science* including her most influential work “Neural Organization and Evolution of Thermal Regulation in Mammals” (1978, 201, p. 16-22). In this paper she outlined a comprehensive theory of thermoregulation. Her model proposes that there are multiple interlinked systems that function in a coordinated manner to regulate body temperature with those located in the higher regions of the brain (e.g., the hypothalamus) having the smallest set zones whereas those lower in the brain possessed broader thermal set zones. Thirty years later, this work is still cited extensively.

Much of her early research focused on the neural control of behavioral thermoregulation. More than anyone she is credited with demonstrating that behavioral thermoregulation can be as important in maintaining body temperature as are physiological mechanisms. By lesioning discrete areas of the hypothalamus she was able to demonstrate that these two regulatory systems were anatomically distinct and that there was homeostatic redundancy. Evelyn’s interest in how the brain controls and regulates body temperature and how these thermoregulatory processes affect behavior allowed her to have an impact on related areas of study including hibernation, sleep, exercise, fever, circadian rhythms, and most recently, aging.

Evelyn received numerous awards, attesting to her scientific impact, as well as her teaching ability. She was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the American Psychological Association (APA), and the Association for Psychological Science (APS; previously the American Psychological Society) and was elected to the Society of Experimental Psychologists. She received a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship (1987), the Psi Chi Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award (1992), and was given the Beckman Award for Research by the University of Illinois three times (1982, 1985, 1988). In 1993, the university named her the Jubilee Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences Emerita.

Evelyn was active in several professional organizations, particularly APA Division 6 (now Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology). She served on the Executive Committee of the division (1981-1984), as a member of the Members and Fellows Committee (1984-1988), as chair of the Members and Fellows Committee (1992-1993), and as president of the division (1993). Evelyn was also a member of the APA’s Committee on Animals in Research and Ethics (1993-1995), and was on the Executive Board of the Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology (COGDOP; 1995-1997).

Evelyn's manner was sometimes seen as brash and harsh – perhaps too direct and too confrontational -- but I didn't mind. Early on, I learned that I could disagree with her provided I was prepared to back up my statements. Evelyn was great that way -- she respected a good argument. I vividly remember the first time I gave her the draft of a manuscript I had written. Later, when I asked what she thought of it, she said, "What is this crap?" I was devastated. She then proceeded to point out the flaws in my draft, and there were many in her opinion. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity, she smiled and said, "Wanna have lunch?" I looked at her. "You just said I was crap. How can we have lunch?" Without missing a beat, she replied, "This draft is crap. But you, kid -- you I like. Let's go eat." We ate lunch often after that.

Ironically, it was over lunch in the autumn of 2006 that she told me she had been diagnosed with lung cancer. After a valiant fight, she lost the battle, dying in her beloved Manhattan on January 29, 2008. Evelyn is survived by her sister, Harriet Sifre, her sons, Daniel and David Teitelbaum, and her grandchildren Jacob and Maxine. Her first husband, Leon Satinoff, died early in her career. The University of Delaware has established an endowed lecture in her honor: the "Evelyn Satinoff Memorial Lecture in Evolutionary Biology and Physiological Psychology."

Evelyn demanded a lot from people, but she demanded even more from herself. She was devoted to excellence and could not stand mediocrity. Love her or hate her, Evelyn was unforgettable and the world is poorer for her passing.

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