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Subject: Re: Farewell to Paul van Delst

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Wed, 20 Apr 2016 22:40:01 GMT

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On 4/18/16 10:50 AM, [liam.gumley@ssec.wisc.edu](mailto:liam.gumley@ssec.wisc.edu) wrote:

> Dear IDL Colleagues,

>

> It is with deep regret that I must tell you of the passing of Paul  
> van Delst, a long time user of IDL and contributor to this forum. He  
> suffered a heart attack while biking with friends in Washington DC  
> yesterday and did not survive.

>

> Paul and I were undergraduates at Curtin University in Western  
> Australia in the late 1980's, and we both started using this new  
> system known as "Interactive Data Language" when we moved to the USA  
> in 1991. He went to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and I went  
> to NASA GSFC. When I moved to Madison in 1994 to start working at UW  
> with Paul, we fell into a habit of getting coffee every morning and  
> discussing the latest programming tasks we had been tackling in IDL.  
> Paul was the first person who told me "You should write a book on  
> IDL". A few years later, with his encouragement, I did so and he was  
> the first reviewer. Paul was a very careful programmer, and no detail  
> escaped his attention.

>

> Paul was a researcher at the Space Science and Engineering Center at  
> the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1994 to 2007, and from 2007  
> he was a scientist at the NOAA National Center for Weather and  
> Climate Prediction (NCWCP) in College Park, Maryland. During his time  
> at NCWCP he was the lead developer of the Community Radiative  
> Transfer Model, a Fortran software system for computing the radiative  
> properties of the atmosphere, that is used in the operational  
> numerical weather prediction models run by NOAA. He was always a keen  
> user of IDL for visualizing and analyzing results from CRTM, and he  
> was never able resist chiming in on a discussion in the IDL  
> discussion group when an interesting post caught his eye.

>

> Paul had numerous interactions with the US and international  
> atmospheric radiative transfer communities, and he will be missed by  
> many colleagues and friends.

>

> Sincerely, Liam Gumley SSEC, UW-Madison.

>

Though I never met Paul in person, I truly appreciated his presence in this newsgroup and the IDL community. His knowledge, helpfulness, and wit will be greatly missed.

Mike

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Michael Galloy

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Modern IDL: A Guide to IDL Programming (<http://modernidl.idldev.com>)

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