

David "Davy" L. Jones 1930–2007

Davy Jones, a geologist and paleontologist at the U.S. Geological Survey from 1955 to 1985, and professor at U.C. Berkeley from 1985 to 1996, played a central role in the evolution of plate tectonic theory and the tectonic history of the western margin of North America. Davy and colleagues first recognized, based on paleontologic and paleomagnetic data, evidence for blocks of crust derived from oceanic and continental plates that were accreted to North America in Alaska, which they named "terranes," exemplified by a prototype terrane, Wrangellia, in a seminal paper in 1977. Davy added to his expertise in Mesozoic cephalopods and bivalves, applying techniques for identification of radiolarian microfossils, and with colleagues, established the first radiolarian biostratigraphy, a critically important stratigraphic tool.

Photo credit (and text adapted from): W. Alvarez and M. Richards, 2007, UC Berkeley Memorial.