

2001 C.V. THEIS AWARD

The American Institute of Hydrology (AIH) established this award in 1986 to honor the charter member of AIH, C.V. Theis - the founder of modern ground-water hydrology. The award is presented annually, on the recommendation of the AIH Awards Committee, for a major contribution to the field of ground-water hydrology. The first C.V. Theis Award was presented to Roger J.M. DeWiest at the AIH Conference on Application of Recent Advances in Hydrosiences in San Francisco on March 26, 1987.

Citation: *Darryl I. Leap*

Officers and members of the American Institute of Hydrology, representatives from the international community and honored guests, it is indeed a most pleasant task for me to present this citation in honor of my teacher, mentor, advisor and good friend, Dr. Richard R. Parizek, this year's recipient of the C.V. Theis Award from the American Institute of Hydrology on this day, October 15, 2001. I want to thank the members of the Nominating Committee of the AIH, including Jim Rumbaugh, another of Dr. Parizek's students, and the leadership of AIH for making it possible.

Preparing this address was a challenge to say the least because of Dr. Parizek's very extensive vita, lists of accomplishments and numbers of students. I asked myself, "Where do I start"? The answer was obviously, "At the beginning". So, let me begin at the beginning.

"In the beginning", Richard R. Parizek was born in Connecticut. I won't say when because many of you wouldn't believe me anyway. At some place at some time in his hydrogeological perambulations he obviously discovered some obscure spring that turned out to be the veritable "fountain of youth", the location of which he has managed to keep well hidden. I might add that even thirty years ago, his young graduate students had trouble keeping up with him and envied his unbounded energy that persists to this day.

He graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1956 with a B.A. in geology. In 1960, he received the M.S. and in 1961, the Ph.D. in geology from the University of Illinois under the supervision of George White and Burke Maxey. That institution has been the alma mater of many successful and luminous figures in hydrogeology in government, industry and academe because of the early vision of Maxey and the continuation of that fine program by Pat Domenico, Bob Farvolden, Craig Bethke and others.

He worked for the Saskatchewan Research Council in the areas of groundwater and glacial geology and performed his Ph.D. dissertation research there as well. His experience in those areas turned out to be propitious for me a decade later when I was performing similar Ph.D. research in the stagnation moraine of northeastern South Dakota and was at first overwhelmed by the complexity of the moraines produced by three different ice sheets from different

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directions. Dr. Parizek came out to visit me during two summers and pointed me in the right direction that led to successful unraveling of the mysteries.

He has been very eclectic in his research and his major research interests include hydrogeology of karst and fractured rocks, hydrogeology of coal-bearing strata, the relationship between land use and groundwater pollution, and geology applied to land planning. His research alone and with fellow professors and his graduate students has produced several important discoveries. He co-discovered the use of fracture traces and lineaments for locating groundwater, helped develop the "living filter concept for treating waste water with irrigation, was an early proponent for landfill liners, used physical and chemical systems to control acid-mine drainage, developed a terrane classification system, studied the effects of continental glaciers on groundwater supplies, and many other accomplishments.

At last count, he has produced alone and with colleagues and students 159 papers and reports, and abstracts of 132 presentations at conferences in over 30 countries. As of May, 2001, he had been the major advisor of 97 graduate students with a total of 34 Ph.D.'s, one D.E.D. and 62 Master's graduates. The best figures for which records exist show that at least 37 have gone into industry or consulting, 28 into state and federal government agencies and 15 into academe. He is closing in on his goal of at least 100 successful graduate students for his career! WOW!!

Dr. Parizek has taught eight formal courses and several short courses during his career at Penn State, and his course, Introduction to Hydrogeology, is the longest continuing class with the largest enrollment in North and South America. In addition, his course, Environmental Geology, begun in 1962, is the first and largest continuing class on that subject in the USA. He has lectured before 275 separate colleges, universities, and scientific and trade associations in the USA, Canada, Europe, and Asia. U.S. News and World Report ranked the Hydrogeology program at Penn State as fourth in the nation in 1998, and fifth in 1999. The National Water Well Association selected his program as the third most outstanding for a M.S. degree in hydrogeology. He was awarded the Outstanding Teaching Award from the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences at Penn State in 1986.

Dr. Parizek has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards and honors including those from the National Science Foundation, US EPA, the state of Pennsylvania, and several others. Most notable are the Birdsall Distinguished Lectureship of the GSA, Administrative Judgeship of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, the Narutowicz Medal from the Polish Institute of Meteorology and Water Management, the M. King Hubbert Award from the National Ground Water Association, the Distinguished Service Award in Hydrogeology from the GSA, and tonight, the C.V. Theis Award. Recently, a former student, Ronald A. Landon, established a graduate fellowship in hydrogeology at Penn State in Dr. Parizek's honor.

Dr. Parizek has served on many panels in the US dealing with environmental problems, hazardous waste and radioactive waste for the National Academy of Sciences, National

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Research Council, U.S. Dept. of Justice, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, U.S. Geological Survey and several other agencies and organizations. Similar work was done for agencies in Finland, Ukraine, France, China, Turkey, Italy, Russia, Poland, and Canada.

He served as a consultant to the President's Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board. In 1997 and again in 2001, he was appointed to four-year terms as a board member by President William J. Clinton.

All his accomplishments in all these different areas were possible because of his unbounded energy, scientific curiosity, love of academe, sense of duty in public service, and the unflagging support and encouragement of his wife, Estelle, and his children Kathy, Byron, George and Evelyn. The Parizeks reared their family with lots of love and attention and in the best traditions of moral and ethical instruction. The family traveled together, had fun together, learned and experienced life together, and all the children turned out to be well-educated and successful individuals. I might add that Estelle can stretch a dollar bill so thin that one can see through it!

Many years ago, a famous but unnamed twentieth-century philosopher uttered a phrase that most professors consider a blatant insult: "They who can, do. They who cannot, teach". Richard Parizek has admirably deflated that egotistical and unfounded philosophy as one who can and does and also teaches exceptionally well. Some unknown sage once wrote, "The measure of choosing well is whether a person likes and finds good in what they have chosen". By this measure, Dr. Richard Parizek has certainly chosen well!

Darrell I. Leap
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana