

Obituary

James F. Quinlan, Ph.D. NSS 3021F

James F. Quinlan passed away on Friday, July 21, 1995 in Nashville, Tennessee, due to complications from open heart surgery. He was 58 years old. Jim was an internationally recognized expert in the field of karst hydrogeology and was president of Quinlan & Associates, a consulting firm specializing in environmental problems in karst. He was a native of New Rochelle, New York.

Jim began his caving career in the mid 50s at Virginia Polytechnic Institute where he received a B.S. in Geology in 1959. He conducted graduate work at the University of Texas at Austin between 1963 and 1966 where he studied under Dr. Robert Folk and received his Ph.D. from Texas in 1978 writing a dissertation entitled *Types of Karst, with Emphasis on Cover Beds in Their Classification and Development*. Between 1970 and 1972, Jim was a university fellow at the Department of Geography at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. He also held a number of positions in the field of geology including uranium and mining geologist, and oil and gas consultant, in the 60s. One of his early projects included the evaluation of Pig Hole, Virginia as a possible source of guano.

Jim was best known to cavers as the research geologist for the National Park Service at Mammoth Cave, Kentucky, a position he held from 1973 until 1989. In this position, he conducted research on the karst hydrogeology of the park and surrounding area, including an extensive program of dye-tracing. In addition, he hired cavers to map the caves surrounding the park as well as perform other research activities. These efforts led to the exploration and mapping of Hicks Cave (22+ miles), Whippistle Cave (22+ miles), Parker's Cave (2.5+ miles), L & N Cave, and many others. Data from the dye-tracing and cave mapping program were used to prepare a four-color map of the hydrogeology of the Mammoth Cave Area.

This map has been used to assist in land use planning and emergency response to spills of hazardous materials. The work performed by Jim and his many assistants was critical in understanding the hydrogeology of the area which led to improved management and protection of Mammoth Cave National Park's underground resources and funding for the construction of a regional sanitation system.

Well known in the field of hydrogeology, Jim's field trip of the Mammoth Cave area was a must for anyone interested in karst hydrology. Thousands of students and professionals have been both educated and entertained during his many trips.

Jim's accomplishments as a professional in the field of hydrogeology were many. His field experience included karst studies in 28 states, two territories, three Canadian provinces, and in 25 countries on five continents.

Jim's honors and awards in the field were numerous. He was the Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer in Engineering Geology for the Association of Engineering Geologists and Geological Society of America in 1994. In addition, he received the E. B. Burwell, Jr. Award along with Dr. Ralph Ewers, for "a published work of distinction



which advances knowledge concerning principles or practice of engineering geology" from the Geological Society of America in 1986. Jim received a Special Achievement Award for Sustained Superior Performance (1987) and a Special Achievement Award for Research (1979) from the National Park Service. He also received a National Speleological Society Research Award (1966) and a Cave Research Foundation Fellowship (1963).

Jim gave numerous lectures to local civic clubs, conservation and university groups, was interviewed for local radio and TV broadcasts and national newspaper and magazine articles including *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Audubon Magazine*, and *Engineering News-Record* and had numerous photographs published in magazines and books. He belonged to over 30 professional organizations including the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), Subcommittee D18-21.09 on Special Problems of Monitoring in Karst and Fractured Rock Terranes; British Cave Research Association; Cave Research Foundation; Geological Society of America (Fellow); National Ground Water Association (NGWA); Association of Ground Water Scientists and Engineers (former member of the Board of Directors); and was a Fellow of the National Speleological Society.

Jim authored or co-authored more than 200 publications concerning such topics as groundwater monitoring in limestone terranes; strategy for responding to spills of hazardous materials in karst areas; wellhead and springhead protection; hydrogeology and geomorphology of the Mammoth Cave Region; techniques for tracing of groundwater; toxicity of tracer dyes; types of karst; legal aspects of sinkhole development and flooding and many more. Jim, along with others, was the major organizer of the NGWA Conferences on the Hydrogeology of Karst Terranes.

Of Jim's many accomplishments, he was most proud of the work performed by his many assistants, both during their employment at Mammoth Cave and as they developed their own careers. Jim always made a point to acknowledge their contribution to his work.

Friends and family gathered at a private memorial service to remember his life and accomplishments. Dr. Quinlan's remains were cremated and scattered at Mammoth Cave, where he conducted his life's work. He was a friend and mentor and on occasion, curmudgeon*, to many. He will be greatly missed.

—Geary M. Schindel, 15827F
—David Foster, 18718

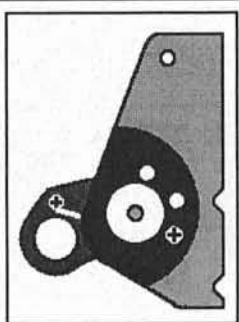
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* Quinlan's first law—Each paper is allowed at least one sesquipedalian word