International Association of Hydrogeologists U.S. National Chapter’s
2021 International Service Award

Dr. Richard R. Parizek

Dr. Richard R. Parizek, Professor Emeritus at Pennsylvania State University, has been selected to receive the 2021 International Association of Hydrogeologists U.S. National Chapter’s International Service Award. The Award recognizes the efforts of hydrogeologists based in the United States who have shown an outstanding commitment to assisting the international community with groundwater-related needs.

Dr. Parizek is receiving the International Service Award primarily in recognition of his major contribution to understanding the cause of and developing viable solutions for groundwater-related damage to antiquities in Egypt. He served as a Principal Investigator for multiple studies focused on this challenge over a period of 20 years, working closely with a cross-disciplinary team of experts from Penn State as well as local collaborators from the Egypt Geological Survey and Mining Authority. Findings from these studies have significantly aided efforts to preserve numerous archeological sites along the Egyptian Nile, including Hieronkopolis Temple-Town, Ancient Mudbrick Fort World Heritage Site near Edfu, Aswan Unfinished Obelisk Quarry, Valley of Kings, Osirian and Seti I Temple, Abydos. This award also recognizes Dr. Parizek’s many other international contributions, including: in the Republic of Georgia, performing environmental surveys mapping out pre-existing environmental conditions from former Soviet oil and gas well fields; in Ukraine, serving on a U.S. AID sponsored team investigating the Chernobyl power plant disaster; in Turkey, serving on a United Nations Development Project; in Jamaica, investigating water pollution and karst issues; and in Yugoslavia and breakup Republics, studying karst-controlled flow patterns. Through his career, he has performed exceptional work in assisting those outside the U.S. with understanding, managing, and protecting groundwater resources for public and/or ecosystem benefit, as well as protecting historical resources from damages caused by rising groundwater. Dr. Parizek was nominated by Dr. Leonard Konikow, Emeritus Scientist for the U.S. Geological Survey.

The Award will be presented to Dr. Parizek during the Hydrogeology Division Luncheon and Awards Ceremony at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon on Tuesday, October 12th. We hope you can join us for the presentation.

Congratulations Dr. Parizek!