

## 1996 C.V. THEIS AWARD

### Citation

The C.V. Theis Award was established in 1986 and is named in honor of Dr. Theis, one of the truly great leaders in the hydrological sciences. The award is presented to an individual who has made a major contribution in the field of ground-water hydrology. The 1996 Award will be presented to **Dr. John M. Sharp, Jr.**, Chevron Centennial Professor of Geology at the University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

Dr. Sharp has a M.S. and Ph.D. in hydrogeology from the University of Illinois (1974) and a B.A. in geology from the University of Minnesota (1967). His professional career began in 1974 as an assistant and then associate professor of geology at the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, where he was chairman of the department from 1980 to 1982. In 1982, Dr. Sharp accepted the position of associate professor of geology at the University of Texas, Austin, Texas. From 1986 to 1989 he was C.E. Yager professor of geology, Gulf Foundation Centennial professor from 1990 to 1993, and Chevron Centennial professor beginning in 1993. In 1994, Dr. Sharp served as a visiting scientist at the C.S.I.R.O. Centre for Groundwater Studies, Adelaide, Australia.

The awards and recognitions that Dr. Sharp has received include:

Chevron Centennial Professor of Geology (1993-on)

Joseph B. Hoening Distinguished Lecturer of the Kentucky Geology Survey (1995)

Gulf Foundation Centennial Professor of Geology (1989-1993)

C.E. Yager Professor of Geology (1986-1989)

Fellow, Geological Society of America

Alexander van Humboldt Fellow to West Germany (1980, 1981 and 1983)

O.E. Meinzer Award (1979) of the Geological Society of America, for outstanding contributions to hydrogeology

Sigma Xi scientific research society

Phi Kappa Phi

University of Illinois Fellow in Geology

Distinguished graduate of:

U.S. Air Force Officer Training School

U.S. Air Force Base Civil Engineering School

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U.S. Navy Fallout Shelter Analysis School  
Alpha Delta Phi Literary Award  
Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society  
W.H. Ziegler Company Scholarship (2 years)  
University of Minnesota Freshman Scholarship

Dr. Sharp has held numerous positions in the Geological Society of America, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, International Association of Hydrogeologists and the American Water Resources Association. He has also served on a number of committees including the U.S. National Committee for Scientific Hydrology, Universities Council on Water Resources, International Tuff Properties Workshop, Australian Research Council Panel of Assessors, National Environmental Research Council (Great Britain), and Austin Geological Society, to name a few. Dr. Sharp has also served as a reviewer of research proposals by the National Science Foundation, International Science (Soros) Foundation, American Chemical Society, Australian Research Council, Missouri and New Mexico Water Resources Research Centers, Idaho Board of Education, Louisiana Board of Regents, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, State of Nebraska, the Center for Field Research, United States Air Force, United States Department of Energy, and the Cottrell Research Foundation. Dr. Sharp has been the main author of over 100 papers/presentations, and editor or author of 5 books and monographs, over 50 reports, abstracts and guidebooks, as well as over 60 non-published, invited presentations.

Dr. Sharp is a charter member of AIH, becoming certified in 1983 (135 HG). The positions he has held and his activities include:

- 1991-1995 Chairman, Board of Registration
- 1988-1995 Executive Committee
- 1992-1994 Chairman, Organizing Committee, 1994 annual meeting
- 1988-1991 Vice-President for Academic Affairs
- 1985-1988 Member, Board of Registration
- 1985-1988 Editorial Board: Hydrological Science and Technology
- 1983-1985 Task Force on Professional Education
- 1990-1991 Session Chairman
  - 1990 USA/USSR Joint Conference
  - 1991 Annual Meeting
- 1990- Advisor and founder of the first AIH Student Chapter

In addition to Dr. Sharp's student activities, his research interests include energy transport in porous media, flood-plain hydrogeology, economics of water resources development, basin hydrogeology, coastal subsidence, water resources of Trans-Pecos, Texas and the Edwards aquifer.

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### Acceptance, Dr. John M. Sharp, Jr.

A recognition by one's colleagues is the greatest professional honor one can ever hope to receive. Having served previously on the C.V. Theis Award Committee, I know that there are numerous worthy potential recipients. The C.V. Theis Award is cherished by me for several reasons. First, it is named after one of our (AIH's) early advisory committee members who was, perhaps, the founder of modern quantitative ground-water hydrology. AIH reprinted his pioneering paper on flow to a well in a confined aquifer. The reprinting of classic papers is an endeavor that we should continue. Second, the Theis Award honors one's general contributions and is not restricted to consideration of academic papers, distinguished practice, or administrative service as the chief basis for the award. It relates to AIH's view of one's total contribution to the profession. Third, AIH is an organization to which many of us have given a lot of blood, sweat and tears.

I first became interested in AIH shortly after its inception. As a professor, then at the University of Missouri, I felt that if this organization was going to articulate the requirements for a professional hydrologist/hydrogeologist, then I needed to be involved. The goals of AIH were ones that I had thought for some time needed to be advanced. So, to you founders, thank you for doing what needed to be done. Since the time of founding of the AIH, I have realized more than ever the need for professional certification of hydrologic competence. There are "engineers" and "scientists" who offer "expert" opinions on hydrologic issues and who have absolutely no background for making their pronouncements. A previous recipient of this award stated that he used to tell his students that they were in the best of all possible professions because, if they made a mistake, the first drop of contaminated water would reach no one's lips until long after the student was dead! His follow-up comment was "was I ever wrong!" Certification of professional competence is needed when it is in the interest of the general public, not when it is only in the interest of the profession. Hydrologic certification and registration clearly are in the public's interest. Our water resources and our environment are too precious to destroy or misuse because of either greed or hydrologic incompetence.

Therefore colleagues, I encourage you to push for professional certification and registration of qualified scientists and engineers, to pursue hydrological knowledge, and to develop new methods of utilizing and protecting our water resources. I would like to think of AIH as the acorn from

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which the mighty oak of hydrologic professionalism grew. There will be roadblocks and obfuscations ahead, but we owe it to ourselves, our profession, and our environment to persist.

Consequently, to those who came before, to those who labor now, and to those who will come after us, thank you for this recognition. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this organization. I deeply appreciate my colleagues and students who have stimulated my interests in the many aspects of water on the surface and in the subsurface. I have learned much from you. It is a fascinating world!