



Sloan Career Cornerstone Center

Profiles of Geoscientists



Leonard Kornikow

**Hydrogeologist
U.S. Geological Survey
Reston, VA**

Education:

BS, Hofstra University (Geology)
MS, Penn State University (Geology)
PhD, Penn State University (Geology)

Job Description:

Hydrogeologist

Advice to Students:

"People skills are invaluable, which is why I say that most important things I did as a graduate student was go to professional society meetings."

Video Transcript 1:

"After several years in graduate school I went to a meeting in Columbus, Ohio, where there happened to be a session on hydrogeology and groundwater modeling using computer models, which at the time was a still rapidly evolving field - and I was sitting in the audience and one of the leading scientists from the USGS sat down in an empty seat next to me, and I started to talk to him. And by the end of the meeting he asked me if I'd be interested in a summer job and I said sure. That summer job then led to my Ph.D. thesis, which then led to a permanent position with the USGS."

Video Transcript 2:

"So the simple way is, have fun. But the people skills are invaluable, which is why I said earlier one of the most important things I did as a graduate student was go to professional society meetings. This enabled me to do several things. One, I saw where the action was. I saw where papers on the current research were being given, what topics were being presented, which topics were well received, and that was the best indication of where to go in the future."

Video Transcript 3:

"I would say the biggest change evolved gradually through the - from the '70s through the '80s with the growing environmental awareness and environmental movement - in the U.S. or in the world even. This led to major changes in laws passed by Congress in the late '70s through the

"Profiles of Geoscientists"

Prepared as part of the Sloan Career Cornerstone Center (www.careercornerstone.org)

Source: "Careers for Geoscientists" © American Geological Institute

80s. The Areca and Superfund Legislation which was passed had an enormous impact on what we do in hydrogeology."

Biography:

Dr. Kornikow has worked as a research hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey since 1972. He received a B.A. in geology from Hofstra University (1966) and an M.S. (1969) and Ph.D. (1973) in geology from The Pennsylvania State University. After graduating from Hofstra, he has a summer job with a groundwater consulting company, Geraghty & Miller, Inc. This experience convinced him that using geological knowledge to help develop water supplies and protect them from contamination was challenging, stimulating, and useful to society. Hydrogeology then became the focus of his graduate studies and research career with the USGS, where his research included the development and application of solute-transport models to groundwater contamination problems.

Dr. Kornikow has published numerous papers and taught a variety of short courses related to hydrogeology and groundwater modeling. In 1989 he received the M. King Hubbert Science Award from NGWA. He is a fellow of the Geological Society of America and was the GSA Hydrogeology Division's Birdsall Distinguished Lecturer during 1985-86. He served on the editorial board of *Ground Water* (1993-95), as associate editor for *Water Resources Research* (1981-84), and as Chairman of the Hydrogeology Division of the Geological Society of America (1993-94). He also served on the National Research Council's Committee on Groundwater Modeling Assessment (1987-89), and on the National Research Council's WIPP (Waste Isolation Pilot Plant) Committee from 1989-97. He also served the American Geophysical Union as Chairman of the Groundwater Committee (1980-82) and the Hydrology Program Chairman (1984-87).

"Profiles of Geoscientists"

Prepared as part of the Sloan Career Cornerstone Center (www.careercornerstone.org)

Source: "Careers for Geoscientists" © American Geological Institute