

May 5, 2005

UW-Stevens Point watershed specialist to retire

N. Earl Spangenberg, professor of forestry and water science in the College of Natural Resources (CNR) at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP), will retire at the end of the spring semester.

From the Plover River to Puerto Rico, Spangenberg has shared his watershed expertise with students, colleagues, and the community and beyond, since joining the UWSP faculty in 1971.

During his tenure at UWSP, Spangenberg has taught upper division courses in water quality management, hydrology, watershed management, wetland structure and delineation, and environmental impact statement development. At the freshman-sophomore level, he has lectured and taught laboratories in introductory water resources, forest resources, natural resources ecology, and soil and water resources.

Spangenberg was one of the lead collaborators and organizers for the CNR's first annual International Seminar on Watershed Management at UWSP in fall 2002. He has played an integral part in the three subsequent international watershed seminars, jointly co-sponsored by the CNR and the U.S. Forest Service.

He has prepared and published lecture outlines for classroom use and has written and published a text on introductory water resources which has been used at several post secondary institutions, as well as producing a video on groundwater principles.

Spangenberg has presented papers and posters at 22 state and national conferences. He has organized and moderated a number of sessions at national conferences, and edited the conference proceedings for the 1993 American Water Resources Summer Symposium, "Education: A Lifetime of Learning." He is currently editor-in-chief for "Water Resources IMPACT," the news magazine of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA). A member of the board of directors of AWRA, Spangenberg was president in 1998.

Spangenberg was the founding adviser to the UWSP student chapter of AWRA, as well as the Alpha Xi chapter of the natural resources honorary society, Xi Sigma Pi. The campus' AWRA student chapter has been recognized as the "Outstanding Student Chapter" nationwide six times over the past 20 years. In addition, he was a charter member and the first president of the Wisconsin section of the AWRA.

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He is a licensed professional hydrologist in the state of Wisconsin and has served as a hydrologist for the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. He was co-director of an NSF/USGS Faculty Workshop, "New Techniques in Water Resources Analysis," for five summers from 1989 to 1994 and a research fellow at the Natural Resource Law Center, Colorado School of Law, Boulder, in 1985. He holds a master's degree and a Ph.D. in watershed management from Colorado State University.

His retirement plans aren't firm, but will include travel, reading and completing projects around the house. He will continue his duties as editor-in-chief of IMPACT. The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, located at UWSP's Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center, also will get some of Spangenberg's attention.

Earl and his wife, Lillian, reside in Stevens Point. They have two children and three grandchildren with another one expected soon.