

**OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD**

1983. At the Core Lab, an extremely important resource for scholars and students of the Michigan Basin, Bill's students (and those of others) have concentrated on the lithologic fabrics, reservoir characteristics, sedimentologic features, and a host of other geological factors derived from key cores of wells drilled in the basin. Bill has supervised nearly thirty Masters and Doctoral students and served as a member on twenty-five more graduate committees. His students trust and respect him for he is more than generous with his time, care, and mentoring of them. Indeed, if pressed, he will admit that working with his students is what he is most proud of in his career. But he has much more to be proud of.

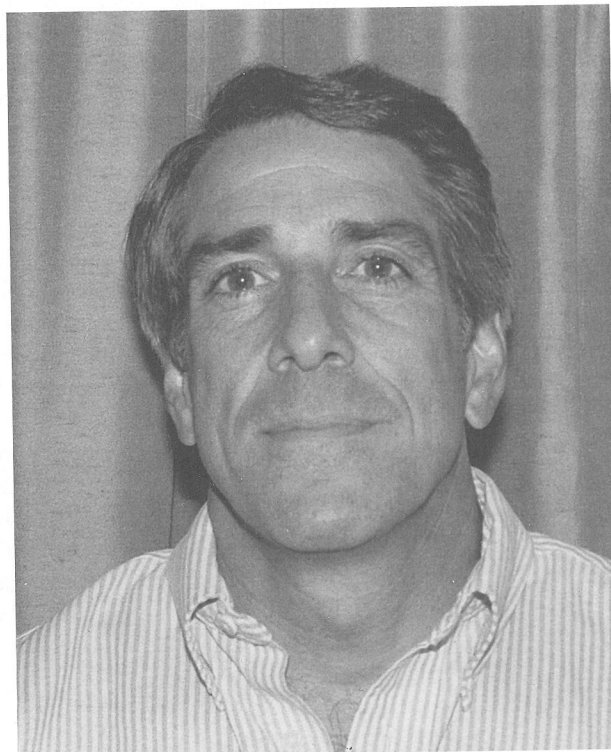
Over his career at Western, Bill has been involved in research grants and contract projects totaling over \$600,000. The largest was a grant from the Department of Energy for over \$270,000 for a study of enhanced oil recovery from the Dundee Formation using horizontal drilling techniques. Most recently he was awarded a contract from the Petroleum Technology Transfer Council for almost \$90,000 to establish a satellite facility for them at Western Michigan University. He is now the Director, Michigan Center, Midwest Region, Petroleum Technology Transfer Council. These activities, among many others, have provided much needed funds and research opportunities for his students.

But more importantly, it is the information derived from those projects that interests Bill. He has written 20 papers and been involved in some 35 abstracts, posters and workshops. His work is greatly respected by his colleagues as is shown by his participation with Drs. Larry Sloss and Peter Vail in a symposium on sequence stratigraphy held at the University of Michigan for the Michigan Basin Geological Society. He has served the Michigan geological community repeatedly and well throughout his career at Western, and also the many societies of which he is a member. He just doesn't know how to say no.

In the many years I've known Bill, I've never seen him angry. He is a true southern gentleman, soft spoken and a truly gentle man. Above all, he is deeply committed to his students and to his profession. His students are aware that he strives to ensure that their development as geologists is not just acceptable, but is superior, and reflects the best of their abilities. That is why he is being honored by all of us tonight.

Paul A. Catacosinos

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**Ronald L. Martino**

*In recognition of a dedicated geoscientist who freely and skillfully educates students and fellow geologists in the classroom, laboratory, lecture hall, and on the outcrop.*

Dr. Ronald L. Martino hails from New Jersey and after receiving his B.A. degree in geology from Bucknell University in neighboring Pennsylvania in 1973, returned to his native state to continue his education at Rutgers University. Ron acquired his love for sedimentary processes and ichnology early in his geological education and has carried the enthusiasm with him ever since. At Rutgers, he investigated the sedimentology of Late Cretaceous and Late Tertiary rocks in earning a geology M.S. in 1976 and a Ph.D. in 1981.

In 1979, Ron joined the Geology Department of Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia as an instructor. As a member of a small, four-member department, Ron has excelled, reaching assistant professor in 1981, associate professor in 1987, and full professor in 1991. The rigors of a small department have honed his skills and demonstrated his flexibility, as through the years he has taught such courses as Physical Geology, General Geology, Earth Materials Lab, Earth Revealed, Invertebrate Paleontology, Fossil Fuels, Sedimentary Petrography, Stratigraphy and Sedimentation, and Biological Aspects of Geology. In between teaching duties he has supervised the research of Masters Degree candidates and served as Department Chair from 1992-95. The focus of Marshall University is teaching geoscience to its undergraduates and Ron is a leader in achieving this goal. His

**GORDON H. WOOD, JR. MEMORIAL AWARD  
(Eastern Section EMD)**

institution recognizes his dedication and achievement, bestowing him with the Marshall University Merit Award in 1994 through 1997.

Ron is a model communicator. His professional talks and classroom lectures are focused and efficient. I have seen Ron in action as a field trip leader and marvel at his ability to bring back to life for his audience the often cryptic and mysterious markings left behind in sediment by ancient organisms. He is a master at bringing together ichnology with all the other investigative tools of sedimentology to reconstruct the history of the landscape preserved in the rock record.

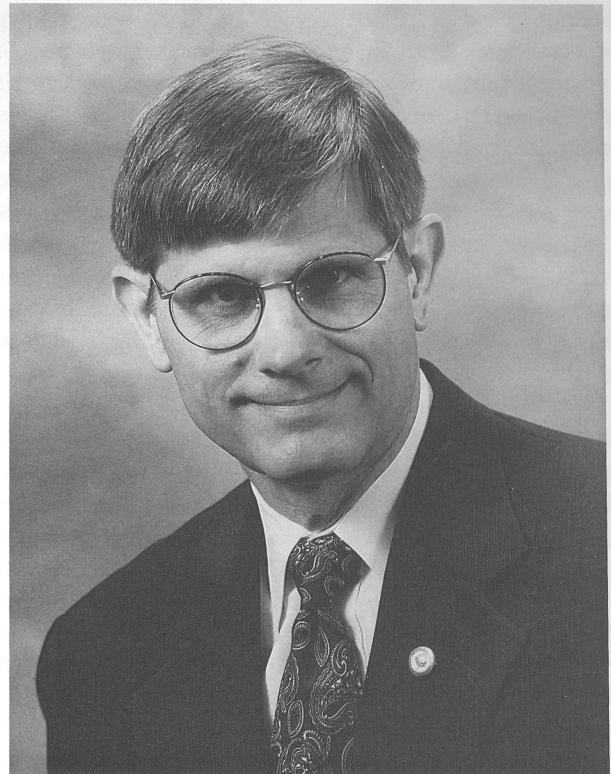
Despite his teaching load, Ron pursues his research interests at every opportunity. He has a long list of refereed articles to his credit dealing with sedimentology, ichnology and depositional environments of marine units from the Late Silurian to the Miocene. His work in the Pennsylvanian marine units of West Virginia, especially his work in the Kanawha Formation, has been a valuable contribution and helped us greatly in our regional correlation and mapping work at the West Virginia Geological Survey. His research results have appeared in such varied publications as the Journal of Sedimentary Petrology, Journal of Paleontology, Geological Society of America Special Papers, the International Journal of Coal Geology, and Southeastern Geology. He's also contributed work to publications of state Geological Surveys and the West Virginia Academy of Science. His list of presentations at professional meetings is equally impressive. In addition, he has served as a manuscript reviewer for PALAIOS, Ichnos, Journal of Sedimentary Research, Geological Society of America, Sedimentology, Southeastern Geology, and reviewed proposals for various granting organizations.

Ron has supported geology through professional organizations as well as a member of and contributor to the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Geological Society of America, Society for Sedimentary Geology, and the West Virginia Academy of Science.

It's Ronald L. Martino's careful science, his strong work ethic, his willingness and eagerness to share, his communication skills, and his dedication to his profession that make him so worthy of the 1997 Outstanding Educator Award.

Nick Fedorko

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**James C. Cobb**

*In recognition of his work in coal resources and geology, and contributions to research in the public interest.*

Jim was born in Urbana, Ill., and graduated from the University of Illinois (B.A., 1971; Ph.D., 1981) and Eastern Kentucky University (M.S., 1975).

As an undergraduate, he developed an interest in geology when he was a lab assistant for Norm Hester at the Illinois State Geological Survey. Norm's energy and enthusiasm for geology were positive influences on Jim. He worked on various studies of industrial minerals and Quaternary geology, and later attended graduate school at Eastern Kentucky University. Norm Hester was his advisor for his master's thesis that was on the sedimentology of glacial outwash deposits in northern Illinois.

In 1974, Jim joined Foster and Associates of Beirut, Lebanon, and became operations manager in Libya at the Kufra and Sarir irrigation projects. The company was responsible for geological and geophysical investigations of aquifers and the installation of wells for agricultural irrigation in the Sahara Desert. Civil war in Lebanon in 1975 made it impossible for the company to continue business, so Jim returned to the United States to work on his Ph.D.

The political unrest in the Middle East renewed concerns about