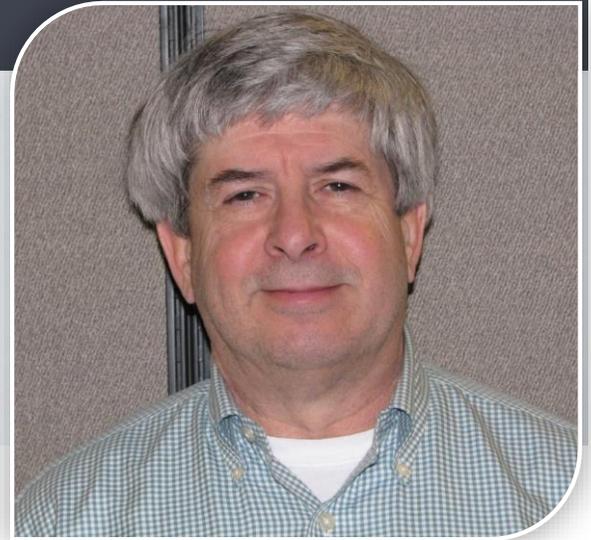


STEM SPOTLIGHT

Jordan English

Manager, Geologist
TN Dept. of Environment & Conservation,
Division of Remediation

Master of Science in Geology
Bachelor of Science in Geology
University of Memphis



Q How did you select your college major?

A Trial and error: I began my college academics in engineering simply because I was interested in science and passable in mathematics. After some tribulation, I changed my major to business (both a curse and a blessing) where, as part of the overall boring (to me) degree requirements, I took a geology class. I never knew anything could be so interesting and fun!

Q What was the biggest influence in your selection of major/ career?

A The sheer enjoyment of learning about the earth: everything, from volcanism, plate tectonics, paleontology (including dinosaurs!), mineralogy, to stratigraphy was exciting to me.

Q If you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for college, what would it be?

A Earth Sciences, Geology: I would have found my academic niche three years sooner. I think this curriculum should have equal weight with biology, chemistry, and physics.

Q What is your favorite aspect of your job?

A There is never a dull moment! Something new and different always awaits me, practically every day. The job requires you to constantly think, not just about the science and technical aspects, but also the interpersonal and communication aspects. It's actually fun trying to figure out how everyone can win!



Jackson Pits Hazardous Substance Site before Cleanup

Jackson Pits during Remediation



Q How do you/your company make a positive impact on society/our community?

A It's the other rewarding aspect of my job. In our work of remediating hazardous waste sites I feel really good about doing something positive for our environment and our future.

Q What is the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your career?

A There have been several interesting things I have done, including analyzing insulation samples for asbestos and investigating and remediating some of West Tennessee's worst sites. However, the most rewarding has been to manage a team of environmental professionals, all with science and engineering backgrounds, to help make some of our most blighted communities viable again.

Q What makes you get up each morning excited about your profession?

A I just really enjoy the daily challenge of my job. It is energizing and rewarding to use your academic background and experience to solve the environmental problems of the industrial and technological ages.

Q What advice would you like to share with K-12 students who are considering your profession?

A Expose yourself to as many new things as possible and most of all, read.

When I was young, my family situation was not all that certain or comfortable. I could, however, retreat to the comfort of encyclopedias and dictionaries and the very stable and logical world of science to keep some control over my mental, if not my physical life.

In today's world with all of the interconnected media (most notable being the internet) it is actually difficult to not be exposed. Our young folks are in an era of unprecedented choices for both learning and doing. If those choices aren't properly exercised, the result won't be fun and exciting. It will just be.....work.