

From: Arizona Geological Society Newsletter

Dr. M. Lee Allison, State Geologist and Director of the Arizona Geological Survey, passed away at noon on Tuesday, August 16th, after suffering a severe head injury from a fall at his home on Saturday.

Lee held BA (University of California, Riverside), MS (San Diego State University) and Ph.D. (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) degrees in geology. Having extensive experience in petroleum and geothermal exploration throughout the United States, he was active in science and public policy, especially as it related to natural resources, geologic hazards and public engagement.

Lee served as the Utah State Geologist (1989-1999), Kansas State Geologist (1999-2004), Policy Advisor for Science and Energy to Governor Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas (2004-2005) and chaired the Kansas Energy Council (2002-2005) before becoming the State Geologist and Director for the Arizona Geological Survey in December 2005.

He developed and successfully implemented a business model that enabled the Arizona Geological Survey to become one of the nation's most innovative, entrepreneurial and high-regarded geological surveys. Its transition from a state-funded to mostly grant-funded agency enabled the AZGS to provide core services to the citizens of Arizona and participate in other important state, national and international projects that have made scientific data accessible to all via the internet. Internationally recognized as leaders in cyber-infrastructure and data management, cyber developments at the AZGS have been adopted by the U. S. Department of Energy, the White House, U. S. GEO (Group on Earth Observation) Committee, Power Africa and ISPRA (Geological Survey of Italy).

Lee also served as President of the Arizona Geological Society in 2008 and held a councilor position on its executive committee during 2007 and 2010-2011. He was the guest speaker at two of our monthly dinner meetings, the most recent occurring on August 2, 2016, when he spoke on "The Future of State Geological Surveys: the Arizona Case Study."

