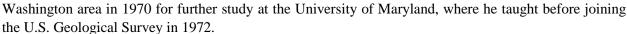**James V. O'Connor (1944-1999)**

James V. O'Connor, 55, a District of Columbia geologist who used the city streets as his classroom, died November 5 at his home in Kingston, Md. He had esophageal cancer.

O'Connor was born in the Boston area and graduated from Boston College, where he also received a master's degree in teaching. He moved to the Washington area in 1970 for further study at the University of Maryland, where he taught before joining the U.S. Geological Survey in 1972.

He taught geology at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) for 21 years until 1997, when university cut-backs left him and many other professors without jobs.

While teaching at UDC, O'Connor served as "state geologist" for the District. He led more than 300 science education workshops with field components that educated children and teachers about their surroundings. He led tours for the Smithsonian Resident Associates and taught classes at the Audubon Naturalist Society and U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School. During his classroom adventures, O'Connor would point out fossils found in building stones along with paved-over geophysical features such as a former stream valley in downtown Washington.

O'Connor was president of the D.C. Environmental Education Consortium. He served as past president of both the National Marine Educators Association and the eastern section of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers. He was also on the boards of the Audubon Natural Society and Discovery Creek Children's Museum, and on the editorial board of the *Journal of Marine Education.*

O'Connor had trained for the Jesuit priesthood before deciding to become a scientist. His true calling, he believed, was to instill in others the same passion he had for the natural world, especially in geology.

To continue his legacy, the **James Vincent O'Connor Environmental Education Memorial Scholarship Fund** will offer grants to educators who would like to take a course or attend a conference or workshop focusing on environmental content or outdoor educational methods. The only requirement is that the course, conference, or workshop contains a field component that takes the participant outdoors.