



PANHANDLE STATE
FOUNDATION



James A. Quinn, Ph.D.

Jim Quinn Ecology & Natural Resources Scholarship

Est. 2003 for the 2005-2006 year

Jim Quinn graduated from PAMC in 1961. He majored in agronomy with the intention of becoming a range conservationist with the SCS (now the NRCS). During his summers as an undergraduate, he worked as a Student Trainee for the SCS, and upon graduation was hired as a Soil Conservationist. He was not classified as a Range Conservationist because he was lacking several courses listed in the Civil Services Requirements for that position. Because he was to become the State Range Conservationist for Mississippi, the SCS encouraged him to go to graduate school. He took unpaid leave and attended Colorado State University as a graduate research assistant in rangelands science in the College of Forestry and Natural Resources. However, the M.S. degree in Range required

many courses in botany and ecology (which lead to an interest in plant ecology), and after receiving a National Science Foundation Fellowship, he decided to pursue a Ph.D. in plant ecology. Upon receipt of his Ph.D., he took a job at Rutgers University (known nationally and internationally in the area of botany and ecology) and spent the next 34 years teaching, advising students, and doing research and community service in botany, natural resources, and ecology.

His primary objective in establishing the scholarship was to support and encourage outstanding OPSU students considering ecology and/or natural resources management as a career. Whether the student plans to launch his/her career immediately upon graduation from OPSU or pursues a university career following graduate studies, I am confident that he/she will find such a career meaningful and rewarding, because it automatically leads to important contributions to society. In his 34 years as a professor at Rutgers University, he was fortunate to advise undergraduate and graduate students in ecology and natural resources, many of who have made major research contributions and/or become leaders in their perspective fields. This scholarship is one of several ways a retiree can continue to encourage promising young people to enter a profession that has been so rewarding to him.