



Division Chair's Message

By Robert A. Larson

Now that the Y2K hype is over we can enjoy the last year of the century and the millennium. Our Division is 53 years old this April and stronger than ever. Membership is continuing to rise since the Society-wide low point in 1996. We had 89 abstracts presented at the last Annual Meeting, possibly the largest number ever. And our members submitted nine proposals for topical sessions for the next Annual Meeting in Reno, so there will be some great sessions for you to attend. Plan on coming to the meeting this November, visit with all your friends, win a little money at the tables, and maybe go skiing if the weather cooperates.

I have been asked what the benefits are of being a member of EGD and what you get for your \$5 a year. This small amount currently gets you three Newsletters a year keeping you informed of the latest developments, a newly-revised web page if you prefer electrons over paper, technical and professional sessions, field trips and short courses at the Annual Meeting and many Section meetings, an outstanding publication series - Reviews in Engineering Geology, networking with the leaders of your profession, and recognition by your peers through our Awards program. We also support the Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer, currently Allen W. Hatheway, with our sister organization, the Association of Engineering Geologists. And for the first time we will be fully supporting four scholarships and many meeting awards for students through the Roy J. Shlemon Scholarship Fund for Engineering Geology. If this is not enough for your five bucks, let us know what else we can do!

I am pleased to report the establishment of the Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer Fund as of January 1st. The fund will provide increased support of the Jahns Lecturer. This fund was created from our Engineering Geology Award Fund, which started out in 1987 as the Fortieth Anniversary Research Fund. With support of student research and attendance at meetings provided by the fund established by Roy Shlemon, your management board took this proactive step and increased our support to \$2500 per year. Previously, support of the lectureship was provided out of the Division's general fund, which will still be used to make up some short fall. So please consider making tax-deductible contributions to both of our funds.

At the end of February I am off to GSA headquarters to represent you at the Division Chairs' meeting. This meeting is part of GSA's efforts to increase involvement of the Divisions in the affairs of the Society and we will be electing a Division representative to the GSA Council for the first time. If you haven't noticed, GSA is reorganizing to better serve the needs of its members. Things are looking up, so if you forgot to send in your dues, do so now.

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I want to thank our volunteers from last year and those that are serving this year. They are all doing a great job and deserve your gratitude. Of course they (we) are all having fun and networking with our colleagues. If this sounds like your cup of tea, consider volunteering. We need you.

Remember to submit your abstract by August 1st and I will see you in November at the Annual Meeting.

Revised EGD Website Available

The website for the Engineering Geology Division has undergone extensive revision. It has also moved to a new server. It can be found by going to the GSA website and navigating to the Divisions or by going directly to:

<http://www.ecom.net/~ralarson/index.html> .

It is hoped the revised format will give EGD members quicker and easier access to information ranging from requirements for various awards to downloadable forms for applying for the Roy J. Shlemon Scholarship Awards. Historical information and past issues of **The Engineering Geologist** are also accessible from the website. The opening page will try to focus on current or upcoming events of interest. Presently, contact and schedule information on the FY 2000 Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer is featured.

March 1st Deadline Fast Approaching

March 1, 2000 is the deadline for submitting nominations for two major Engineering Geology Division awards and for applying for Roy J. Shlemon Scholarship Awards.

Nominations for the Meritorious Service Award to recognize the contributions by a Division member to EGD activities and the Distinguished Practice Award to honor an environmental or engineering geologist for their cumulative accomplishments in the field are due by March 1st. Please send these nominations to Robert Larson. His address and E-mail address are noted in the listing of EGD Management Board members given later in this

newsletter. It can also be found on the EGD website. The website has detailed descriptions of both the criteria for each award and a list of past recipients.

The September issue of **The Engineering Geologist** contained details about applications for the Roy J. Shlemon Scholarship Awards. It also noted that this year's deadline for applicants is March 1, 2000. To ensure that students are aware of this new award, phone and e-mail contact has been made to a number of academic institutions where environmental and engineering geology programs are active. The EGD division's revised website provides access to this detailed information and to downloadable application forms.



In-coming Chair Rob Larsen (on right) shakes hands with out-going Chair, Scott Burns.

A Successful Annual Meeting in Denver

The 1999 GSA annual meeting in Denver was a great success. This was especially true for the EGD-sponsored activities and functions. An informative and fascinating fieldtrip prior to the meeting introduced participants to the geological hazards along Colorado's Front Range. They are unlikely to forget the *"Bouncing Boulders, Rising Rivers, and Sneaky Soils"* they were ably shown by David Noe, James Soule, and Jeffrey Hynes.

Professional meetings are as much about the people attending as they are about the information presented. It provides an opportunity

to connect with fellow scientists interested in similar environmental and engineering geology topics and to be exposed to new perspectives from those who study differing aspects of the geology. In addition to this networking and information exchange, meetings are about recognizing the contributions of fellow geologists.

At the EGD luncheon, Mike Hart was recognized for his activities in service to the EGD Division. Also, honored was Richard Grey for his Distinguished Practice of engineering geology. The E. B. Burwell, Jr., Memorial Award was presented to Paul Karrow and Owen White for their contribution to the field of engineering geology through their editorship of the Geological Society of Canada publication, "Urban Geology of Canadian Cities."



Robert Larson (on right) with Burwell awardees Paul Karrow (on left) and Owen White (center).

Rob Larson (Incoming EGD Chair) received the Berkey gavel from Scott Burns (Out-going EGD Chair) formally passing the responsibility for leading the Division in the year 2000. Rob's first order of business was to present Scott with a commemorative gavel in appreciation for his year of service as EGD Chair.

Urban Geology of Canadian Cities

This publication, which is GAC SP 42, can be ordered for 144 Cdn /120 US from:
Geological Association of Canada
Department of Earth Sciences, Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 3X5 Canada
Telephone: Headquarters (709) 737 7660
Publications Department (709) 737 4062
Facsimile: (709) 737 2532
E-Mail: gac@sparky2.esd.mun.ca
<http://www.esd.mun.ca/~gac>

Publications Available on Website Address Natural Hazards and Engineering Geology in the Caribbean

The following documents have recently been made available on the web site for the USAID/OAS Caribbean Disaster Mitigation Project. You can visit the CDMP home page at <http://www.oas.org/en/cdmp>. A full list of CDMP publications is available on the 'Papers and Publications' page at <http://www.oas.org/en/cdmp/publist.html>

Safer Building Practices

* Toolkit: A Manual for Implementation of the Hurricane-resistant Home Improvement Program in the Caribbean.

[\[http://www.oas.org/en/cdmp/document/toolkit/toolkit.htm\]](http://www.oas.org/en/cdmp/document/toolkit/toolkit.htm) This document was originally released in October 1997 and updated in December 1999.

Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment

* Investigations of the Belize River: Modeling Flow Overland to the Macal Tributary.

[\[http://www.oas.org/en/cdmp/document/blzriver/belize.htm\]](http://www.oas.org/en/cdmp/document/blzriver/belize.htm).

This document describes the methodology and results of a flood study for the upper portion of the Belize River.

* A Probable Maximum Loss Study of Critical Infrastructure in Three Caribbean Island States.

[<http://www.oas.org/en/cdmp/document/pml/pml.htm>]

* Hazard Mitigation & Vulnerability Reduction Plan for Jeremie Haiti.

[<http://www.oas.org/en/cdmp/document/jeremie/exsum.htm>]. The photo inventory has been added to the online version of this document.

Storm Hazard Modeling

In the fall of 1999, the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) developed national-level storm hazard atlases for selected territories in the Eastern Caribbean, using the TAOS/L storm hazard model, and convened two sub-regional workshops to present and discuss these atlases. The progress bulletin for this activity, "National-level Storm Hazard Mapping" [<http://www.oas.org/en/cdmp/bulletin/meowmaps.htm>], contains links to all of the materials that were developed by CIMH for these workshops, including:

- * An overview of storm hazard modeling with particular emphasis on TAOS/L and its applications under the CDMP (document and presentation)
- * Guidelines for the use of storm hazard maps (document)
- * Impacts of tropical cyclones (document and presentation)
- * Tropical cyclone forecasting (document and presentation)
- * Role of meteorological officials in hurricane preparedness (presentation)

Lifeline Infrastructure (The following studies were completed in the initial years of the CDMP and are now available via the project web page.)

* Natural Hazards Vulnerability of the Dominica Hydroelectric Expansion.

[<http://www.oas.org/en/cdmp/document/domhydro/dominica.htm>].

* Vulnerability Audit: St. Lucia Electrical Services Ltd. Inception Report

[<http://www.oas.org/en/cdmp/document/lucilec/lucilec1.htm>] and Final Report

[<http://www.oas.org/en/cdmp/document/lucilec/lucilec2.htm>]

* Hurricane Vulnerability and Risk Analysis of the VINLEC Transmission and Distribution System [<http://www.oas.org/en/cdmp/document/vinlec/vinlec.htm>]

For additional information contact:

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Caribbean Disaster Mitigation Project

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FY 2001 Annual Meeting Program Needs Your Help

It is not too early to be proposing field trips, short courses, and technical sessions for the November 5-8, 2001 GSA Annual Meeting in Boston. Deadlines for fieldtrips and short courses coincide with the FY 2000 annual meeting in Reno. In order for the Engineering Geology Division to ensure an interesting program, we need to make proposals early. Please send suggestions or proposals to Terry West. Contact information for him is provided in the EGD Management Board section noted later in this issue.

Hatheway Presenting Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lectureship

Allen W. Hatheway reports that he has completed (as of last Christmas) his preparation for his "Site Characterization" topic as the Year 2000 Jahns Lecturer. As you may know, Allen accepted early retirement from the School of Mines at the University for the express purpose of being able to honor his lecturing commitment to GSA and AEG and to the profession as well.

Allen operates on the philosophy that engineered works and environmental protection and restoration projects, along with waste management facilities in general, function no better or worse than the competence of their site characterization.

"Too often engineering geologists are 'left out of the loop', he lamented, "And most site

characterization is flawed by unanticipated and/or undetected geologic conditions that constitute fatal or serious problems in the design."

Furthermore, he is convinced that pitfalls in the site characterization process can and do further exacerbate these problems. "An appreciation of the subsurface as a critical element in overall design is critical," Hatheway stated.

At years end, he and Dina were hiding out in Montana and he was putting the final touches on his technical book, "Remediation of Former Manufactured Gas Plants & Other Coal-Tar Sites." Allen swears that an FMGP or related site cannot be efficiently remediated, in the environmental or regulatory sense, without an accurate characterization of both the geology and waste that depends, again, on geologic competence. Marcel Dekker Publishers, of New York City, will release the book. Allen's gas works web site has more details, at <http://www.umar.edu/~hatheway/>.

Allen further confesses that he has always sought to invent a "better wheel" or at least a "better way of using the wheel" and that he will cast his lot with those who try the hardest to do the best job possible with their Site Characterization.

Institutions and groups wishing to arrange for presentation of the Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecture should contact Allen at: hatheway@umar.edu. Current information on his schedule is found on the EGD website.



EGD Board members (left to right): Duane Eversoll, Robert Larson, Terry West, and (in front) Judy Ehlen.

EGD Management Board for 1999-2000

At the GSA annual meeting in Denver, the new EGD Management Board was installed. It consists of the following members who will serve until this year's annual meeting in Reno.

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