



Incoming Chair Duane Eversoll (left) receives the Berkey gavel and presents commemorative gavel to outgoing EGD Chair Rob Larson.

Division Chair's Message

By Duane A. Eversoll

2000 was a great millennium year for the Engineering Geology Division of GSA. We will be 54 years old this next year, and our membership continues to grow; thanks to all of you for helping to bring in new members. The GSA Annual Meeting in Reno was a big success.

Our 2000 EGD Chair Robert Larson is to be congratulated for his leadership through out the year. He kept all of the other board members up to date on GSA/EGD activities and helped all of us by mentoring the board members. He set up the EGD Website and continues as our Website guru. He also was instrumental in bringing in and establishing the EGD Shlemon Student Awards with Roy J. Shlemon. Robert continues to represent the Division in his position as Past

Chair by chairing the 2001 Shlemon Student Award Committee and the Jahn's Committee.

At the 2000 Reno GSA Meeting the EGD sponsored eight sessions. There were 102 abstracts presented that included 86 oral papers and 16 posters. The Jahn's Lecture by Allen Hatheway on "Site Characterization" was presented at a special GSA/EGD session. The Annual EGD Awards Luncheon was highly successful with approximately 100 members and guests in attendance. EGD honored four outstanding members and many of the Shlemon student awardees at the luncheon. Roy J. Shlemon hosted two student tables and was also presented with a special plaque honoring his donation and commitment to the Division in providing the funding and leadership for the students.



Dr. Erhard M. Winkler holds his Meritorious Service Award. Dr. Allen Hatheway (right) read his citation at the EGD luncheon.

The EGD management board at the annual meeting in Reno discussed many topics that affect our membership. Robert Larson, EGD Chair, reported to the board that the Division is economically sound, and the board decided not to increase the dues. It did suggest that the members contribute to the Jahns Endowment Fund so we can increase the award to cover more of the expenses involved for the speakers.

The board was informed that our proposal to change our name to include "Environmental" in our title was not approved by GSA. Many of the other Divisions contend that they also do "environmental work" and objected to our proposal.

The board also decided to move the annual EGD board meeting at the 2001 GSA meeting in Boston to Sunday afternoon between 12:00 and 3:30PM. The usual Monday afternoon meeting has been in conflict with some of the EGD topical sessions.

Many of board's decisions and activities progress with little input from the general membership. We need to increase the involvement of more members to help us with the continued growth and future of EGD. Therefore, I am asking any member who is interested in becoming a committee member to call or e-mail me or one of the other board members. A listing of the EGD Committees and Board members can be found within this newsletter.

There are several other ways that you can contribute as a member to EGD. First, view the April issue of *GSA TODAY* information on how you can submit an abstract for the 2001 GSA Annual Meeting in Boston. Make sure that you list the EGD as the sponsoring division. Second, I encourage all of you to attend the 2001 GSA Boston meeting and participate in the EGD management board meeting on Sunday, November 4th. We need input and ideas from a wide range of perspectives to continue to meet our members' needs.

I want to acknowledge all of you who contributed to our success last year and to those who are serving in various capacities this year. I especially want to recognize all of the past EGD presidents for their contributions to our programs.

They are the heart and soul of EGD and have devoted many hours of their valuable time to the Division.

I also want to welcome and thank all of our student members. Their participation in all of our events at the sectional meetings or the Annual Meetings is appreciated and needed. They represent the future for GSA and EGD and the assistance provided to them by the new Shlemon Award funding represents a big step for all of us.

By the time this is in print, our 2001 EGD Program Chair Terry West will know all of the proposed topical or Pardee symposium sessions that were sent in by our members for approval by GSA. Thanks to all of you who participated by sending in your proposals.

Please remember to watch for your April issue of *GSA TODAY* for a topical session that pertains to your research or project and remember to submit an abstract by August 1, 2001. Also, if you have not sent in your dues, it is never too late to become an active member of our Division.



Bob Watters accepting plaque as 2000-2001 Jahns Lecturer at the GSA Annual Meeting in Reno.

GSA-EGD/AEG Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer - Robert J. Watters

Dr. Bob Watters obtained his BS in Applied Geology (1969) from the University of Strathclyde, Scotland, and an MS, DIC (1970), and Ph.D. (1972), all in Engineering Geology from

Imperial College, University of London, England. He is a Professionally Registered Engineer in both geological and civil engineering. Prior to joining the University of Nevada, Reno, where he is currently Professor of Geological Engineering in the Department of Geological Sciences, he was employed as a consulting geological engineer in the USA and overseas. Spending 2 years in Zambia, Africa, after obtaining his doctorate, for Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners, Consulting Civil Engineers, on the Kariba North Underground hydroelectric Power Station on the Zambesi River, where he was responsible for surface and underground support and interpretation of geologic conditions. He came to the USA in the mid-1970's employed by Dames and Moore, Consulting Engineers, and worked from offices in Cincinnati, Denver, and Anchorage. He was responsible for surface and underground design for coal, uranium, and gold mines. He was seconded to Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Alaska, for two years as a consultant for the Alaska Oil Pipeline where he was involved in route selection, slope design, and landslide monitoring and mitigation.

In the 22 years he has been at the University of Nevada, Reno, he has been Department Chairman, and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in slope stability, waste containment, earthquake engineering, design of surface and underground excavations, debris and snow avalanches, and volcano hazards. The University and College have recognized his teaching ability with awards for student mentoring and excellence in teaching. He has served as a consultant and expert witness for civil and mining engineering companies and for numerous attorneys and State Departments of Transportation, on slope stability and remediation design, risk assessment and geologic hazards. He has authored over 60 publications on surface and underground stability, rock fall, rock mass classification, and geologic hazards. He has been awarded research funds in excess of \$1,000,000 from sponsors including the National Science Foundation, NASA, U. S. Department of Energy, U. S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Department of Transportation. Funded research topics include surface and underground design, rock testing, rock bolting, rock mass classification, geologic hazards including landslides, debris avalanches, and volcano hazards.

He has presented over 70 talks at national and international meetings of the Geological Society of America, Association of Engineering Geologists, International Association of Engineering Geologists, Society of Mining Engineers, US Rock Mechanics Association, Geological Society of London, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the Japanese Society of NDI. He has presented invited talks at Universities and government establishments in the USA, Europe, Central and South America, Asia, and in New Zealand. Current research interests revolve around a) slope instability for natural and excavated slopes, b) effects of weathering and alteration on rock mass strength, and c) volcano edifice and sector collapse.

Bob Watters will be available throughout 2001 as the Richard H. Jahns Distinguished lecturer. His theme will be "Landslides" with two talks emphasizing different slope stability themes. One talk entitled "Importance and limitations of geology, strength data, and modeling studies to understanding slope instability" draws on his consulting and research experiences of over twenty years and illustrates how slope failures occur even when competent investigations and analysis are performed, and is more engineering orientated. His second talk "Realism in volcano hazard zonation: Does geo-engineering help provide a more accurate assessment" discusses how recent research is improving volcano hazard assessment by incorporating engineering geology in the appraisal, and would be great for those who are more geologically inclined. For more details on either talk, check the Engineering Geology Division website at:
<http://rock.geosociety.org/egd/index.html>.

Contact Bob to obtain more details and arrange a talk for your GSA/AEG/ASCE group or for your university or college class/seminar. Bob is a Professor of Geological Engineering, and can be contacted at the Department of Geological Sciences, Mackay School of Mines, MS 172, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557. Phone (775) 784-6069, fax (775) 784-1833, or email watters@mines.unr.edu.

Attention Students!!

Roy J. Shlemon Meeting Awards are available for the GSA Annual Meeting in Boston. The deadline

for application is July 20, 2001. These awards are given to graduate and undergraduate students to encourage participation in field trips and short courses held at annual and sectional meetings. Participation on field trips is especially encouraged. The only criteria are that you must be a student member of the Engineering Geology Division of GSA and making satisfactory progress toward your degree. In the event that requests for awards exceed available funding, requests for attending field trips will be given preference over requests for short courses.



Roy Shlemon (in back) with three EGD student members who attended the EGD luncheon in Reno

To join the Division, contact GSA at member@geosociety.org or 1-800-472-1988; or go to <http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/divisions.htm> and click on "Join a Division."

Fill out the form (found on the EGD web site by clicking the "Scholarship" button), have a professor in your department sign it, and then send it in. You will be notified about two months in advance of the meeting if an award is made. An award will pay for meeting registration and the attendance fee for short courses and/or field trips. Transportation, room, and board must be provided by the student. Unused awards or portions thereof must be returned.

You may apply for more than one field trip and/or short course per meeting and more than one meeting per year. If you are attending the Annual Meeting, please join us at the Division's annual luncheon (see application). Fifteen EGD student

members received awards enabling them to participate in a fieldtrip at the 2000 GSA Annual Meeting in Reno.

2000-2001 EGD Committees

GSA Joint Technical Program Committee:

Terry R. West
Judy Ehlen

GSA/EGD – AEG- ASCE Committee on Engineering Geology:

Bruce Rogers

GSA Annual Meeting Division Program Chair:

Terry R. West

GSA Sectional Meeting Division Coordinators:

William Haneberg

Division Publications Committee:

Chuck Welby - Chair

Division Newsletter Editor:

Jerome DeGraff

E.B. Burwell Jr. Award Committee:

Sue Cannon 2000-2002 – Chair
Christopher J. Sexton 2000-2002
John Kiefer 2001-2003
Hasan Syed 2001-2003
David J. Verado 1999-2001
C. F. (Skip) Watts 1999-2001

Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer Committee:

Robert Larson
Terry R. West
(AEG mbrs: Rex Upp – Chair and Myles Carter)

Roy J. Shlemon Scholarship Awards Committee:

Robert A. Larson - Chair
Roy J. Shlemon
Johns C. Jens
Scott Burns
Jerome DeGraff

Division Awards Committee:

Duane Eversoll - Chair
Terry West
Judy Ehlen
William Haneberg
Robert Larson

Nominations Committee:

Robert A. Larson - Chair
Jerome DeGraff
Helen L. Delano
Scott Burns



Past Chair Rob Larson (left) with 2000-2001 EGD Management Board. Chair Duane Eversoll, Vice-Chair Terry West, and Secretary Judy Ehlen. Member-at-Large Bill Haneberg, (who is not in the photo) is the other EGD Board member.

Call for Nominations

The Nomination Committee would appreciate receiving nominations from Division members for Member-at-Large. This EGD Management Board position provides an opportunity to learn more about GSA and EGD Division management and provide future leadership for the Division. Please send nominations to the chair of the Nomination Committee, Robert A. Larson, at ralarson@rampageusa.com by July 1, 2001.

What are you doing in 2002?

By Bill Haneberg

The year 2002 may seem like a long way off, but it's already time to start thinking about engineering geology theme sessions, symposia, and field trips for 2002 GSA sectional meetings around the country. As the member-at-large on your Engineering Geology Division management board, one of my tasks is to promote engineering geology events at sectional meetings. I'm already

developing ideas for the Cordilleran Section meeting that will be held a few hours down the road in Corvallis, but I can't organize events and travel to every sectional meeting. That's why I'm asking you to help.

Why sponsor an engineering geology event at a GSA sectional meeting? There are lots of reasons. Sectional meeting events provide an ideal opportunity to focus on geologic problems and ongoing studies of regional or local interest. Sectional meetings provide a relaxed setting that encourages feedback, are typically held in smaller, less expensive cities, and can have a lower overall cost of attendance than the GSA Annual Meeting. They also provide an ideal venue for graduate students to make their first professional presentations or for those who just don't like the hustle and bustle of the GSA Annual Meeting. Finally, engineering geology events at sectional meetings help to show the larger geologic community that our field is populated by active geologists who are helping to solve real world problems.

Topics for engineering geology events might include geologic hazards specific to your part of the country, geologic aspects of major engineering projects, the role of geology in land use planning, aggregate and stone resources, state-of-the-art technology such as GIS and remote sensing, pressing environmental problems, geology and public policy, and more. Surprise us with your ingenuity!

Yes, it does take some time and effort to organize an event for a GSA meeting. It's been my experience, however, that it is time well spent. You'll make new contacts, learn more than you might imagine, and have the satisfaction of knowing you've helped to maintain the health and vitality of our science.

Proposal deadlines were not available at the time of writing, but anyone interested in organizing an event should contact the local committee chair of each section prior to June 1, 2001. Here's a list of the 2002 sectional meeting dates and locations:

Cordilleran Section
May 13-15, 2002
Corvallis, Oregon
Robert Yeats, yeatsr@terra.geo.orst.edu

Rocky Mountain
Date TBD, 2002
Cedar City, Utah
Robert Eves, eves@suu.edu

North-Central (joint with Southeastern)
April 3–5, 2002
Lexington, Kentucky
Thomas Lowell, thomas.lowell@uc.edu

Northeastern
March 24–27, 2002
Amherst, Massachusetts
Sheila Seaman, sjs@geo.umass.edu

Southeastern (joint with North-Central)
April 3–5, 2002
Lexington, Kentucky
John Kiefer, (606) 257-5500

South-Central
March ??, 2002
Alpine, Texas
Kevin Urbanczyk, kevinu@sulross.edu

If you've never organized an event at a GSA meeting, give it a try! If you're a seasoned veteran, just remember the satisfaction you felt the last time you organized an event. I'd be glad to act as a sounding board for anyone who is interested in pursuing this outstanding opportunity for professional service and leadership. Feel free to write (bill@haneberg.com) or call (360 871-9359) if I can be of help.

McCalpin receives Burwell Award

Dr James P. McCalpin was presented with the E.B. Burwell Jr. Award at the EGD luncheon in Reno in recognition for his contributions to advancing the understanding of the principles and practice of engineering geology his book, *Paleoseismology*.

The February 2001 issue of **GSA Today** carries the full citation for this award as presented by Scott Burns. The text of Dr. McCalpin's response is also available in that issue.

Dr. McCalpin will continue his efforts to acquaint engineering geologist with techniques and applications for paleoseismology. With fellow instructors Jim Evans and Al Jones (Utah State

University), Jim will be offering a 2-week summer field course entitled Field Methods in Neotectonics and Paleoseismology. It will be taught June 7-20 in Crestone, Colorado. The course will emphasize geomorphic techniques (week 1) and stratigraphic techniques (week 2) used in modern projects. It is no surprise that the text for the course will be Paleoseismology. Jim promises that trenches will be logged, too---but that's not all! Interested parties should point their web browser to www.geohaz.com, and go to the Crestone Science Center page.



Jim McCalpin holds his Burwell plaque, presented by citationist Scott Burns (right). Scott is holding a copy of *Paleoseismology*.

Natural Hazard Issues Receiving More Attention

Environmental and engineering geologists commonly have a direct or indirect interest in natural hazards and the policy issues associated with them. Recent disasters are placing an emphasis on policy making to reduce the loss to natural hazards in the United States. One innovation is the establishment of the **Congressional Natural Hazards Caucus** co-chaired by Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) and Senator John Edwards (D-NC).

The social and economic consequences of major natural disasters are increasing with increased population and infrastructure at risk. Jurisdiction for natural hazards programs is spread among many committees in Congress. Each committee handles only a piece of the overall effort to prevent and mitigate natural disasters. The

caucus can provide the "big picture" to interested lawmakers and their staff and give them the opportunity to see how the issues that fall within individual committee jurisdictions fit within a larger national effort. Their website can be reached at: <http://www.senate.gov/~edwards/cnhc/index.html>. If your Senator is not currently involved with the Congressional Natural Hazards Caucus, contact them and suggest that they may wish to join.

A related group in the effort to reduce the impact of natural hazards through more effective policy making is the **Natural Hazards Caucus Work Group**. The work group supports the efforts of the Congressional Natural Hazards Caucus. It is an information network of professional, scientific, and engineering societies, relief organizations, higher education associations, institutions of higher learning, trade associations, and private companies. If you are interested in this group's organization and activities, visit their website at: <http://www.agiweb.org/workgroup/>. Their primary goal is to develop a wider understanding within Congress that reducing the risks and costs of natural disasters is a public value. That requires educating Members and staff about the costs of natural disasters to their district, and states, and the benefits their constituents will realize through greater efforts to understand and mitigate natural disasters.

The U.S. Geological Survey has recently completed an assessment of the status, needs, and associated costs of a national landslide hazards mitigation strategy. Congress directed this assessment through Public Law 106-113. U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 00-450 2000 contains the full text of this assessment, **"National Landslide Hazards Mitigation Strategy – A Framework for Loss Reduction."** The open-file report was written by Elliott C. Spiker and Paula L. Gori. Appendix A lists the participants of stakeholder meetings held around the country to assist in developing the strategy. Many of the meeting participants are members of the Engineering Geology Division.

In a development related to landslide hazard mitigation, the State of California has issued draft guidelines for investigating, analyzing, and mitigating seismically-induced landslides, **"Recommended Procedures for Implementation of Division of Mines and**

Geology Special Publication 117 – Guidelines for Analyzing and Mitigating Landslide Hazards in California". These guidelines are meant to aid compliance with the California Seismic Hazard Mapping Act. To download a copy of this document, go to the Engineering Geology Division website: <http://rock.geosociety.org/egd/index.html> and click the "download" button. The guidelines are available as PDF file.

France Honors George Kiersch

In 1999, Dr. George Kiersch was named "Knight in the Order of Palmes Academiques" for "services rendered to the culture of France" by the French Minister of Culture. This is the highest academic honor in France and resulted from Dr. Kiersch's involvement, beginning in 1963, on major projects including the Vaiont dam and reservoir investigation.



EGD member Dr. George Kiersch



Geological Society of America and Geological Society of London present

Earth System Processes

June 24–28, 2001

Edinburgh International Conference Centre

Of Special Interest to Engineering Geologists:



- T14: “Data Assimilation for the Earth System,” with Keynote Speaker Richard Rood of the NASA Data Assimilation Office.
- G2: “Anthropogenic Modifications to the Earth System” considers a wide variety of evidence for the nature, magnitude and implications of human disturbance to Earth.
- G5: “Public Communication of Environmental Issues and Hazards” illustrates key issues and examples of effective communication.
- G6: “Earth Resources” puts the issues of resource exploration, utilization and environmental impact in their appropriate system science context.
- G7: “Fragile and Hazardous Environments” examines the sensitivity to change of a wide variety of geo-environments.
- G8: “Timing and Rates in Earth System Processes” focuses on quantification of time-space relationships using geochronological and tracer techniques.

Final pre-conference registration deadline: April 30, 2001

For information and registration:

www.geosociety.org or www.geolsoc.org.uk

Partial funding provided by The NASA Astrobiology Institute