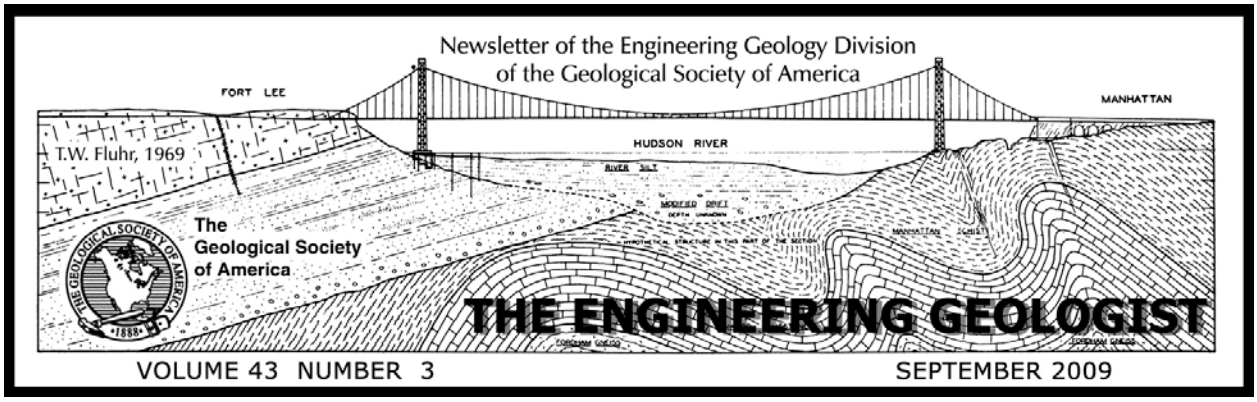


Message from the Chair
By Abdul Shakoor

There are only a handful of universities in the United States where programs in engineering geology and geological engineering exist at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Programs awarding Ph.D. degrees in these disciplines are even fewer in number. Most of these programs have been operating with small faculty and limited resources. In fact, some of these programs are basically one-man shows. In spite of their small sizes and limited resources, the engineering geology and geological engineering programs across the country have done an outstanding job of educating and mentoring students and conducting scientific research to advance these disciplines. The graduates from these programs have served well the needs of engineering firms, environmental companies, and governmental organizations both in the United States and abroad.

For the past few years I have been concerned about the future of engineering geology and geological engineering programs at our universities, especially the programs in engineering geology. My concern has grown even more under the current economic situation with universities facing huge budget cuts. Those of us in academia know well that, at many universities, faculty positions falling vacant due to retirement of senior faculty are not being refilled. In rare cases where the geology departments are permitted to hire replacements, it is usually in an area that provides greater opportunities for acquiring large research grants. Further, the courses in engineering geology and related areas can be offered only if a certain minimum number of students have registered for the course, and this number keeps rising with time. These are some of the considerations that resulted in elimination of the outstanding and very successful graduate program in engineering geology at Radford University.

We must do whatever we can to maintain and strengthen the engineering geology and geological engineering programs at our universities. We cannot afford to either lose programs or have them weakened by loss of faculty positions. We need to prepare and encourage our Ph.D. students to apply for all available faculty positions. We must aggressively recruit students for our programs for both undergraduate and graduate studies and convince the university administrators that maintaining these programs is essential to improving and expanding our country's infrastructure and meeting employment demands of the private sector and government agencies. Help from employers of applied geology professionals is crucial in this

regard and support from professional societies like AIPG, AEG, and the Engineering Geology Division of GSA will always be of utmost importance.

I am convinced that engineering geologists and geological engineers will always be in demand and I am optimistic that our educational institutions will continue to produce highly qualified professionals in these fields but we must remain vigilant and active to safeguard our profession and its future.

Paul Marinos Named 2010 Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer

Dr Paul Marinos has been named the 2010 Jahns Distinguished Lecturer. The Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG) and the Engineering Geology Division of the Geological Society of America (GSA) jointly established the Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lectureship in 1988 to commemorate Jahns and to promote student awareness of engineering geology through a series of lectures offered at various locations around the country. Richard H. Jahns (1915 – 1983) was an engineering geologist who had a diverse and distinguished career in academia, consulting and government.

The titles of Dr. Marinos' lectures are:

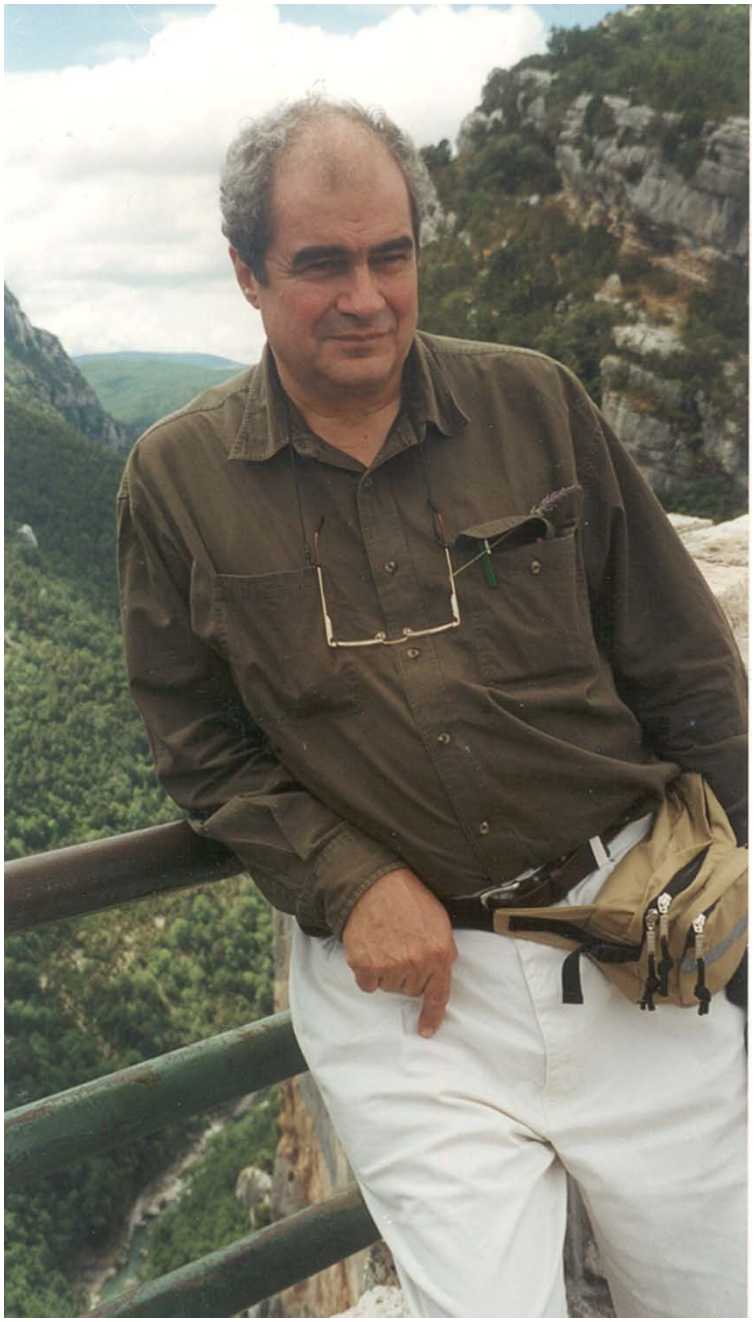
1) Ongoing challenges in Engineering Geology for tunneling in difficult ground
2) Geological constraints and geotechnical issues in mechanized tunneling
3) Tunneling through karstic rocks - How Engineering Geology needs hydrogeologic input and logic
4) Rock mass characterization; a vehicle to translate geology into the design of engineering structures
5) Geology in dam engineering. An evolving contribution of Engineering Geology for safety and efficiency
6) Geology of Athens, Greece. A case of urban geology for land use, construction of major engineering structures, hazard assessment and sustainable development

Abstracts of these lectures are available on the Engineering Geology Division website http://rock.geosociety.org/egd/index.html. Requests for scheduling lectures should be directed to Paul Marinos at marinos@central.ntua.gr

Lectures will start in January 2010 and run through June 2010, the period that Paul Marinos will be on sabbatical leave in the United States. However some lectures can be accommodated a week before each of the annual meetings of AEG and GSA in the fall of 2010, since Paul Marinos will be back in the US to present his featured lecture at both of these meetings.

The University/College lectures can be arranged for a one hour presentation or a two hour presentation with a short break. Lecture content will be adjusted according to the field of study of students – geology, civil, mining – and whether they attend an applied geology program.

Dr Paul Marinos received a Mining Engineering degree from the School of Mines of the National Technical University of Athens, Greece in 1966, a postgraduate degree in Applied Geology from the University of Grenoble, France, and his Doctorate in Engineering Geology from the same University in 1969. He worked for French and Greek design and construction companies until



1977 and then was elected as Professor at Democritus University in Northern Greece. Since 1988 Dr Marinos has been Professor of Engineering Geology in the School of Civil Engineering in the National Technical University of Athens and has served as head of the Geotechnical Section of the school for several years. From 2001 to 2004 and from 2006 to 2008 he was the Director of a Graduate Course in Tunneling and Underground Construction. He was a visiting Professor in the Geology Department of the University of Grenoble (1987) and of the School of Mines in Paris (2003).

Dr Marinos is a member of AEG and GSA and fellow of the Geological Society of London. He is a past president of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG), immediate past president of the Geological Society of Greece and honorary member of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH).

Dr Paul Marinos has received several awards, including the Hans Cloos medal of IAEG, and the Andre Dumont medal of the Geological Society of Belgium. He was selected for the presentation of named lectures, including the 6th Glossop Lecture in London (2002), the 19th Rocha Lecture in Lisbon (2002), the 33rd Cross Canada Lectures Tour (2005), and the Rock Mechanics annual Lecture in Madrid (2006).

Dr Marinos and his team conduct research on a variety of applications of geology to engineering, mainly rock mass characterization, weak rock properties and behavior, with special emphasis to tunnel design. His work also covers landslides, dam geology, and engineering in karstic terrain. His other significant interest is the protection of historic monuments and archeological sites. Dr Marinos has authored or co-authored over 300 papers in journals or major conference proceedings. He was a key or invited lecturer in more than 40 conferences or

special events. He has given lectures to University Courses or Workshops, among them the Federal Technical University (EPFL) in Lausanne, Switzerland, the Polytecnico of Turin, Italy, the University of Durham, U.K., the University of Coimbra, Portugal, the University of Kobe, Japan, the Black Sea University Romania, the Aristotle University of Thessalonica, Greece, and the Griffiths University, Australia. He has edited proceedings published by international publishers. Dr Marinos is a member of the Editorial Board of a number of prominent journals as "Engineering Geology", "Bulletin of the International Association of Geology"," Landslides", "Environmental Geology", "Rock Mechanics" and from 2009 "Environmental and Engineering Geosciences".

Dr Paul Marinos has extensive industrial experience having served as consultant, independent reviewer and member of consulting boards or panel of experts on major civil engineering projects in Greece, France, India, Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, South East Asia, Spain, Sweden, and Turkey.

Deadlines! Deadlines! GSA Annual and Section Meeting Deadlines!

It is never too early to be planning for the next annual meeting. The 2010 GSA annual meeting will be October 30st through November 3rd in Denver, Colorado. The deadline for proposing field trips and short courses is **December 1, 2009**. Information on how and where to submit proposals is found on the opening page of the Society's website (http://www.geosociety.org/). The deadline for proposing technical sessions for this meeting is **January 12, 2009**. Additional information on technical session proposals may be found at the same link.

The Geological Society of America section meetings provide excellent venues for technical sessions focusing on significant regional topics and field trips to locations that may not be easily accessible from the larger urban centers where annual meetings are held. Section meetings typically have larger participation by students. EGD members are urged to propose fieldtrips and technical sessions to make section meetings valuable opportunities for both professionals and students involved with environmental and engineering geology. Information on section meeting locations and deadlines is available on the Society's website (http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/sections.htm). It is **not** too early to be working on 2011 meetings! Please copy any proposals submitted to section meeting organizers for technical sessions and field trips to the EGD Chair. The EGD Management Board is committed to supporting these efforts.

2009 Shlemon Scholars Announced

The Roy J. Shlemon Scholarship Awards have been awarded since 2000 to graduate students with the best research proposals within the broad field of engineering geology. The primary role of this awards program is to provide partial support of master's and doctoral thesis research in

engineering geology. This year two doctoral level students and one master's level student were selected to receive scholarships. They are:

Doctorate Level - First Place -$2500

Stephanie Watts, University of Nevada-Reno
Geomorphology and geotechnical analysis of paleo-seismically induced lateral spreading mechanisms in Dixie Valley, Nevada

Doctorate Level - Second Place - $2000

Holly Brunkal, Colorado School of Mines
Channel infilling rates and mechanisms for runoff initiated debris flows following wildfire in the western US

Masters Level - $2000

Anna Glen Brody, California State University-Fresno
Analysis of rock-fall volumes in Yosemite National Park, California, using ArcGIS and shallow geophysics

For application information and deadlines for the Roy J. Shlemon Scholarships, go to the Engineering Geology Division website and "click" on Scholarships. Please scroll past the meeting awards to the section for scholarships. The web address is: http://rock.geosociety.org/egd/index.html.

New EGD Publications Chair

Syed E. Hasan recently accepted the appointment as the EGD publications chair. EGD is the only Division in the Geological Society of America with its own book series, Reviews in Engineering Geology. Volumes in the Reviews series cover a wide range of environmental and engineering geology topics. Each volume is a collection of individual papers including case studies focused around a particular environmental or engineering geology theme or topic. Landslides in the Seattle, Washington area, deep repositories and the geology of coal fires around the world are among the topics covered in recent volumes of the Reviews series. EGD tries to have, at least, one volume issued per year in this series. Individuals who are willing to serve as editors or co-editors for a volume should submit a proposal describing the subject being covered in their proposed volume to Syed (hasans@umkc.edu). He can provide further details on the publication process.

EGD Members Elected to Fellow in 2009

Engineering Geology Division members Derek H. Cornforth, Alan J. Gallegos and Darrel W. Schmitz are among the 60 individuals elected to Fellow of the Geological Society of America in 2009. Their affiliations and citations are:

Derek H. Cornforth, Cornforth Consultants Inc. (retired)
GSA Affiliations: Cordilleran Section and Engineering Geology Division
Elected to Fellowship as the 2008 E.B. Burwell, Jr., Award recipient.

Alan J. Gallegos, U.S. Department of Agriculture–Forest Service
GSA Affiliations: Cordilleran Section and Engineering Geology, Limnogeology, and Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Divisions
This nomination is in recognition of Gallegos' mentoring of young geoscientists in applied geology through his efforts resulting in the USDA Forest Service becoming a partner in GeoCorps™ America and his personal commitment to participants in this program.

Darrel W. Schmitz, Mississippi State University
GSA Affiliations: Southeastern Section and Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology Divisions
Darrel Schmitz exceeds the requirements for election as a Fellow to GSA for his outstanding accomplishments as an officer in important geological organizations. He has served effectively as president of both the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists and the National Association of State Boards of Geology.

They join Susan H. Cannon, Laurance J. Donnelly, Paul M. Santi, Abdul Shakoor and John W. Whitney who were elected Fellows in 2008. Please extend your personal congratulations to these new Fellows. There are other EGD members who deserve recognition for their accomplishments by being elected to Fellow. Information on qualifications and the nomination process can be found at the Geological Society of America website (http://www.geosociety.org/members/fellow.htm). Consider making a nomination or encouraging others to do so for 2010.