



**Association of Engineering Geologists
Kansas City/Omaha Section
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NEWS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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Upcoming Activities

The next Kansas City/Omaha Section meeting will be held on **May 17th** at **UMKC**. Our speaker will be **Andy McKown, Vice-President of Haley & Aldrich in Boston**. He will speak on **"Highway Slope Design"**. This promises to be an excellent program. You should receive the meeting announcement in the next few days.

On **June 16th**, **Francke Walberg, URS Corporation, and John Moylan, Consulting Geologist**, will speak on **"Causes and Effects of Shears in Shale"** (tentative title). The presentation will include discussion of the mechanisms that cause the shears that result in reduced strength, some of the historical failures that have advanced our understanding of the behavior of shales, how we can identify the potential problem, and case studies from this region. Shales have a wide range of physical properties and present some difficult challenges.

The September meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 13th and the program will include the induction of the new Section officers for the 2005-2007 term.

A **Fall Conference** similar to last year's conference is planned for **mid-October**. Planning for the conference is underway and you will hear more about it in coming months.

Student Paper Competition

The Kansas City/Omaha Section sponsored the Section's first Student Paper Competition. The winners were announced at the April 13 Section meeting. The winning paper was submitted by **Melissa Marietta, a Geology undergraduate at the University of Kansas**, and was titled **"Separating Sorption and Kinetic Parameters Using a New Kinetic Model for the Nitroaromatic Compounds, 4C1NB, 4AcNB, and 4MeNB, Reacting with Granular Iron"**. Second place was awarded to **Alston Noronha, Civil Engineering graduate student at the University of Missouri at Kansas City**, for his paper **"Quantifying Optimized Parameter Uncertainty in Groundwater Modeling for Comprehensive Site Investigation: Information Theory Approach"**.

The judges for the competition were **Jeff Binder of Aquaterra Environmental Solutions, Greg Ohlmacher of the Kansas Geological Survey, and Duane Eversoll of the Nebraska Geological Survey.**

KC/O Section Website

You are encouraged to take a look at the Section website. **Julie WestHoff** has done a commendable job of upgrading our web page and keeping it up to date and informative. The site is available at www.vocshop.com/aeg/aegkco.html.

Thanks Allison!

I am sorry to announce that **Allison Knowles** has resigned as Section secretary. Allison felt that for personal reasons and the birth of a new baby she should resign. Many thanks to you, Allison, for a job well done. **Julie WestHoff** has agreed to fill the remainder of Allison's term as secretary.

Meeting in Nebraska

As the result of correspondence with KC/O members in Nebraska regarding how the Section might better serve the Nebraska members, **Marvin Carlson, president of the Nebraska Geological Society**, invited the KC/O Chairperson, **John Moylan**, to speak at the NGS' April 21 meeting. John discussed AEG and the KC/O Section and passed out a summary of who we are, how to contact us, website addresses, and section activities. Copies of our section web page, the AEG directory, AEG News and the journal were made available for attendees to peruse. In addition, John made a technical presentation "The Effects of Hydraulic Factors on PRB Design and Performance". The presentation included examples from three permeable reactive barrier projects.

Approximately 35 attended the meeting. Two KC/O members accompanied John to Omaha for the meeting; **Julie WestHoff, Section secretary, and Bruce Wilkinson, program chairman**. We were told that this was a good turnout for a NGS meeting. The good attendance was in spite of strong thunderstorms and tornado warnings in the area. John expressed the AEG's appreciation for the opportunity to meet with the NGS. A large percentage of the geologists in the Omaha and Lincoln area are environmental geologists, engineering geologists, or hydrogeologists. The KC/O Section will strongly consider occasional future activities in Omaha or Lincoln. **Dr. Jack Shroder**, professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, is the fellow we heard about following 9/11 who identified the location of Osama Bin Laden based on what he could see of the geology visible in the background of the video. Jack was at the meeting and has offered to speak at one of the KC/O Section's future meetings on the geology of Afghanistan.

Who Are We? We Are Geologists

Over the past year and a half, several nonmembers have made statements that led me to believe that they thought that much, if not most, of our members were engineers and that perhaps we are an engineering organization. The AEG is an organization of geologists who use their knowledge of geology and earth processes to support the works of man. Some of us support environmental preservation and restoration, some support the design and construction of engineered structures, and some support the planning and

development of groundwater supply systems. In all cases, site characterization is probably our most important function. How well we understand the site geology and present that understanding to the other members of our project teams is of paramount importance. We all work with teams of engineers, scientists, and planners who must rely on the quality of our work and on our ability to recognize and identify those aspects of the geology that will affect the success of the project. Please don't avoid AEG activities because you might think that we are not geologists. Give us a try and be pleasantly surprised.

ASCE/AEG/UMKC Geotechnical Group Scholarships

The geotechnical programs jointly sponsored by the ASCE, AEG, and UMKC started in 1992. After a successful Specialty Seminar and Annual Geotechnical Conference in 2001, \$2,000 was set aside for a scholarship fund with ASCE as the financial accounting representative for the combined group. Over a period of four years, the fund grew to more than \$14,000. Two scholarships were negotiated and established at UMKC in June 2004. Prior to the very successful Annual Geotechnical Conference in early April, an additional \$7,200 was in place in the scholarship fund. The scholarships are named the **Peck, Williams, Garstang Scholarships** in honor of the key speakers at the successful 2001 conference that made the scholarship fund possible. The honorees are **Ralph Peck (professor emeritus at the University of Illinois), Jim Williams (former State Geologist of Missouri and St. Louis Section member), and Mimi Garstang (current Missouri State Geologist and St. Louis Section member)**. The first scholarships will be awarded in the Fall of 2005 to one candidate in Civil Engineering and one candidate in Geology. The two lead UMKC professors for the scholarships are **Anil Misra (Civil Engineering) and Syed Hasan (Geology and KC/O Section member)**. **Craig Buhr (member of both AEG and ASCE)** is the ASCE/AEG/UMKC Geotechnical Group's Scholarship Chair. The institution of the scholarships is an exciting development for the KC/O Section. All members of the Section should be aware that during the several years of reduced Section activity, the joint ASCE, AEG, UMKC meetings played an important role in the survival of the Section.

Mid-year Board of Directors Meeting

Andrea Prince, Section Vice-Chair, attended the AEG's mid-year board of directors meeting in Folsom, California on April 23 and 24. She reported that the major topics of discussion were the criteria for a Governance Monitoring Plan (GMP) and a review of the progress toward implementing the strategic plan. Another topic that got considerable discussion was the proposed association name change to the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists. Originally, it was anticipated that the Board of Directors would vote on the name change at the mid-year meeting. However, it was determined that the name change involves changing the constitution and by-laws. Changes to the constitution and by-laws require a 2/3 majority vote of the general membership. Therefore, we will all receive a name change ballot. Andrea said that the upcoming annual meeting in Las Vegas has generated a lot of interest and discussion. A large turnout and excellent program is anticipated.

Missouri River Cleanup

Dave Stous, Burns & McDonnell, is associated with the Missouri River Cleanup and has worked for several years for river education and down and dirty environmental efforts. Last year, he took his physical groundwater model to St. Louis for their education day and talked about surface-groundwater interaction to about 900 grade school through high school age kids. In addition to education, the organization also does environmental cleanup. The following should be of interest to many. Contact Dave Stous, dstous@burnsmcd.com, for more information

Hello Friends of River Relief,

Spring has just about sprung, and that means Missouri River Relief is gearing up for another season of clean-ups and educational events on the banks of the Missouri River across the state. Our website is up, so take a look at this year's schedule for more information: www.riverrelief.org.

And please sign up to help us clean the river! We promise to keep your e-mail address confidential, and we'll send you a reminder just before the events.

We'll be cleaning up in the St. Louis area on April 30 and in Mid-Missouri on May 14. In the fall, we'll be cleaning from Boonville to Rocheport on Sept. 24, and cleaning up in Kansas City on Oct. 8.

This year marks our fifth season of picking up trash on the Missouri River. River Relief is making a difference out there, and that is all thanks to you -- volunteers who are willing to "get down and dirty" and do something good for the river.

So please look at the schedule, sign up for the clean-ups, and tell all your friends, family, scouts, church groups, civic organizations.

It'll be fun, and the river needs you.

Thanks so much,
Missouri River Relief

Ps: If you live in the St. Louis area, stop by the REI store at the corner of Brentwood Blvd and Hwy 40 on any Saturday in March. River Relief volunteers will be there to answer questions. And on March 21, river activist Chad Pregracke, whose crew will again be helping at River Relief events, will be at REI to talk about his efforts to clean up the nation's big rivers.

Section Election

This is just a reminder that the election of Section officers for 2005-2007 will take place this summer. You should receive your ballot in early August.

Members and Potential Members Outside of KC

If you and others in your area would like to have some of the Section officers visit your area and meet with you, please notify one of the Section officers. At the Omaha meeting, we presented information on AEG and also made a technical presentation. This is your association and we want to reach all who are interested. The AEG also has provisions for Chapters within Sections.

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