

## The On-Going Challenge

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Editor

This year is very special as we all celebrate 150 years of ASCE. Over the years, ASCE has become the world's leading professional society in civil engineering. The society is large and has widespread international ramifications. Of the 2,890 papers submitted to ASCE's 29 journals in the year 2000, about half were submitted from the United States and the other half from abroad. The *Journal of Hydraulic Engineering* is among the largest of ASCE's journals in terms of number of papers submitted and number of papers published. In fact, in 1999, the journal published more papers and discussions than any other ASCE journal. Over the past 8 years, there were typically between 200–250 new papers annually submitted to the journal and about 100–150 were published each year. The international dimension of *JHE* is fascinating. About one-third of the journal's papers are submitted from the United States, about one-third from Australasia including India and about 20% from Europe. It is thus a great privilege for me to serve as the journal's Editor and to accept the ongoing challenge of keeping the journal as large as possible with the highest possible standards of excellence.

### Thanks Rob and the University of Iowa

On behalf of ASCE, it is with great respect that I thank Rob Ettema for his leadership as Editor of the journal for the past 4 years. Under his tenure, the journal has consolidated its international reputation and presented papers of very high quality. He has also successfully broadened the scope of the journal and promoted forum articles, case study papers, guest editorials, special issues, and book reviews. He has maintained the processing time

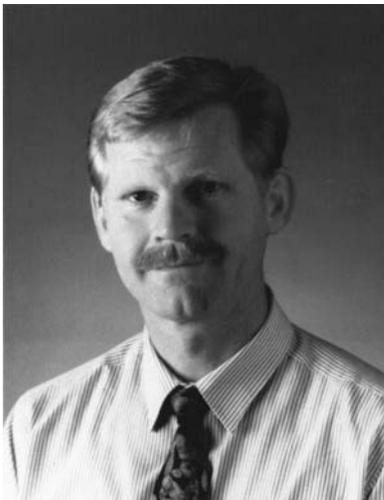


Fig. 1. Robert Ettema, Editor (January 1998–December 2002)

between paper submission and publication as short as possible and reduced the backlog of papers to a period of 2–3 months. With the case study papers, he has made a serious effort to present technical information that can be readily used by practicing engineers.

The journal's tenure at the University of Iowa since 1994 has been extremely productive. Rob Ettema and Jacob Odgaard (Figs. 1 and 2) may be remembered as the Editors of the millennium, as they jointly edited over 1,500 new papers and presented over 1,000 articles in the journal in the past 8 years. This is an exceptional accomplishment to be celebrated. Jacob Odgaard's numerous contributions to the hydraulic engineering profession are appropriately recognized with the ASCE 2001 Hydraulics Structures Medal. Teresa Gaffey's continuously excellent secretarial work has been a tremendous asset to the journal (Fig. 3). To keep up with the journal, Rob and Teresa processed an average of six papers a day at various stages of the review process. The overall support of the University of Iowa and the Iowa Institute of Hydraulic Research (IIHR) is also gratefully acknowledged.

### Challenges Ahead

My colleagues and I at Colorado State University proudly welcome the ASCE, and we will make all efforts possible to continue the long tradition of excellence for the *Journal of Hydraulic Engineering*. The new home of the journal will be located at the Engineering Research Center, with activities within our Department of Civil Engineering. It is my pleasure to announce that Jenifer Davis will assume the secretarial work for the journal. We are looking forward to reviewing lots of high quality papers in the field of hydraulic engineering.

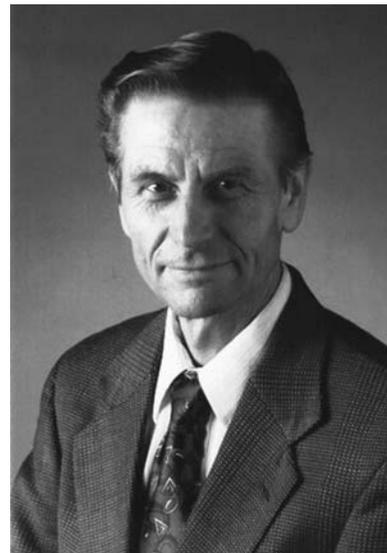


Fig. 2. A. Jacob Odgaard, Editor (January 1993–December 1997)



**Fig. 3.** Teresa Gaffey, Secretarial Support

The associate editors will continue to provide the critical recommendations regarding suitability of articles for publication in the journal. Their expertise will be trusted to maintain the high quality standards for the papers published in the journal. Their active role in seeking referees capable of providing meaningful review comments within a relatively short period of time is most appreciated. Competent reviewers also assume a vital responsibility in the peer-review process. Reviewers who can formulate constructive criticism in a prompt manner are doing a great service to the journal and to their profession. I invite reviewers to treat peer articles as one of theirs, and to formulate critical recommendations as to how reviewed papers can be improved. As much as

authors wish their papers to be reviewed without delay, a quick turnaround time is usually achieved when authors submit their very best papers to the journal. The editorial board will certainly agree that reviewing great papers is a pleasure, and the turnaround time usually is minimal.

With the change in editorship, ASCE will implement the standard submission process. This process implies that all articles will be submitted directly to ASCE, instead of to the editor. ASCE will contact the authors while the editor will be in charge of the peer-review process. **All authors are therefore requested to send their papers directly to ASCE headquarters in Reston, Virginia.** The journal is also currently under a 5-year review, the results of which will help me identify new directions and promote future developments of the journal. I will certainly have the opportunity to elaborate on this in future editorials.

In closing, I want to congratulate Rob for all his accomplishments. The journal is in excellent shape, and he will certainly appreciate a return to normal life after 4 years of dedication to the journal. He has set the standards at an unprecedented level, and I accept the challenge to seek the best for the journal's future growth and development. The support of associate editors, reviewers, and authors is much appreciated, as we are looking forward to working with all of you. As the journal's files cross the prairie to find a new home in Fort Collins, I might paraphrase from the popular midwest radio show, *The Prairie Home Companion*: the journal's future will be promising as long as the editorial board is strong, article reviews are looking good, and all papers are above average.