

## Annual Review 2004

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This editorial reflects on some of the highlights of 2004, along with a few words of appreciation and congratulations, and a glimpse at some of the needs and wishes of the ASCE *Journal of Hydraulic Engineering*.

### Thanks to ASCE Members, Authors, Reviewers, and Associate Editors

I want to express sincere thanks to a number of people who contribute to the success of the *Journal*. First of all, let me thank all members of ASCE for their continuing support. Membership in ASCE is a mark of support for excellence in hydraulic engineering. Most active hydraulic engineers are members of ASCE and we are proud of their endorsement. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all volunteers of the ASCE organization. The activities of our volunteers through numerous task committees are effectively the brain and blood of our organization. I want to congratulate and welcome those who joined ASCE this year. We are seeking to extend the membership privileges to a larger number of professionals nationwide and abroad.

A comprehensive list of *JHE* reviewers is presented at the end of this issue. The list includes all those who reviewed articles during a 12-month period starting July 2003, and we hope we did not forget anyone. After 3 years as Editor, I really appreciate the time commitment and effort made by the reviewers of the *Journal*. The reputation of the journal depends largely on the high-quality reviews that we receive. The importance of the peer-review system and the role of external reviewers in improving the readability of all manuscripts cannot be overstated.

This year, we want to specifically thank the following reviewers for their outstanding reviews: Jim L. Best, University of Leeds; George Christodoulou, National Technical University of Athens; Kenneth B. Edwards, LMNO Engineering, Research, and Software, Ltd.; Randall W. Gentry, University of Tennessee; Nikitas Georgas, HydroQual, Inc.; Christine Lauchlan, HR Wallingford Ltd; A. M. Wasantha Lal, South Florida Water Management District; Foo-Hoat Lim, Angkasa Consulting Services SDN BHD; Timothy B. Maddux, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; Erik Mosselman, WL/Delft Hydraulics, and Ian Ruthven Wood, University of Canterbury. These individuals are recognized for providing particularly thorough and helpful reviews to the Editorial Board this year.

The role of the Editorial Board in ensuring quality reviews for our articles is also important. I appreciate all the support and commitment of Associate Editors in handling timely reviews on a continuous basis. The significant amount of time they volunteer to seek the best possible articles for the *Journal* is paramount to our success. This year, the Editorial Board met the challenge of reviewing a large number of high-quality manuscripts. We are con-

tinuously seeking ways to reduce the processing time of all manuscripts while enlarging readership and attracting more forum articles, case-study papers, and book reviews. This year again, the collaboration with Johanna Reinhart, Jackie Perry, and the ASCE production staff has been most appreciated, effective, and valuable.

Finally, I am grateful to all the authors of the journal for submitting their finest manuscripts. It is always a pleasure to work with authors willing to spend extra time and effort to revise and improve their manuscripts. We acknowledge receiving a large number of articles, and manuscripts that have been reworked several times gain tremendously in clarity and concision. These well-prepared articles are not only pleasant to read, but serve as future references. Of course, rewriting manuscripts takes some time, and the patience that the authors exhibit with the review process is greatly appreciated. We are committed to assisting authors with timely and constructive reviews.

### Yearly Highlights and a Glimpse Forward

Some of the highlights in hydraulic engineering this year include the World Water and Environmental Resources Congress in Salt Lake City, June 27–July 1, 2004. This EWRI/ASCE event has been well attended and particularly enjoyable. The Awards Luncheon was also quite eventful. The following are recipients of some of the most distinguished awards: John. J. Cassidy and Kenneth G. Renard—the EWRI Lifetime Achievement Award; Walter C. Boughton—the Arid Lands Hydraulic Engineering Award; Rao S. Govindaraju—the ASCE Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize; David A. Woolhiser—the Ven te Chow Award (Fig. 1); J. Sterling Jones—the Hydraulic Structures Medal; John A. Replogle—the Hunter Rouse Hydraulic Engineering Award;



Fig. 1. David Woolhiser (right) receives the Ven Te Chow Award from Rollin Hotchkiss



**Fig. 2.** N. Rajaratnam (second from left) and S. A. Ead (third from left) receive the Karl Emil Hilgard Prize

William F. Ritter—the Royce J. Tipton Award; S. A. Ead and N. Rajaratnam—the Karl Emil Hilgard Hydraulic Prize (Fig. 2); and T. S. W. Wong—the J.C. Stevens Award. Congratulations to all these meritorious leaders of our profession!

At the *Journal of Hydraulic Engineering*, we received 265 new papers and technical notes in 2003, in comparison with 124 published. In 2003 we published the highest number of discussions and closures of any of the 30 ASCE Journals. It speaks to the fact that the *JHE* articles generate much interest from our readers. The last Journal Citations Report of the 2003 Science Edition reported that the articles published in 2003 received a total of 2,611 citations. The corresponding Impact Factor of the *Journal* is 0.849 for 2003, slightly lower than the very high value of 0.986 recorded in 2002. The impact factor reflects a measure of the frequency with which the “average paper” of a journal has been cited in a particular year. The Immediacy Index was also 0.157, which remains high, and the half-cited-life is still greater than 10 years. These numbers are among the highest ever recorded for this journal. Forum articles remain in high demand and

authors are welcome to send electronic manuscripts of forum and case-study papers directly to the Editor via email at [pierre@engr.colostate.edu](mailto:pierre@engr.colostate.edu)

The current strength of the *Journal* lies in high-quality peer-reviewed articles in the field of computational hydraulics, sedimentation, fluid mechanics, hydraulic structures, environmental hydraulics, computational fluid dynamics, river engineering, and field and laboratory measurement techniques, among many others. Together, we must meet the challenge to enlarge the content of our journal. Among many topics, we would welcome more articles in the emerging areas of stream rehabilitation, in-stream flow needs, aquatic habitat for endangered species, contaminant transport, diffusion and dispersion, wetlands, hydraulic engineering education, and water rights and litigation issues. There are opportunities for all of us to share and disseminate our knowledge at the national and international level through the *ASCE Journal of Hydraulic Engineering*. Thank you all for your support, and best wishes for a prosperous year.