

Annual Review 2005

Pierre Julien
Editor

This editorial celebrates the end of four years as Editor for the *ASCE Journal of Hydraulic Engineering*. Let me ponder on some of the yearly highlights, report on the current status of the journal, and look forward to a better future under the new editorship of the journal.

Thanks to Our Members, Reviewers, Associate Editors, and Authors

Many people contribute to the success of the *Journal*. We should first thank all members of ASCE/EWRI for their continued support. Membership in ASCE/EWRI supports excellence in the hydraulic engineering profession. Let us particularly welcome those who joined ASCE/EWRI this past year. We are seeking to extend membership privileges to a larger number of active professionals nationwide and abroad.

A comprehensive list of reviewers is presented at the end of this issue. The list should include all those who reviewed articles for the *Journal of Hydraulic Engineering* during a period of 12 months starting July 2004—and we hope we did not forget anyone. This year, we want to specifically thank the following reviewers for their outstanding reviews: George Christodoulou, National Technical University of Athens; Michael Church, The University of British Columbia; John Fenton, The University of Melbourne; Dennis Lyn, Purdue University; Momcilo Markus, Illinois State Water Survey; Heidi M. Nepf, MIT; Art Parola, University of Louisville; B. Mutlu Sumer, Technical University of Denmark; John Vitkosky, University of Adelaide; Ian R. Wood, University of Canterbury; and Yves Zech, Catholic University of Louvain. These individuals from around the world are recognized this year for providing particularly thorough and helpful reviews to the Editorial Board.

The role of the Editorial Board in ensuring quality and timely reviews cannot be overstated. The considerable amount of time that Associate Editors volunteer to improve the quality of the articles is paramount to the success of the *Journal*. Three new Associate Editors joined us in 2005. Chris Rehmann, of Iowa State University, will strengthen the journal in the field of computational and environmental modeling. Peter Steffler, at the University of Alberta, will strengthen the Board in the field of experimental methods and computational hydraulics. Hyoseop Woo, from the Korean Institute of Construction Technology, offers expertise in the field of sediment transport and river engineering. The Editorial Board is seeking ways to reduce the processing time of all manuscripts while enlarging readership and attracting more forum articles, case-study papers, and book reviews. The Editorial Board remains committed to assisting authors with timely and constructive reviews. As in past years, the collaboration with Jackie Perry, Johanna Reinhart, and the ASCE production staff has been extremely productive and effective.

Finally, I am grateful to all 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. The most successful authors are usually those reworking their articles time and again. These well-prepared articles serve as future references and are cited numerous times.

Yearly Highlights and Status of the Journal

Some of the 2005 highlights in hydraulic engineering include the World Water and Environmental Resources Congress in Anchorage, Alaska, May 15–19, 2005. This EWRI/ASCE event has been well attended. The newly designed Awards Breakfasts were particularly enjoyable. The recipients of some of the most prestigious awards include

- Thomas Pokrefke—the Hans Albert Einstein Award
- Robert L. Street—the Hunter Rouse Hydraulic Engineering Award Lecture
- Vijay P. Singh—the Ven Te Chow Award
- Darryl W. Davis—the Julian Hinds Award Lecture
- John E. Hite—the Hydraulic Structures Medal
- N. S. Cheng, L. H. C. Chua, J. Fredsoe, and B. M. Sumer—the Karl Emil Hilgard Hydraulic Prize
- S. Q. Yang and L. A. McCorquodale—the EWRI Journal Award for Best Technical Note
- I. Ohtsu, M. Takahashi, and Y. Yosuda—the J. C. Stevens Award
- A. J. Clemmens—the Royce J. Tipton Award
- D. Di Toro—the Simon W. Freeze Environmental Engineering Award

Congratulations to all these meritorious leaders of our profession!

The *Journal of Hydraulic Engineering* published more than 1,200 pages of refereed literature in 2004 and received more than 250 new manuscripts in the past 12 months. The latest Journal

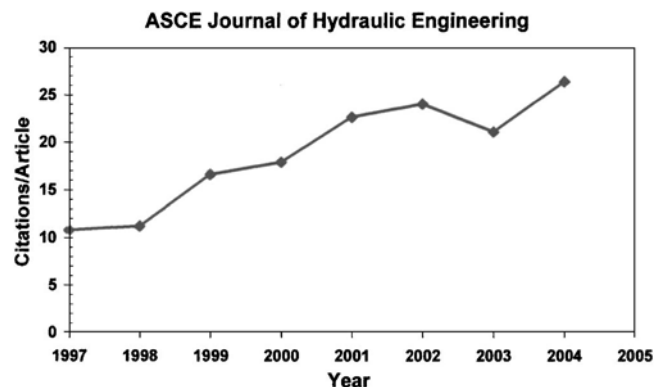


Fig. 1. Ratio of citations per article published in the *ASCE Journal of Hydraulic Engineering* from 1997–2004

Citations Report of the 2004 Science Edition reported a total number of 3,189 citations, a 22% increase over the 2,611 recorded in 2003. The Impact Factor for the *Journal* reached the unprecedented level of 1.24, which is a 46% increase in one year. Given the total number of articles published at 121 in 2004, the ratio of citations to published articles has increased to 26.3. This number indicates that if sustained over a long period, each article published in the ASCE *Journal of Hydraulic Engineering* can be expected to be cited more than 25 times during a lifetime. This is a remarkably high citation report and speaks to the fact that our articles are read, discussed, and cited numerous times. For the sake of comparison with previous years, the ratio of citations per article published is shown in Fig. 1 for the period of 1997–2004. The numbers show a gradual increase from about 10 in 1997 to the unprecedented level of 26 we are currently at.

Jenifer Davis deserves all the praise that words alone cannot express for the truly fantastic role she has played in the success of our journal. In four years, she has handled about 1,500 manuscripts of all types. Her performance in keeping accurate records and handling communication with authors, ASCE staff, and Editorial Board members has been truly exceptional. Working with Jenifer has been a great source of accomplishment and satisfaction.

It is with great pleasure that **Dennis Lyn**, of Purdue University, will serve as the new Editor for the *Journal*. Our best wishes of success are encapsulated in the baton handed to our next leader. The *Journal* is in good shape and has the potential to get a lot better under Dennis. All those involved in the peer-review process can expect forthcoming changes. ASCE is replacing eRoom with Editorial Manager. The new system should be implemented in 2006 and our journal should be among the first large journals to enter the new electronic review system.

There are opportunities for all of us to share and disseminate our knowledge at the national and international level through the *Journal of Hydraulic Engineering*. Together, we must meet the challenge to broaden the scope of our *journal*. Numerous new topics could be developed further to the greater benefit of our readers. More articles in emerging areas would be very welcome. For instance, some topics of interest include stream rehabilitation, in-stream flow needs, aquatic habitat for endangered species, contaminant transport, diffusion and dispersion, wetlands, hydraulic engineering education, water rights, litigation issues...

It is time for me to bow out...and thank you all for your support.

Best wishes to all of you for a prosperous new year!