Message from the Chairman

Our Division continues to move forward in a very positive way as evidenced by the 1995 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. We had an excellent full program of short courses, symposia, theme and general sessions. Our Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting were well attended. Division members were active participants in all levels of the Society. Division members approved the revised Bylaws and the revised Rules and Regulations, which will allow smoother Division operation. The Hydrogeology Division is particularly proud that David Stephenson, a long-time active member and past-Chairman of the Division, served a very successful term as President of GSA.

The Division continues to co-sponsor the Hydrogeologist Journal. The journal’s growth in stature is shown by the increase in the number of articles submitted and published. The Hydrogeologist Journal is an excellent forum for Division members to publish research results under the GSA banner. I encourage all members of the Division to publish articles in the various GSA journals including Geology, GSA Today and GSA Bulletin.

I am looking forward to this year’s meeting in Denver. Mary Jo Baedecker is putting together a fantastic program including three short courses and a workshop, two symposia, ten theme sessions, and one field trip. Also included in the program will be the usual Awards Luncheon, Business Meeting, Birdsall-Dreiss Lecture and Student Reception with great door prizes. The Denver meeting will provide a variety of activities in which all members can participate.

One of the biggest challenges facing the GSA and the Hydrogeology Division is membership retention and growth. The Management Board has spent considerable time over the last year discussing how the Division can retain and recruit new members. What do we need to offer? What do we need to change? How can we better communicate with our members? We have created a Membership Committee under the leadership of Darryll Pederson to investigate the issue and bring recommendations to the Management Board. Some of our thoughts on improving communication include better use of the World Wide Web to distribute The Hydrogeologist and other information of interest to members. One great way we can all participate in strengthening the Division and Society is for every member to recruit at least one new member for the Society and Division. Do not forget your students. Also there are a significant number (almost half) of GSA members who do not belong to a Division and many of them have hydrogeology-related interests. Strongly encourage your colleagues and students to join and participate in Society and Division activities including Section and Annual Meetings. Section Meetings are good places for Division members to actively promote hydrogeology and the Division. Several Sections already have strong hydrogeology programs and others could use more participation. They are great places for students to break into making presentations at professional meetings and for everybody to become familiar with local and regional hydrogeologic issues. Remember, the Hydrogeology Division is what you make it. Be an active member by

Jack Hess
Chairman
Hydrogeology Division
participating in the Section and Annual Meetings, publishing in the Society journals, and communicating with me and your Management Board. Tell us your ideas, concerns and questions. Let’s look forward to another great year.

Successful Student Reception in New Orleans

by Lenny Konikow

About 50 hydrogeology students and 75 members of the Hydrogeology Division attended the Past Chairman’s Student Reception, which was held during the Annual Meeting in New Orleans. This event provided hydrogeology students an opportunity to meet and network with senior members of the hydrogeology profession. More than half of the students received a hydrogeological door prize. Numerous individuals generously donated door prizes, but we would especially like to acknowledge the multiple prizes donated by Academic Press, the International Ground Water Modeling Center, and the U.S. Geological Survey. We hope to continue this tradition in Denver.

Report on the 1995 Birdsall-Dreiss Lecture Tour

by Chris Neuzil

It was with feelings of poignancy that I agreed to represent the Hydrogeology Division as the newly-renamed Birdsall-Dreiss Distinguished Lecturer for 1995. Like others who knew Shirley Dreiss, I had a high regard for her and her work, and I clearly remember her beautifully delivered final Birdsall lecture at the GSA annual meeting in Cincinnati, in which she described her work on accretionary prisms. I would like to thank the Birdsall-Dreiss committee and the Division leadership for selecting me and I also wish to thank the many colleagues, students, and staff who made me comfortable and welcome during my travels. Thanks are also due to John Harsh, the Division’s Secretary-Treasurer, who ensured that my expenses were reimbursed. I visited some 27 institutions during my tenure, and I suppose that my tour was typical in generating its share of stories. At the top of the list, and etched forever in my memory, is the moment when I was halfway to Southern Illinois University and realized that I’d left all of my slides on Van Brahana’s desk at the University of Arkansas. Now, this might seem exceptionally absent-minded, but I am told that I am not the first Lecturer to accomplish this. I am deeply in Van’s debt because he was alert enough to express the slides to SIU in time for my lecture, bless his heart. Only slightly less memorable was my drive to the University of South Dakota through an April blizzard, complete with white-outs and eighteen-wheelers trying to be off-road-vehicles. Headed to my next stop, the University of Minnesota, I drove through the same storm from the other direction. Sometimes, what you might call an amusing situation arose during a lecture. Once, I found myself lecturing in a hotel, separated from a religious revival meeting by one of those accordion partitions. The revival was punctuated by spirited singing. So was my lecture. However, I confess that my favorite memory of all is that of my oldest daughter attending my lecture at the University of Virginia. “Dad,” she said after the lecture, “that wasn’t as bad as I thought it was going to be.” This is high praise indeed from one’s child (and an English major to boot). Through it all, I traded stories with my friend and USGS colleague Paul Hsieh who, coincidentally, was doing the 1995 Darcy Lecture tour for the National Ground Water Association.

My tour coincided with a period of angst for us at the U.S. Geological Survey; there was talk of abolishment and eventually a “reduction in force” did occur in the Geologic Division, the first for the Survey in this century. I found a corresponding measure of pessimism among colleagues in academia. This was not universal, but it was perceptible. Obtaining support is becoming an increasingly onerous task and, although placement of graduating hydrogeology students is generally without problems now, many see signs of softening in the job market. At best, environmental firms seem to have reached a stasis, and some have actually scaled back. In addition, the number of university hydrogeology programs has grown so dramatically in the last several years that a surplus of graduates seems inevitable. I raised this possibility in many discussions without a great deal of disagreement. Many of the students I talked to are aware of these issues. I was immensely impressed by the enthusiasm, creativity, and sheer ability of these young people. I saw many research projects of interest to me and that I will continue to track. This rising “class” of hydrogeologists is bringing a continual infusion of human energy to our discipline. We are fortunate in this regard. Some tension between hydrogeology and “traditional” earth science disciplines persists. Indeed, because earth science in general is facing leaner times, this tension may even be exacerbated. Many hydrogeology faculty carry a disproportionate share of the teaching and advising load because of the popularity of hydrogeology and environmentally-oriented courses. Hydrogeology, however, still seems to be viewed with suspicion and sometimes is considered “soft” by faculty in other specialties. Often there is a lack of support for adding additional hydrology-oriented faculty. I am of two minds about this, because I do not believe that now is the time to further increase our capacity to train hydrogeologists. However, I do agree with those who see a need for revamping earth science curricula. I want to conclude my report with a socio-historical observation. Visiting many campuses brought back memories for me, and I found that the issues of concern on campus have evolved from those of my student days in the radical 1960s. The issue on campus today seems to be—parking. For nearly every visit I got specific instructions for parking, some quite involved (“park in the small lot adjacent to the building and behind the white truck with tags ——“) Only at New Mexico Tech did I hear the words “parking is no problem!”

1996 Program for Denver

Mark your calendars now for October 26-November 2 so you can participate in the 1996 Hydrogeology Program in Denver. Our program currently consists of 3 short courses, a workshop, 2 symposia, 10 theme sessions, and a field trip. The
program is based around the GSA theme “Earth System Summit” and is comprehensive in coverage of the sub-disciplines represented in the Hydrogeology Division. We hope to attract a large group of participants to our exciting Denver program. For more information contact Mary Jo Baedecker, Hydrogeology Division Program Coordinator [phone 703-648-5858; fax 703-648-5832; e-mail mjbaede@usgs.gov].

Courses and Workshop

“Vadose-zone hydrology: techniques and applications,” short course presented by Scott Tyler and Bridget Scanlon.

“Application of environmental isotopes to solving hydrochemical problems,” short course presented by Carol Kendall.

“Teaching practical hydrogeology: How to make do with scant real world data,” short course presented by Don Siegel.

“Innovative techniques for shallow soil and ground-water investigation,” workshop and field demonstration presented by William DiGuiseppi and Jeff Flanzenbaum.

Symposia

“Farvolden Hydrogeology Symposium,” convened by John Cherry.

“Role of preferential flow in the unsaturated zone,” symposium convened by Bridget Scanlon and Scott Tyler.

Theme Sessions

“Physical and chemical heterogeneity-1: impact on reactive transport,” contact Janet Herman and John Wilson.

“Physical and chemical heterogeneity-2: impact on samples and measurements at wells,” contact Tom Reilly and Denis LeBlanc.

“Innovations and applications of inverse groundwater models,” contact Eileen Poeter and Mary Hill.

“Hydrogeology of confining units-1. Physical and biogeochemical processes,” contact Bill Simpkins and Kent Keller.

“Hydrogeology of confining units-2. Sampling, analysis, and interpretation,” contact Mary Harris and Paul Thayer.

“Field-scale investigations of biodegradation,” contact Hedeff Essaid and Isabelle Cozzarelli.

“Applications of isotopes for understanding hydrologic systems,” contact James Thomas and John Hess.

“Diagenetic processes at waste-disposal sites,” contact Peter Hutchinson.

“High Plains hydrogeology,” contact Alan Fryar and Alan Dutton.

“Evaporite karst: origins, processes, landforms, examples, and impacts,” contact Kenneth Johnson and James Neal.

Field Trip

A post-meeting field trip is organized for Thursday evening through Saturday to the San Luis Valley and drainage area of the Summitville Mine in South-Central Colorado. The trip will be run by Isabel McGowan, Doug Cain, Kathy Smith, and Alan Davey.

Section News

North Central

William Simpkins, Section Representative

Activities for spring 1996 revolve around the 30th Annual North-Central Meeting, which will be held in Ames, Iowa, May 2-3, 1996. The conference is sponsored by the Department of Geological and Atmospheric Sciences at Iowa State University and we are expecting about 500 attendees. The meeting will have a strong hydrogeology emphasis. Dr. Gordon P. Eaton, Director of the USGS and former president of Iowa State University, will speak on the future of geology and of the USGS. Symposia will include “Applications of hydrogeology in agricultural water-quality studies,” co-sponsored by the Institute for Environmental Education (IEE) and convened by Bill Simpkins and George Hallberg; “Groundwater Consultants’ Symposium—Role of geology in the characterization and remediation of contaminated sites”, convened by D. Roger Bruner and Doug Connell; and “Geomicrobiology: from basic science to implications for bioremediation, convened by Blythe Hoyle and Pedro Alvarez. There will also be one general hydrogeology session. There will be two field trips: “Hydrogeology and water quality of the Walnut Creek watershed” led by Bill Simpkins [bsimp@iastate.edu] and Michael Burkart [mburkart@nstl.gov]; and “Hogs, logs, and logs: Quaternary deposits and environmental geology of the Des Moines lobe,” led by E. Art Bettis, III [abettis@gsbth-po.igsb.uiowa.edu], Debra Quade, Carol Thompson, Robert Libra, Timothy Kemmis, Thomas Fenton [tefenton@iastate.edu], and Angela Riek-Hinz [amrieck@iastate.edu]. The GSA Institute of Environmental Education (IEE) also is sponsoring the Roy Shleman “Mentors in applied geology” Program, taught by R. Dean Lewis and others.

Northeastern

Bob Melvin, Section Representative

Two new programs are being started at the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR) on Cape Cod. The Department of Defense (DOD) has approved the contractor’s plans for a pump-and-treat remediation program designed to contain 6 of the 10 contaminant plumes in the area. Plans include pumping 27 million gallons per day of water from aquifers in glacial sediments by wells and infiltration galleries. For more information call Doug Karson (508) 968-4678. USGS researchers have begun a study of the natural restoration of a large sewage plume at the MMR, building on previous investigations of the 5-km-long plume by the USGS, other federal agencies, and several universities. The focus will now be on changes in water quality that occur as clean water moves into the contaminated aquifer. For more information call Denis LeBlanc or Kathryn Hess [(508) 490-5000].

The USGS along with the EPA have acquired a borehole radar system for use in hydrologic and environmental studies, including experiments at Mirror Lake, New Hampshire, and other localities. For information call John Lane [(860) 240-3299].
Another new USGS study in the Northeastern Section will be conducted at the Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey to evaluate the cost effectiveness of removing TCE and related solvents from ground water using air sparging. The project is funded by the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program, a DOD-EPA program. For more information call Jeff Fischer [(609) 771-3953].

The AIH will hold its 1996 Annual Meeting in Boston from April 21-24. The focus of the meeting is water-resource planning and management conflicts that result from competing development pressures and land-use requirements in urban and urbanizing areas. For more information on the meeting call AIH in Minneapolis [(612) 484-8169].

1995 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

The 1995 Annual Business Meeting of the Hydrogeology Division, Geological Society of America (GSA) was held on Tuesday, November 7, 1995, in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, following an awards ceremony and luncheon. Chairman Don Siegel introduced Division officers, awardees, and special guests: Bette Siegel, his wife; Jack Hess, Chairman-Elect; Warren Wood, First Vice-Chairman; Lenny Konikow, Past Chairman; Chris Neuzil, 1995 Birdsall-Dreiss Distinguished Lecturer; Sandy Neuzil, his wife; Grant Garven, O.E. Meinzer Awardee; John Harsh, Secretary-Treasurer; and Tom Holzer, Distinguished Service Awardee. Other introductions included: Dave Stephenson, President of GSA; George Davis, Keros Cartwright and John Cherry, GSA Council Members; Van Brahana, 1995 Program Chairman; and Ward Sanford, GSA Donath Medal Awardee (Young Scientist Award).

Chris Neuzil made the citation for the O.E. Meinzer Award to Grant Garven, who then gave his response. The chairman presented the Meinzer Bowl and Certificate to Grant. (Ed. note: Chris Neuzil’s citation and Grant Garven’s remarks are printed in the March 1996 issue of GSA Today.)

Don Siegel announced that the Distinguished Award Committee selected Tom Holzer. George Davis presented the citation on behalf of Tom Holzer. The awardee was given an honorary plaque in recognition of his service to hydrogeology.

Dr. Chris Neuzil was presented both the Birdsall-Dreiss Certificate and a plaque of cut glass by Chairman Siegel. Don then announced that the 1996 Birdsall-Dreiss Distinguished Lecturer will be Kirk Nordstrom. The topics of Kirk’s talks are printed in the September 1995 Newsletter. Noel Krothe was introduced by the Chairman and Noel presented certificates to recipients of the 1995 Student Research Grants: Sonia Nagorski, Norman Van Broekhoven, Alison Schwab, and Mary Tuccillo. Following the presentation, Noel stressed that graduate-student applicants should closely follow GSA guidelines for presentation of research proposals.

The first agenda item in the business meeting was the necrology. The Chairman requested a moment of silence in memory of James Quinlan, Robert Farvolden, and John Stokely. The minutes of the 1994 Annual Meeting in Seattle, as published in the June 1995 issue of the Hydrogeologist, were approved. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jack Sharp and seconded by Van Brahana; the motion passed unanimously.

John Harsh, Secretary-Treasurer, announced the results of the balloting for Division Officers: Jack Hess, Chairman; Warren Wood, First Vice-Chairman; Darryll Pederson, Second Vice-Chairman. A summary of the Division’s 1995 financial activities follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Balances as of 9/30/95</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division General Fund</td>
<td>$4,382.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birdsall Fund</td>
<td>$44,262.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dreiss Memorial Fund</td>
<td>$16,640.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award Fund</td>
<td>$17,601.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The proposal to revise the Bylaws of the Division was approved: 126 votes for approval and one vote for disapproval.

Don Siegel summarized the major actions and activities of the Division during the past year. He emphasized the joint marketing effort with GSA as a way to improve enrollment and income from Division-sponsored short courses. He acknowledged the hard work of Paul Seaber and Lenny Konikow in bringing the Bylaw revision to completion. The Chairman expressed his appreciation to all who participated in making the technical program a success, noting that this year there were more theme sessions and that we had volunteered papers accepted for symposia. Don also expressed his concern for the decline in Division membership. The Board solicits ideas from the members on how to increase membership in the Division. The Chairman acknowledged the work of Bill Back and the Division Historical Committee for issuing the historical series of hydrogeologist mugs. This year the Division offered its fourth collectable mug imprinted with a photograph of T.C. Chamberlin.

Van Brahana, Technical Program Chairman for the 1995 Annual Meeting, acknowledged the work of the volunteers, sponsors, and participants who assisted him in the development of the technical program, field trip, and short courses. Mary Jo Baedecker described the program for the 1996 Annual Meeting in Denver. She prepared and presented a list of topics for symposia and theme sessions and asked the Board for feedback on what she had prepared. Don Siegel requested assistance from Fellows in the Division to recommend members for fellowship standing. He also solicited ideas for a Penrose Conference. Ideas should be given to Bill Simpkins. Don mentioned that written reports from the Section Representatives are printed in the June 1995 Newsletter. Alan Dutton announced that the O.E. Meinzer Award publications now are listed on the GSA Home Page.

The meeting was adjourned after the transfer of authority to the new Chairman, Jack Hess. Jack reminded members to attend the Birdsall-Dreiss Distinguished Lecture and the Student Reception sponsored by the Division following the lecture.

John Harsh
Secretary-Treasurer
November 22, 1995
Hydrogeology Division Internet Site

Visit the Hydrogeology Division web site on the internet under the GSA home page. The address of the web site is http://www.aescon.com/geosociety/sectdiv/hydro/index.htm. The site contains information on the Division Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, a directory of Division officers and committees, the bibliography of publications cited in the Meinzer Awards, an electronic copy of The Hydrogeologist, and more. Please contact Jack Hess [e-mail: “jack@snsc.unr.edu”] or Alan Dutton [e-mail: “duttona@begv.beg.utexas.edu”] with your comments and suggestions for additional information you would like to see on the Division internet site.

The Hydrogeologist’s Home Page

The Hydrogeologist’s Home Page (THHP) at http://www.ems.psu.edu/Hydrogeologist/ is a collection of over 250 quality-controlled links to hydrogeological organizations, software and data repositories, publications, and other sources of information of potential use to hydrogeologists. THHP is best viewed using Netscape 2.0. THHP was designed with the assumption that most hydrogeologists are connected to the internet via modem. Pages are short with limited graphics and will transmit quickly. Computer resources are provided by Penn State University’s College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. Please send your links, comments and suggestions to David M. Diodato [diodato@geosc.psu.edu].

Hydrogeology Division Organization

1996 Management Board

Chairman: Jack Hess
“jack@snsc.unr.edu”
First Vice Chairman: Warren Wood
“wwwood@usgs.gov”
Second Vice Chairman: Darryll Pederson
“pederson@unlinfo.unl.edu”
Secretary-Treasurer: John Harsh
“jharsh@usgs.gov”
Past Chairman: Don Siegel
“disiegel@mailbox.syr.edu”

Section Representatives

Cordilleran: Kent Keller
North Central: Bill Simpkins
Northeastern: Bob Melvin
Rocky Mountain: Bill Woessner
South Central: Joe Yelderman
Southeastern: David Evans

Committees

Meinzer Award:
Jean Bahr (Chair), Janet Herman, Frank Chapelle, Steve Gorelick, Berry Lyons

Distinguished Service Award:
Bill Wilson (Chair), Darryll Pederson, Steve Wheatcraft

Birdsall-Dreiss Lecture:
Fred Philips (Chair)
Chris Neuzil (Coordinator)
Kirk Nordstrom (Lecturer)

Joint Technical Program:
Mary Jo Baedecker (Chair), Kip Solomon

Nominating:
Joe Rosenshein (Chair), Frank Schwartz, Lenny Konikow

Penrose Conference:
Bill Simpkins (Chair), John Cherry, Don Siegel

Membership:
Darryll Pederson (Chair), Bill Woessner

Historical:
William Back (Chair), Claire Davidson, Phyllis Garman, Alan Dutton, John Harsh, Darryll Pederson, Joe Rosenshein, Paul Seaber

Representatives to Other Societies & Divisions

American Association for the Advancement of Science, Section W:
John G. Weihaupt

American Geophysical Union (AGU) Hydrology Division:
Nari Narasimhan

American Institute of Hydrology (AIH):
Joe Rosenshein

Association of Ground-Water Scientists and Engineers (NGWA):
Warren Wood

International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH):
Jack Sharp

GSA—
Engineering Geology:
Tom Holtzer

History of Geology:
Paul Seaber

GSA Council:
John Cherry

Division Web Site:
http://www.aescon.com/geosociety/sectdiv/hydro/index.htm

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Send news by electronic mail or computer diskette. Deadline for the Fall 1996 issue of The Hydrogeologist is July 15, 1996.
Geological Society of America

ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPOSITION

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