PRESEN T’S CORNER

My tenure as president is now at the midpoint and my opportunities/obligations to contribute to this column are three-fourths exhausted with this issue. The Education Conference and the IAPWR meeting have since passed (as have the numerous other meetings which, unfortunately, all seemed to be scheduled at the same time). Interestingly, my first experience with each of these meetings has come just this year. Perhaps this provided a different perspective, perhaps not. I must say, however, that I was impressed with each of the activities.

The former may be because I was party to the formulation of the Education Conference’s final stages as AEEP President and could appreciate the effort invested by Jim Patterson and his committee members, group leaders, and arrangements people. While I prefer to let the content of the conference and my response and that of others to it mature before making comment, I can say that there were several aspects worthy of note. While the USA attendance was a bit lower than might have been desired (perhaps due to several reasons, not the least of which would be conflicting meetings such as AWWA, ASLO and the Gordon Conference) the representation from the international community was delightful and provided an added dimension. In addition to the invited speakers from England, Germany and Switzerland, attendees represented Japan, Portugal, Venezuela, Norway, and Israel, among others.

Lord Ashby’s keynote address was truly the highlight of the conference and the man was as elegant as his address. In conversation with Lord Ashby, you got the impression that we had done him a great honor by inviting him. My feeling was that he had greatly honored us by accepting the invitation. I am sorry that all of you could not be present for that address and the other activities.

With the IAPWR meeting, I enjoyed the different character and content of the meeting. The formalized discussion format, in which I was privileged to participate, was a new experience. While not always in the context of a strong challenge and in fact sometimes dripping with sugary compliments (which seemed to be a general protocol), the formalized discussion added to the meeting. The discussors had to examine the presented paper in detail prior to the comments and the questions that were directed at the author(s). This gave greater depth to the exchange than is normally the case at most meetings. For those members who have yet to attend an IAPWR meeting, I would urge you to experience it once.

In closing, I reflect back on Bruce Hanes’ comments in this column of July 1978 upon his return from the Stockholm meeting. He urged consideration of attendance at the Toronto meeting. Thanks Bruce, I did and I enjoyed.

Roger A. Minear
PURDUE MEETING OF AEEP BOARD

The AEEP Board of Directors met just prior to the Purdue Industrial Waste Conference and took action on several items of immediate interest to the membership. Among these the Board decided to:

1. Strictly enforce the policy that any member with dues more than two years in arrears be dropped from the membership rolls.
2. Invite Dr. Paul Hartman of ASEE to attend the October meeting of the Board to discuss possible avenues of improved communication and co-operation between ASEE and AEEP.
3. Reduce the number of issues of the NEWSLETTER published each year from four to three. One of the three issues will be expanded to cover some major items of general interest in considerable depth and will be distributed to a very wide audience including consultants, governmental agency personnel, etc.
4. Return to first class mailing for the NEWSLETTER. Experience with the bulk mailing permit has been very unsatisfactory with a three to four week delivery time not being uncommon.

Kenneth E. Hartz
Dept. of Civil & Envir. Engr.
Sloan Hall 141
Washington State University
Pullman, WA 99164
(509) 335-3176

Sai Hyun Lee
School of Civil Engineering
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, GA 30332
(404) 894-2265

A. Amirratahaj
Dept. of Civil Engineering
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717
(406) 994-2111

Kenneth Williamson
Dept. of Civil Engineering
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331
(503) 754-2751

Desmond Lawler
Dept. of Civil Engineering
University of Texas
Austin, TX 78712
(512) 471-5602

John Zeltet, Jr
Dept. of Envir. Engr. Science
322 Black Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611
(904) 392-0666/0843

Frank Go
WHO/PEPS Research Centre
P.O. Box 2560
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Rafael A. Rios
Dept. of Civil Engineering
Univ. of Puerto Rico
Mayaguez, P.R. 00706

Dilip G. K. Chirmuley
Dept. of Civil Engineering
South Australian Institute of Technology
Adelaide
South Australia 5000
(618) 260-2055

Dan Thirumurthi
Dept. of Civil Engineering
P.O. Box 1000
Nova Scotia Technical College
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2X4
(902) 429-8300

WELCOME TO NEW AEEP MEMBERS

Masahito Nakamura
Dept. of Chem. & Envir. Engr.
Speed Scientific School
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 588-6357

Steve E. Hruddy
Dept. of Civil Engineering
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
CANADA T6G 2G7
(403) 452-9722

Richard L. Parrine
Engineering I, Room 2066
UCLA
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(213) 825-2636

D. P. Huang
Dept. of Civil Engineering
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19711
(302) 739-0426
OBSERVATIONS FROM THE 1980 AEEP DISTINGUISHED LECTURER TOUR

by Richard T. Dick
Cornell University

Introduction

The 1980 AEEP Distinguished Lecturer Tour offered a unique opportunity to gain impressions from many universities over a short period of time. While the visits to the ten participating universities were brief, the compact time frame of the lecture tour served to highlight contrasts and similarities among universities.

The observations offered here are intended to be objective assessments of conditions that seem to exist in environmental engineering education programs as the 1980's begins. The lecture tour provided a sample of adequate size to permit the suggestion that the observations apply somewhat generally to environmental engineering education. It would be inconsiderate to reward the hospitality enjoyed at each of the universities by publishing observations that could be interpreted as being critical of any particular program. The complete set of observations that follows applies to no single university included in the lecture tour. The anonymity of individual universities is, thus, assured.

Temporal Changes in the Quality of Academic Programs

A major observation is that preconceived notions of the quality of environmental engineering programs may be erroneous. Dramatic shifts in the quality of environmental engineering graduate programs are underway as a result of perturbations such as the disestablishment of federal training grants, changes in university funding capabilities, and gains or losses of faculty members. Some superb programs have developed at universities that are not generally considered to be leaders in environmental engineering education. They have critically assessed an oriented the capabilities of their faculties and facilities and are offering excellent educational opportunities. Environmental engineering programs are sufficiently small that substantial changes in quality can occur in a relatively short period of time. Reputations change far more slowly.

Effects of Funding Pressures on Academic Quality

Funding limitations and pressures to attract outside funding are adversely affecting the professional development of faculty members and the quality of educational programs. There would appear to be three facets to this problem. The first is that the quest for funds diverts the attention of some faculty from areas in which they have unique competence into areas of unique funding potential. In extreme cases, the nature of research to be accomplished with outside funds seems to be a consideration that is secondary to the basic goal of securing funds. A second aspect of the problem is that energy, resources, and talent are being expended on "research" that might more appropriately be accomplished outside the university environment. Rather routine projects are being sought in order to obtain the funds required to operate environmental engineering programs and satisfy administrators. The third effect is that some faculty members are assuming far more responsibilities than they can reasonably execute. The time drain associated with the pursuit of funds and execution of contractual commitments sometimes detracts severely from fulfillment of scholarly responsibilities. It would seem that greater real benefits to individual faculty members, educational programs, and the profession might result from a smaller quantity of work of higher quality.

The Educational Environment

While congeniality ordinarily does not enter into measures of academic excellence, perhaps it should. Impressions of graduate students tend to be happy programs. The quality of some environmental engineering academic programs seems to be compromised by interpersonal relationships. Students, particularly at the graduate level, sense good will and excitement among faculty members and this becomes reflected in faculty-student and student-student relationships and in the quality of graduate education.

Laboratory Capabilities

Recent developments in laboratory instrumentation, interest in toxic substances, and differences in funding opportunities have broadened the range of laboratory capabilities of various environmental engineering programs. It would seem that the burden of funding, operating and maintaining modern laboratory instruments intensifies the need for flexible institutional arrangements for cooperative use of expensive instruments.

(Continued overleaf)
CALL FOR PAPERS

The AWWA Research Committee is seeking papers on research work in the water supply field for presentation at the 1981 Annual Conference in St. Louis, MO, June 7-12. Four sessions have been requested by the committee for presentation of research papers.

Papers will be chosen from abstracts received by Friday, Nov. 28, 1980. All persons submitting abstracts will be notified by Jan. 30, 1981, as to whether or not their papers were selected. Research papers dealing with water quality control, distribution, management, and water resources are desired.

Eight copies of both an information sheet and a 300-1000 word abstract of the research paper should be submitted to E. F. Spitzer, AWWA, 6666 W. Quincy Ave., Denver, CO 80235. Abstract information sheets can be obtained from AWWA at the above address.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

IID Research Institute (IIITR) in conjunction with the Bureau of Mines will host the Seventh Mineral Waste Utilization Symposium on October 20-21, 1980 at the institute.

The symposium is designed to provide information to industry on new developments in mineral waste utilization and waste reclamation.

Topics for the two-day event include: mining and mineral waste processing, industrial waste recovery, urban solid wastes, and scrap metal recovery.

Papers are being solicited from government agencies, trade associations, industrial organizations, and research groups actively engaged in developing solutions to recycling resources.

Hardbound copies of the Proceedings for the first six symposia are available from IIITR.

For more information contact: Sy Bortz, Symposium Chairman, (312) 567-4400 or Marguerite Van Ness, Technical Coordinator, (312) 567-4234 at IID Research Institute, 10 West 35th Street, Chicago, Illinois, or Roger DeCeware, (202) 634-1144, at the Bureau of Mines, Washington, D.C.

DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Items to be included in the next issue of the NEWSLETTER should be received by the editors no later than Tuesday, September 2, 1980. Items of general interest to the profession should be submitted to:
J. F. Judkins, Jr. and J. M. Morgan
Co-Editors, AEEP NEWSLETTER
Department of Civil Engineering
Auburn University, Alabama 36849
ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The 11th Conference of the International Association on Water Pollution Research will be held in Cape Town, Republic of South Africa, during 29 March-2 April 1989. The Conference invites research papers on all aspects of water pollution and its control. In addition to technical papers, workshops are planned on water recycling, developing countries, economics, technology transfer, oil pollution, and modeling. Papers may be submitted anytime until 1 June 1989; proposals for poster presentations are due 1 August 1989. Many technical excursions, pre- and post-conference seminars, and pre- and post-conference tours have been planned. Contact Secretary-Treasurer, IAWPR, Chichester House, 278 High Holborn, London WC1V 7HE, England.
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<td>Dr. J. E. Fitzgerald, Director, School of Civil Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA 30332</td>
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The publications listed below are available from AEEP. Prepayment must accompany all orders. Please forward a check or money order made payable to AEEP to the above address.

**NOTE:** The Order Form below must be completed and returned with your order. For orders of five or less volumes, include $1.25 for postage and handling; for 6-10 volumes, $2.50; for 11-15 volumes, $3.75, etc. Federal Tax Identification Number:

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*Environmental Engineering Unit Operations and Unit Processes Manual is available to members of AEEP for $6.00 a copy. Members may order additional copies at membership rate for their students.

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OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Roger A. Minear
Department of Civil Engineering
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee 37916
(615) 974-3320

VICE PRESIDENT
Benjamin C. Dysart, III
Department of Environmental Systems Engineering
Clemson University
Clemson, South Carolina 29631
(803) 656-3276

SECRETARY-TREASURER
Clifford W. Randall
Department of Civil Engineering
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
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Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
(703) 951-6131

DIRECTORS

Francis A. DiGiano
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