

Message from the President

Billy Edge

John Fisher has served as the President of the Association for more than two successful years. I would like to personally and as President of ACE acknowledge the thought, ideas and work he has put into this organization. He has worked hard to get ACE off the ground and our 150 members are a testament that his efforts are succeeding. As John steps aside as President, we will have to work very diligently to carry out the plans he has laid out for the Association.

Momentum is gathering with this organization. We have had two years of continual growth since ACE became a reality and we are poised to accelerate our growth. In the first two years we held very successful annual meetings, focused on a plan for certification or registration, reviewed continuing education needs for coastal engineers and built the membership to a sustainable level. Clearly we have much more to do. However, rather than trying to tackle all the professional needs of the coastal engineer at once, we will focus our efforts on a few well defined targets that will bring significant rewards to the membership.

One of the most exciting areas we are working on this year is certification. The Certification Committee (Kevin Bodge, Dave Kriebel and John Fisher) presented an excellent approach and the Board approved further work to develop a detail plan for certification without examination and present that to the Annual Meeting in November. A summary of the committee's report is included in this newsletter. The Committee would like to have other members with a specific interest in certification join the Committee. In discussions with members of ACE it seems that this is the one most desired activity of the Association. Certification will certainly help coastal engineers identify the training and engineering experience they have acquired and use to plan, design and execute coastal projects for the welfare and safety of the public. It is our goal that all coastal states will adopt the certification and look to "certified" coastal engineers for their public works projects. Moreover, we see the local communities as well as federal entities using this as a criterion in selection of engineers and in regulation of coastal construction.

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Association of Coastal Engineers2770 NW 43rd Street, Suite B
Gainesville, Florida 32606<http://www.coastalengineers.org>**Tsunamis
A New Perspective for Coastal Engineers**

Nels Sultan

Tsunamis are a hazard of increasing concern throughout the coastal areas of the United States. While most engineers associate tsunami events with earthquakes, it is becoming increasingly clear that landslide events, not always associated with earthquakes, are another major cause of tsunamis. In some regions they are believed to be more common, and more hazardous overall, than the earthquake induced version.

Unfortunately, design guidance for the practicing coastal engineer is a little thin in the tsunami department. The most recent six-volume draft version of the Coastal Engineering Manual devotes the following one paragraph to tsunamis;

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Message from the President, (continued from page 1)

Our Third Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco, November 14th. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the CSBPA annual meeting that will honor the work of Professor Robert L. Wiegel. Both meetings will be very useful for the practicing engineer. Our two prior meetings have been on the east coast and we hope to attract many coastal engineers from the west coast to attend the next Annual Meeting. There have been suggestions to rotate the meeting site to the Gulf and Great Lakes coasts. The Board will look carefully at the ability to meet the needs of the membership with the location of our future meetings.

The ACE annual meeting in some ways looks like other professional meetings, but we are trying to focus on substantive presentations. Most of our presentations are from forty to fifty minutes to give the presenter time to explore the subject in sufficient detail to help the listener to adequately understand the material, method or concepts. The participant should be able to take away a concept, technique or tool that can be put into use when returning to the office.

This year we will also continue our efforts to expand our membership and also, very importantly, expand our presence. This will include conference co-sponsorships as before and presentations both oral and static at appropriate meetings. Your ideas on this are quite welcome.

The success of this Association and the accomplishment of your stated goals will depend heavily on the individual contributions made by our members. I encourage you to volunteer to help the ongoing efforts. Elsewhere in this newsletter are the committees of the Association and the person you could contact to inquire about what is happening now and how you can get involved. This organization is living on the dedication and hard work of many talented people. But, we need more members to offer their time and talents to support our goals.

Several people have inquired about topics that are indeed important and sensitive that I would like to address. First, there have been comments about ACE being exclusive in its membership. This is an association that has a goal to develop recognition for **engineers** that plan, design and construct projects in a coastal setting for the benefit and safety of the public. It is important to recognize the difference between the engineer and his contributions and the other professions involved in studies and analyses of coastal processes and policies. The latter is very important to the success of the engineer and we have a special category of membership for affiliate members to reinforce our relationship with those professions. But, ACE is really an organization that focuses on coastal engineering. Secondly, there is some confusion about the duplication of ACE with COPRI, the Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute of ASCE. Up to this time there has been no effort on the part of COPRI to place any emphasis on registration or certification of engineers. Although we have many mutual and overlapping interests, we do not have the same goals or even criteria for membership. COPRI has much to offer our members and I am sure most of us participate in their successful conferences and subscribe to their Journal. ACE is not prepared to undertake or duplicate those activities of COPRI. Likewise, COPRI cannot focus on the needs of its members like ACE has the capacity to do. Both organizations have a mission and at present there is little overlap.

Please join me in working to achieve the goals the membership has helped the Board to define through its attendance at our meetings and in the letters and email to members of the Board. Please contact our Committee Chairs (listed on the following page) and ask what you can do to help.

Coastal Engineering Certification

Executive Summary - Report to the Board of Directors
Kevin Bodge, David Kriebel and John Fisher

After review of various existing models of professional certification, we recommend that ACE consider development of Board Certification as a Coastal Engineer for individuals demonstrating current professional engineering licensure in a traditional engineering discipline, minimum specified requirements of education and experience, and professional references, but without a written examination. We also recommend that continuing education credits in coastal engineering be a requisite for renewal of certification. We recommend that a follow-on committee be formed to draft an implementation program.

TSUNAMIS - A NEW PERSPECTIVE FOR COASTAL ENGINEERS, (continued from page 1)

"They are sufficiently rare and unpredictable that they become a concern for design return periods of about 100 years or longer. Since most coastal engineering works are designed for return periods of 50 years or less, tsunamis can generally be omitted from the design." A new awareness of tsunami hazards suggests that such a blasé approach may no longer be justified. Research is ongoing in a number of areas to better understand the phenomenon. Improved numerical models are being developed by a number of researchers, including a group at the NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle, and by Professor Liu and his students at Cornell University. Also, a wave tank at Oregon State University is being improved to model tsunamis as part of the newly formed Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES). NEES is an initiative funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and tsunami research is an important element. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, the US Geological Survey and some state level agencies are also conducting research. Most of the research is oriented toward delineating tsunami inundation limits and tsunami hazard areas. Tsunami modeling tools at relatively fine resolution and applicable to specific projects are not readily available. The NEES initiative cites collaboration with practitioners and engineers as an important goal. NEES is unique in the sense that it is the first NSF funding program that includes engineers as part of its mandate. The success of this collaboration will be reported as the project progresses. To date tsunami research is clearly centered among oceanographers and scientists, and much of the research product has not been oriented to the needs of practicing coastal engineers.

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MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

John Fisher

We are all familiar with the old expression "there's good news and there's bad news". First the good news. Our new organization has grown to over 150 members. We can all take a great deal of pride in our accomplishments in bringing together this small group of coastal engineers who share in the goals of our new association. Our members recognize that there is a need for a national voice for the coastal engineering profession and are working together to make ACE a valued part of our profession. And now the bad news. Our new organization has only grown to 150 plus members. In order for ACE to succeed it must continue to expand its membership and to provide the services that will attract these new members. As ACE's first president I am pleased that we have come as far as we have, and I am disappointed that we have not gone further. All of us are going to have to work together to see that ACE continues to grow. We all know many more coastal engineers who are not members than who are. We each need to reach out to our colleagues and invite them to join us in this new enterprise. Our new President, Dr. Billy L. Edge has been instrumental in bringing us to our current level, and I am confident that with his leadership we will make significant advances during the coming years. I look forward to working with Billy and all of the ACE members as we continue to build our organization. My thanks to all of you who have helped in our efforts, and I challenge each of you to do even more to help make ACE an important part of our coastal engineering profession.

ACE appreciates submittals for the newsletter. Please send articles and news to one of the editors listed on the front page. The only requirements are that all submissions be related to coastal engineering and absolutely fascinating.

Upcoming Conferences and Events

May 5-8, 2002, Dredging '02: Third Specialty Conference on Dredging and Dredged Material Disposal, Orlando, Florida. Details are available at: <http://www.asce.org/conferences/dredging02/index.html>

May 13-15, 2002. AWRA 2002 Spring Specialty Conference on Coastal Water Resources, New Orleans, Louisiana. Details are available at <http://www.awra.org/>

July 7-12, 2002. ICCE 2002: The 28th International Conference on Coastal Engineering, Cardiff, Wales. Details are available at: <http://www.icce2002.com/>

Sept. 15-18, 2002. American Shore and Beach Preservation Association Annual Meeting: Portland, OR. Details are available at: <http://www.asbpa.org/2002conf.html>

September 22-26, 2002. Littoral 2002: Porto, Portugal. Details are available at: <http://www.fe.up.pt/eurcoast/en/index.html>

October 27 – 30, 2002. California and the World Ocean '02, Santa Barbara, CA. Details are available at: <http://www.resources.ca.gov/ocean>

November 14, 2002. **Association of Coastal Engineers Annual Conference:** San Francisco, California at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. Details will be available at: <http://www.coastalengineers.org>

November 15 and 16, 2002. California Shore and Beach Preservation Association Annual Meeting and Field Trip: the Robert L. Wiegel Symposium. San Francisco, CA. Details will be available at: <http://www.asbpa.org/2002conf.html>

November 17-20, 2002, First International Conference on Scour of Foundations, College Station, Texas. Details are available at: <http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/scour/>



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