Six from Southwest Among the Newly Elected to National Academy of Engineers

The National Academy of Engineering (NAE) recently announced the election of 77 new nationwide members and nine foreign associates. Election to the NAE is among the highest professional distinctions an engineer can achieve. Academy membership honors those with significant contributions to the field of engineering through their practices, literature and new advancements.

There are currently 2,138 U.S. members of NAE and 165 foreign associates. Among the newly elected, those from the Southwest who perform water-related research include:

**Glen T. Daigger**, Senior Vice President and Technology Director, CH2M Hill Inc., Greenwood Village, Colo. For combining the theory and practice of wastewater-nutrient control and for improving the practice of environmental engineering worldwide.

**Christine A. Ehlig-Economides**, Global Account Manager and Consultant, Schlumberger Oilfield Services, Houston. For contributions to the testing of wells and the characterization of reservoirs, including the management, integration, and visualization of data from multiple disciplines.

**Charles V. Jakowitz Jr.**, Manager, Signal Processing and Research Department, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, N.M. For innovations in synthetic-aperture radar-image processing critical to military applications and environmental monitoring.

**Roy E. Olson**, L.P. Gilvin Centennial Professor, Civil Engineering Department, University of Texas, Austin. For furthering our understanding of the properties of clays and for contributions to geotechnical engineering design.

**Soroosh Sorooshian**, Regents’ Professor of Hydrology and Water Resources and Director of the NSF Science and Technology Center at the University of Arizona in Tucson. For the development of flood-forecasting models used worldwide in hydrologic services.

**Harold J. Vinegar**, Senior Research Consultant, Shell International Exploration and Production Inc., Houston. For the invention and development of well logging, core analysis, and thermal methods of oil exploration and production and for environmental remediation.

Visit www.nae.edu

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**Shlomo P. Neuman Receives 2003 Horton Medal**

University of Arizona Regents’ Professor of Hydrology and Water Resources Shlomo P. Neuman has been named the 2003 Robert E. Horton Medalist by the American Geophysical Union (AGU). The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the geophysical aspects of hydrology. It was established in 1974 in honor of Horton’s contributions to the study of the hydrologic cycle. He is considered the father of modern hydrology.

Neuman’s fields of specialization are subsurface hydrology and contaminant transport. He has made seminal contributions to the areas of pumping test design and analysis, flow in multilayered geologic media, finite element simulation of subsurface flow and transport, estimation of aquifer parameters, fractured rock hydrology, peat hydrology, geostatistics, and stochastic analysis of heterogeneous geologic media. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, and a fellow of the American Geophysical Union and the Geological Society of America. He is a former associate editor of Water Resources Research and a member of the editorial board of Stochastic Hydrology and Hydraulics.


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**California Water Service Group Names New VP, CFO, and Treasurer**

On Feb. 26, the California Water Service Group Board of Directors appointed Richard D. Nye as Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, effective March 1, 2003. He will succeed Gerald F. Feeney, who is retiring.

Nye began his career in finance at Texas Instruments, Inc. working in the Consumer Products and Geophysical Services Groups. He subsequently held management positions at Halliburton Company and Frito-Lay, Inc. Prior to joining California Water Service Group, he served as Vice President of Finance and Administration and Acting Chief Financial Officer at Cornerstone Propane Partners, L.P.


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**Simunek, Burkstaller Join DBS&A**

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. (DBS&A) announced on Feb. 3 the addition of Jirka Simunek, Ph.D. and John Burkstaller to the firm. Simunek joined the firm as a Soil Scientist to enhance DBS&A’s capabilities in the numerical modeling of chemical and transport processes. Dr. Simunek has particular expertise modeling variably saturated porous media using the HYDRUS code.

Mr. Burkstaller joined DBS&A as Vice President of the firm’s Water Resources Division. Mr. Burkstaller has experience with water and wastewater treatment.
systems, water supply planning, water quality, and water rights issues. Most recently, he served as Chief Technical Officer for El Paso Water Utilities, managing planning, engineering, developer services, and project administration for the El Paso-area water and wastewater utility.


Merger in Southwest Hydrology

The publishing and scientific communities were abuzz in late March as two of the foremost powers in the industry combined forces. Betsy Woodhouse, hydrologist and publisher of *Southwest Hydrology* magazine, and Howard Grahn, CFO of *Southwest Hydrology*, and hydrologic consultant, joined forces in a private March 22 wedding at an undisclosed location in the Sonoran desert. Although the pair has worked in several cooperative projects in the past, this formal union is expected to set a high standard for both the scientific and publishing communities.

A spokesperson who asked to remain anonymous stated, “This merger is not unexpected by industry watchers, but it certainly raises the bar for all of us.” Others hailed the merger as “a much-needed move forward for science and information management.”

Glen Peterson Honored for Drinking-Water Quality Efforts

Glen D. Peterson, a director of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), recently received the Public Health Appreciation Award by the California Department of Health Services in recognition of his efforts to improve drinking-water quality and public health.

The award citation says, in part, “For the past five years, Mr. Peterson championed the issue of fluoridation before the Metropolitan board and has become an outstanding advocate. The Metropolitan board recently voted to fluoridate [water treated at] the district’s five treatment plants. Because of Mr. Peterson’s commitment and dedication, fluoridated water will be a reality for almost 18 million residents of Southern California.” Metropolitan board Chairman Phillip J. Pace commented, “Glen has served with distinction on Metropolitan’s board for 10 years, and has always been a strong advocate of drinking-water quality. His support of fluoridation was one of the persuasive factors in our board’s action.” Under Peterson’s leadership as chairman of the Metropolitan board’s communications committee in 1999-2000, Metropolitan launched award-winning pilot consumer information programs about water quality.

Visit www.mwdh2o.com

Richard E. Greene New EPA Region 6 Administrator

Effective March 31, Richard E. Greene became the new regional administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Region 6, which covers Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman cited Greene’s experience in urban issues, new technology and scientific research, and creation of public/private partnerships in appointing him to the position.

Greene most recently served as the executive director of the Arlington Technology Incubator, a joint venture between the Arlington Chamber of Commerce and the University of Texas at Arlington, created to move products from the laboratory to the marketplace. He also helped secure $2.3 million for workforce development and planning the construction of a facility to house emerging young technology companies that conduct research in the fields of biotechnology and nanotechnology.

Visit www.epa.gov/region6/

James Turner Reappointed to MWD Board

James F. Turner of Oceanside, Calif., was recently reappointed to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California’s (Metropolitan) Board of Directors. One of four representatives of San Diego County Water Authority, he will serve on Metropolitan’s engineering and operations committee; the budget, finance, and investment committee; and the desalination subcommittee.

Turner replaced Harold W. Ball, who retired from Metropolitan’s board. Turner had previously served on the board from January 1999 through December 2000.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies servicing 18 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies.

Visit www.mwdh20.com