Howard Pincus Named Technical Editor of GTJ

Editorial by Paul Knodel

Change is constant—and so it is that Howard Pincus has become the fourth Technical Editor of the Geotechnical Testing Journal (GTJ) beginning January 1, 1993. Howard was a professor at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee until his retirement. He now resides in San Diego, where he is a consultant. He is a long-time member of ASTM and of Committee D18, and he is very active in the geotechnical area.

It doesn’t seem possible, but it was three years ago that I took over the duties of Vincent Drnevich, who was the second Technical Editor of the Journal. The founder and first Technical Editor was Ernest Selig. Both Ernie and Vince have remained on the GTJ Editorial Board and have been staunch supporters of the Journal.

The first issue of the Geotechnical Testing Journal was published in March 1978, and the journal has been a success from the outset. After 15 years, the Journal is alive and well and still growing. GTJ originated when it was recognized that a great deal of valuable information on geotechnical testing existed but that there was no appropriate forum for dissemination. There has been a steady flow of spontaneous contributions and a significant subscription level from the beginning. The contributions have covered a wide variety of geotechnical topics such as laboratory and field test methods, material properties, instrumentation, model tests, analysis, behavior of road construction materials, and most recently, interactions and behavior of geosynthetics used in conjunction with earth and rock materials.

There are many reasons for the success of a publication, but several specific reasons make the Journal so successful. The many authors who submit the high quality papers that appear in each issue are certainly to be commended. I am most grateful to the Editorial Board for their advice and assistance whenever it was needed and for their responsiveness when deadlines loomed. Several members of the Board from countries outside the United States have been especially helpful in providing carefully reasoned thoughts on how operation of the Journal could be improved and in promoting the Journal in their countries. And last, but certainly not least, is the great support from the staff at ASTM headquarters, especially Kathy Dernoga, Manager of Acquisitions and Review, her former assistant Bette Grugan and current assistant Barbara Stafford, and Susan Gebremedhin, the former Editor, and David Jones, the current Editor. Bob Morgan, Staff Manager for Committee D18, has also been most helpful.

As Technical Editor I have enjoyed strong support from members of the D18 Executive Committee, especially from former Chairman of Committee D18 Woodie Shockley (deceased) and current Chairman Richard Ladd as well as from First Vice-Chairman Bob Stephenson. The Executive Committee has endorsed the several innovations, initiatives, and procedures needed to make the Journal function more smoothly. All publications in ASTM are under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Publications, and that Committee too has been very supportive of the Journal. GTJ has long been supported by Committee D4 on Road and Paving Materials, more recently by Committee D35 on Geosynthetics, and most recently by Committee D34 on Waste Management. The first two committees have a representative on the Editorial Board. The representative from D4 is Gilbert Baladi, and the representative from D35 is David Suits. A representative from D34 is being sought.

Since I became Technical Editor, the work of Committee D18 on Soil and Rock has changed and evolved significantly, primarily in activities such as marine geotechnics, waste management, groundwater, and soil as a medium for plant growth, all within D18. Because of these changes, the Scope of the Journal was recently changed to include these topics as well as those from Committee D34 on Waste Management and to broaden consideration of topics from Committee D35 on Geosynthetics so that papers on these subjects can be published in the Journal. Topics from Committee D4 were included in the original scope. Much of the work being performed by the supporting committees is of interest to the readership of GTJ.

The C. A. Hogentogler Award is given to the author or authors of a paper of outstanding merit on soil and rock published by ASTM. In the future, the Hogentogler Award winning paper will be published in the Journal annually if it did not originally appear in the Journal. The award winning paper for 1991 was reprinted in the March 1992 issue. Reprinting this paper in the Journal makes it available to many who may not have had access to it otherwise.

Howard J. Pincus (left) has been named to succeed Paul C. Knodel (right) as Technical Editor of the Geotechnical Testing Journal effective January 1, 1993. Dr. Pincus recently retired from the Department of Geosciences at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and now makes his home in San Diego, California.
Another innovation is the addition of a "New Books of Interest from ASTM" section near the Testing Forum section. This section is provided for those who may not have received notice of ASTM publications that may be useful to them. The Testing Forum section of the journal is used to present information not classified as refereed material. It contains progress reports on the work of D18 subcommittees, testing tips, and announcements of meetings and awards. This section is also used for letters to the Editor from readers. The Testing Forum is an excellent way for Journal subscribers, readers, and other members of ASTM committees to disseminate information to the profession, but is often underutilized. All are encouraged to use this section more!! There is a book review section in the journal also.

Being Technical Editor of GTJ has been interesting and challenging. One of the personal benefits is that the Technical Editor is the first to receive reports of new work being performed worldwide; the Journal is truly international in that nearly 45 percent of all the papers received for consideration for publication in the past three years were from authors outside the United States. Geotechnical engineering has advanced tremendously in recent years, especially in the areas of in situ testing, geosynthetics, (hazardous) waste management, and groundwater. Many exciting advancements and discoveries are sure to follow, and hopefully many of the new test procedures and methods will be documented and submitted for publication in the GTJ so that readers will always be informed of the latest developments.

It has been a privilege to serve as Technical Editor of the Journal and I thank you all for your support of the Journal. Best wishes to Howard Pincus as new Technical Editor.

—Paul Knodel

Editorial by Howard Pincus

Following in the footsteps of Technical Editors Selig, Drnevich, and Knodel is a great challenge to anyone. Having followed their activities closely, that challenge looms especially large for me.

That the Geotechnical Testing Journal has been in able hands is evident from the signs of its good health: the quality and scope of its papers, the geographical breadth represented by both authors and subscribers, a diverse and talented editorial board, and the journal's growing input of first-class papers. A diligent and energetic ASTM staff working closely with the Technical Editor has been a highly valued asset.

My primary objective as of January 1, 1993, when I take over as Technical Editor, will be to continue the good work that has preceded my efforts. With the recently approved and enlarged Scope of the Journal, there will also be increased opportunities to attract many good papers from fields such as hydrology, pedology, geotechnical fabrics, and rock mechanics and ice mechanics. It will also be feasible and appropriate to stimulate the writing of papers dealing with topics such as the adequacy and shortcomings of well-established and widely used standard test methods, technical case histories of geotechnical test methods in contractual disputes and in forensic proceedings, and the use of geotechnical standards in university teaching.

The Journal will surely grow in number of pages per issue or number of issues per year, and it is incumbent on those of us with editorial responsibilities to ensure that the Journal's high standard of quality be maintained. I close these comments with a commitment to strive to produce the Journal at the high level of quality achieved by my predecessors.

—Howard Pincus

Awards Presented by ASTM Committee D18

Kutter, Sathialingam, and Herrmann Receive C. A. Hogentogler Award

ASTM's C. A. Hogentogler Award has been presented to Bruce Kutter, Namasivayam Sathialingam, and Leonard Ralph Herrmann.

The award, established in 1953, recognizes an author or authors of a paper of exceptional merit on soil for engineering purposes published by the Society. The purposes of the award are to stimulate research, to encourage the extension of soil and rock, and to recognize meritorious effort.

Born in Karainager, Jaffna, Sri Lanka, Namasivayam Sathialingam is now a resident of Santa Ana, California. He is a graduate of the University of Moratuwa and the University of California at Davis, receiving a B.Sc., M.S., and Ph.D. in civil engineering. Sathialingam, who is a Senior Staff Engineer at Woodward-Clyde Consultants, is an associate member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Institute of Engineers (Sri Lanka), and Phi Kappa Phi.

Bruce L. Kutter is an associate professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and is associate director of the National Geotechnical Centrifuge at the University of California at Davis. Kutter, a resident of Davis, California, earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of California at Davis in soil mechanics and civil engineering. He received his M.Phil. and Ph.D. from Cambridge University. Kutter, a current member of the Society, is also a member of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering, and an associate member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Leonard Ralph Herrmann is a professor of civil and environmental engineering for the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of California, Davis. A resident of Davis, California, Herrmann earned his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in civil engineering. Herrmann is also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Please join us in congratulating these gentlemen on their fine contribution to the technical literature.

Woodland G. Shockley Memorial Award

Committee D18 on Soil and Rock established this award in January 1992 in honor of Woodland G. Shockley, a long-time contributor to ASTM and Committee D18 and past chairman of Committee D18. The first recipient is C. William Lovell (on the right in the photo), Professor of Civil Engineering at Purdue University and currently Vice Chairman of Committee D18. In his presentation of the award, Richard Ladd, stated that "this honor is given to you for your distinguished service to ASTM and the engineering profession. You have shared your research through many contributions to ASTM Special Technical Publications and the Geotechnical Testing Journal. Your services to Committee D18 include: active participation the formation of Subcommittee D18.18 on Peats and Organic Materials, including the chairmanship; and the formation of Subcommittee D18.19 on Frozen Soil and Rock, where you were the first chairman. A long time member of Subcommittee D18.97 on Special Awards, you originated the Standards Development Award. You also were the recipient of two such awards for D 4644 in 1988 and D 4879 in 1990. Your efforts also include training members of D18 by organizing and presenting workshops; being a member of the Executive Subcommittee, 1984-present; and being a Vice-Chairman of Committee D18, 1988-present."

Standards Development Awards

Six of these awards were announced. The first was to Amster Howard (not present) of the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, for D 5080-90, Test Method for Rapid Determination of Percent Compaction. James Mickam (right) with O'Brien and Gere Engineers, Inc. of Syracuse received the award for D 5088-90, Practice for Decontamination of Field Equipment Used at Nonradioactive Waste Sites.

Arthur A. Cohens (right, above) of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico and Tuncer Edil (not present) of the University of Wisconsin for D 1997-91, Test Method for Laboratory Determination of Fiber Content of Peat Samples by Dry Mass.


ASTM Symposium on Geosynthetic Soil Reinforcement Testing to Be Held in January

A Symposium on Geosynthetic Soil Reinforcement Testing Procedures will be held January 19, 1993 at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. This symposium is sponsored by ASTM standards-writing Committee D-35 on Geosynthetics.

The symposium provides a forum for presentation of state-of-the-art technologies and new developments in the testing of geosynthetics used for soil reinforcement. The topics addressed include the mechanical and durability properties of geosynthetic materials, analysis of reinforcement testing results, and evaluation of testing results in relation to the design. In situ testing and case studies are also included.

An exhibit of testing devices for geosynthetic reinforcement applications will also be held in connection with the symposium. All interested individuals are welcome to attend. The symposium fee is $65.00, which includes a copy of the resulting Special Technical Publication and symposium-related expenses. Membership in ASTM is not required. For a free program booklet containing registration and hotel information, contact Bob Held, ASTM, 1916 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1187, Tel: 215/299-5504.

The symposium will be held in conjunction with the January 19–21, 1993 standards development meetings of Committee D-35, and all symposium attendees are welcome to participate in these meetings.
For more information on the symposium, contact the symposium chairman: Dr. Shi-Chieh Jonathan Cheng, Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA 19104, Tel: 215/895-2996, Fax: 215/895-1363. Information is also available from Bob Held at the ASTM address above.

New ASTM Section on Navigation Dredging to Hold Organizational Meeting in January

At the request of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a new ASTM section, D18.13.05 on Navigation Dredging, is being formed by ASTM Subcommittee D18.13 on Marine Geotechnics. An organizational meeting will be held January 19, 1993 in San Antonio, Texas. D18.13 is a subcommittee of ASTM standards-writing Committee D-18 on Soil and Rock.

The need for standard terminology on dredging became apparent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during its recent revision of dredging policies and practices. As a result, the Corps requested that ASTM take on this standards activity, and terminology for dredging will be the initial emphasis of the new section.

A terminology standard will benefit Corps dredging personnel, the dredging industry, and the general public by creating a resource for a wide variety of terms.

All interested individuals are welcome to participate in the work of this new section. The organizational meeting on January 19 will be held in conjunction with the standards development meetings of Committee D-18 on January 17–22, 1993, also in San Antonio. Participation in the meetings of the subcommittee and the main committee is also welcomed.


Ivan Johnson Honored for Fifty Years of Service to ASTM

Ivan Johnson of Arvada, Colorado has been honored with an award plaque from ASTM recognizing 50 years of active service. Ivan’s wife, Betty, was also recognized for her 50 years of secretarial support for Ivan’s ASTM activities (see photo).

During the past 50 years, Johnson served actively on ASTM Standards Committees A1 on Steel, D18 on Soil and Rock, D19 on Water, D22 on Atmospheres, D34 on Waste Management, D35 on Geosynthetics, E50 on Environmental Assessment, E43 on SI Practice, and on many of their subcommittees. He also was an organizer or co-organizer of eight special ASTM Symposia: Soil Exploration (1963); Permeability and Capillarity (1966); Rock Mechanics (1966); Hydraulic Barriers (1984); Remote Sensing and Remote Data Transmission (1986); Ground Water Contamination—Field Methods (1986); Ground Water and Vadoze Zone Investigations (1988); and GIS and Mapping—Practice and Standards (1990). He was Editor or Co-Editor of nine ASTM Special Technical Publications 351, 402, 412, 417, 874, 963, 967, 1053, and 1126, and contributed papers to several other STPs. He also prepared six D18 standards, which are still active today.

Johnson served for six years as Chairman of Committee D18 on Soil and Rock and member or chairman of many of the D18 subcommittees, three years as a member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees for ASTM’s subsidiary—the Institute for Standards Research, three years on the ASTM Board of Directors, Chairman of several Board committees, an officer of the Environmental Coordinating Council, and member of the Committee on Terminology. He presently serves as Chairman of Committee D18’s Subcommittee on Surface and Subsurface Characterization, which has sections on standards for Site Characterization, Geophysics, Remote Sensing, Remote Data Transmission, GIS and Mapping, Geostatistics, and Global Change.
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