

NORTH AMERICAN GEOSYNTHETICS SOCIETY

Chapter of the International Geosynthetics Society

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2004 YEAR END REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 2004 has been an active year for your Board of Directors with many activities aimed at solidifying and strengthening the future of the Chapter. You have previously read summaries of a planning retreat which was held early in the year at which new Vision and Mission Statements were developed, and a set of attainable goals were set. Work is well underway on several of these.

- 1) A position description for Executive Director has been developed and accepted by the Board. A Call for Applications is being prepared.
- 2) An agreement has been reached to work with the Geosynthetics Institute on a conference in December 2005 in Las Vegas, NV. The Call for Abstracts will be issued before the end of the year.
- 3) We are a Cooperating Organization for the ASCE / Geo-Institute Geo-Frontiers Conference in late January 2005 in Austin, TX. I, along with Sam Allen, a Vice President of NAGS, served on the organizing committee. Sam served as co-chairperson of the committee.
- 4) In reviewing the North American membership of the IGS, it was noted that there are numerous North American IGC members that are not listed as members in NAGS. A letter of invitation to join NAGS is being sent out.
- 5) There are preliminary discussions taking place on the possibility of a Pan-American conference with the South Americans in 2007 or 2008.

Other activities during the year have included:

- 1) The first instalment of the 2003 Award of Excellence from the 2003 Conference with the Canadian Geotechnical Society has been made. The second will be made shortly after the New Year, and the final payment later in 2005 with receipt of the research report. A paper is to be presented on the work, at the Las Vegas Conference.
- 2) The Chapter was well represented at the GeoAsia Conference, in June, in Seoul, Korea with the Mercer Lecture given by Dr. Richard Bathurst, Dr. Kerry Rowe giving one of the keynote lectures, and participation in the student session by the student winner of NAGS 2003 Student Competition, Fadzilah Saidin.
- 3) Continued recruitment of Student membership, now at 125.

Member Recognition

- 1) Dr. Shobha Bhatia, a Vice President of NAGS, was recognized in March 2004 by the Technology Alliance of Central New York as their Technology Educator of the Year. This followed an award received in 2003 from the International Network for Engineering Education and Research, recognizing Dr. Bhatia, "For Excellence in Fostering Sustained and Unique Collaborations in International Research and Education."

As we move into the New Year there are numerous opportunities for you, the membership, to take an active participation. As indicated above, abstracts are being solicited for the Las Vegas Conference; shortly an announcement of the availability of a limited number of table top display spaces for this conference will be made; there will be a need for paper reviewers, session leaders, etc., at the conference. If it turns out that the Pan-American conference is a go, much help will be needed there in similar ways. You can also act as a new member recruiter by promoting and advertising NAGS to those who may not know about us. You can direct people to the WEB site at www.nagsigs.org.

I hope each of you have a safe and Happy Holiday Season, and good New Year.

L. David Suits, President