



**Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists
Kansas City/Omaha Section
June 2012**

Join us in June

Dr. **JeJung Lee**, Associate Professor of Hydrogeology at the UMKC Department of Geosciences will speak to the KC/O Section after a tasty meal of barbecue. Dr. Lee (“J.J.” to his students) has offered a presentation on June 25 at **Zarda’s**, located 11931 West 87th Street Parkway in Lenexa, Kansas. The topic will be announced soon.

Social hour begins at **5.30 pm**. Dinner is served at **6.00 pm**. Don’t worry if you happen to run late, you’ll still be in time for the presentation at **7.00 pm**. Student cost for the event \$5. The price for members is \$20. Because the section offers students reduced cost for registration at sections meetings, the section is requesting that attendees consider a voluntary contribution to offset the cost of student registrations.

See you there!

Urban Landslides

Did you know damage to your home by landslide is NOT covered by home insurance? **Dr. Scott Burns** spoke to AEG in April about the mechanisms that cause landslides, and why we need to understand them to protect our investments. Fifteen people attended the presentation at O’Niell’s Restaurant in Leawood, Kansas.



Pictured left to right: JJ Lee, Beatty Hean, Scott Burns, and Alla Skaskevych at O’Niell’s on April 9, 2012.

Dr. Burns began his day at **UMKC**, speaking first at the Annual Environmental Forum, then at the Geoscience Seminar. Two students, Alla Skaskevych and Beatty Hean, and Dr. JeJung “J.J.” Lee, Associate Professor in the Department, followed Dr. Burns to Leawood to hear the landslide presentation.

Then on April 10th, Dr. Burns took his presentation to Lawrence to speak at KU.

News from the UMKC Student Chapter

The University of Missouri–Kansas City (UMKC) Student Chapter of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG) is comprised of President Kelsey Weiler, Vice President Harris Gbomina and Secretary Deanna Ketner. Student members are active both within UMKC and the community.

One such community project involving the AEG is the Geoscience Career Opportunities Program, or GCOP for short. This program was recently started by Deanna Ketner. It aims to provide students with knowledge of possible careers in the geosciences. Students are encouraged to become members of the student chapter of the AEG, which provides the funding necessary to support the tours scheduled in September 2012. As AEG members, students will be provided the first opportunity to apply for internships, not only with companies involved in the tour, but others that support AEG initiatives. As of today, about 10 companies are currently on the schedule for September: Ripple Glass, Hallmark, ReStore, Deffenbaugh, Douglas Smith Wastewater Treatment and Gas Plant, Mid-America Regional Council, Honeywell, Burns & McDonnell, Cultivate KC and the USGS. The diversity of companies is important to the tours as UMKC students are involved in Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, Geology and Engineering. These disciplines and work together and the goal of UMKC is to encourage that attitude, understand other disciplines and make a difference in the world we live.

In addition to student initiatives, guest speakers often come to UMKC to share their experiences within the geological field. Their expertise provides insights to the Geoscience students. In the Spring 2012 semester we were honored to have presentations by Ms. Jennifer Bauer, consultant from North Carolina and current president of the national AEG, and Dr. Scott Burns, current professor of geology at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon and recipient of the Jahns Scholarship.

Ms. Bauer visited in March and spoke to students about the applications of remote sensing and geographic information systems in preventing landslide disasters. She discussed the formation of a database with various photos and correlating data for use in future investigations.



Pictured left to right: Deanna Ketner, Jennifer Bauer, Kelsey Weiler and Harris Gbomina.

Dr. Scott Burns came in April and shared his experiences as a forensics engineering geologist in working with the prevention and detection of landslide disasters. He also enlightened the group as to how soil geology affects the make-up of wine. For example, in order to produce the sweetest or best fruit, the energy of the plant must be focused upon reproduction rather than growth of foliage. The soil must have just enough, but not too many of the essential elements needed for plant growth in order to focus on reproduction. Soil drainage, pH and salinity also play important roles in winemaking.

Through the AEG, students are exposed to new ways of thinking about old problems and are gaining new perspectives in types of jobs available to them upon graduation. Our chapter is a very important part of the school and community and we are proud to be AEG members.

*Deanna Ketner, Secretary
UMKC Student Chapter*

Kansas State Board of Technical Professions – Statute Revisions

You've probably heard by now. The Board of Technical Professions is working to revise the statutes that affect professional engineers, surveyors, geologists, architects and landscape architects. Many of the changes involve updating language and numbering of the statutes to provide consistency and readability. Definitions of the professions will be revised for clarity, and definitions for responsible charge, standard of care, "in-active" status and "Emeritus" status of licensees will be added.

Rules and regulations pertaining to the conduct of licensees will also be updated to assist the Board in identifying violations and conducting the business of the Board. For instance, a section will be added which provides immunity from civil liability to those who provide information to the Board leading to the prosecution of violators.

A draft of the statute revisions will be completed in May 2012, then will go to the State Revisor of Statutes and the Attorney General's Office. The statutes will be introduced into the House and Senate for consideration in the 2013 legislative session.

Important Notes from the KC/O Section Chair

I just wrapped up 8 weeks of pile inspection in central Michigan and returned to wonderful spring weather in the Kansas City area. We were fortunate at the Michigan site that the rain was a minimum and mostly overnight and on weekends. Thus, the project is ahead of schedule. While in Michigan, I took a weekend off and travelled to the Mid-year Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG) Board of Directors meeting in Asheville, NC. The weather was spring-like and the mountain laurel was in bloom. It was a great time to be in the mountains of North Carolina.

I wish I could say that the sunny and green conditions during my visit to the mountains carried into the discussions at the Board meeting. Unfortunately, the national AEG is having financial troubles. We are not in dire straits, yet, but we are headed in that direction. Several years ago as we came out of another recession, the Board established the Treasurer's Reserve, funds that could be used to carry the association through hard times. Several months ago, the association made a temporary withdrawal of funds to support the operating expenses of the association. The association has not been able to repay the funds by the deadline established when the Treasurer's Reserve was established. Now, the association is prepared to make a second temporary withdrawal from the funds. This is not good. Below are few ways we can help alleviate the problem.

Membership

If you have been somewhat absent minded, and have not paid your 2012 dues, you should get current.

If you know someone who is on the absent minded side, convince them to get current. We will be contacting members who are not current in the next several months.

If you know someone who is not a member, encourage them to attend a section meeting where they will meet other professionals and hopefully decide to join.

We need to convince students who have graduated and are gainfully employed to become full members of the association.

We need to increase the distribution of our section meeting announcements. I do provide a copy of the announcement to the Kansas City ASCE Geotechnical Group. Are there other organizations that might distribute announcements?

Attendance at National Meetings

The other source of funding for the association is the Annual Meeting. This year, the annual meeting is in Salt Lake City, which has beautiful scenery, wonderful geology, fieldtrips, short courses, and other events. Please consider attending the meeting. More information on the meeting can be found at the AEG website: www.aegweb.org. Talk with coworkers and non-members about the annual meeting.

While this next item does not help the finances of the national association, attendance at section meetings will help the finances of the section. We have a meeting coming up in June (see information below). Please consider attending and networking with local engineering geologists.

Outreach to Distant Kansas City/Omaha Section Members

One thing we need to address is how we can better support association members who are not in the Kansas City area. Our section boundaries extend from North Dakota to Oklahoma and Arkansas. What are the needs of these members? How can we get them value for their membership? How can we encourage environmental and engineering geologists in these areas to join the association and be active members?

I want to thank everyone for the wonderful support the Kansas City/Omaha section has had in the past, and I'm looking forward to continued support from the membership.

Gregory C. Ohlmacher, PhD, P.G.

Kansas City/Omaha Section Chairperson

AEG 2012 National Meeting

The 2012 National Meeting of the AEG will be in Salt Lake City, Utah, September 15th through 23rd. See Zion, Bryce Canyon, or a copper mine, or Lake Bonneville...and those are just portions of the five field trips scheduled. Go to **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** <http://aegweb.org/home/professionals/meetings-and-events/aeg-annual-meeting/2012-salt-lake-city>

to find out more about the events scheduled.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Geological Society of America 2012 Meetings

The GSA Rocky Mountain Section invites all to attend and participate in the Annual Section Meeting coming in May 2012 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There are several theme sessions on environmental and engineering geology topics, which can be found at www.geosociety.org/Sections/rm/2012mtg/techProg.htm.

The National GSA Annual Meeting will be held in early November 2012 in North Carolina. (www.geosociety.org/meetings/2012). Proposed sessions at this meeting are focused on insights into geologic

processes and hazards acquired through recent advances in technology. This year marks the 65th anniversary of the Environmental & Engineering Geology Division and GSA will be highlighting this accomplishment!

Environmental & Engineering Geoscience (E&EG)

Sponsored by the Department of Geology at Kent State University, E&EG is a journal published jointly by GSA and AEG that offers:

- 4 issues per year
- All papers are peer reviewed
- Best Paper Award
- Best Student Paper Award

E&EG journal invites your manuscript based on novel case histories and original research dealing with the following disciplines:

- Environmental geology
- Engineering geology
- Geotechnical engineering
- Geomorphology
- Low-temperature geochemistry
- Applied hydrogeology
- Near-surface processes

Instructions for Authors are available at <http://eeg.allentrack.net/>

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Check out our website at: <http://www.aegweb.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=3439>