

ARMA 2009 Highlights

The American Rock Mechanics Association (ARMA, www.armorocks.org) continues to help shape and respond to issues of national interest and concern including carbon sequestration, energy resource production, civil engineering infrastructure, and research and development through the proposed Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory. These opportunities were discussed (and in one session debated) at the 43rd US Rock Mechanics Symposium in Asheville, North Carolina in June 2009.

Stimulating keynote addresses were delivered by Derek Elsworth, who delivered the first MTS Lecture on *Geomechanics Through the Alchemist's Prism Complex Process Couplings Related to Deep Geologic Sequestration and Energy Recovery*; Sid Green on *Rock Mechanics/Geomechanics from an Energy Perspective*; William Ayers on the *National Energy Technology Laboratory's Extreme Drilling Laboratory*; and Rick Wooten on the *Geology and Geohazards in Western North Carolina*. The ARMA Fellows discussed *What Does the Future Hold for Rock Mechanics*. Finally, Maurice Dusseault and Jean Claude Roegiers went at it at the first *Bicker and Beer* debate! Presentations can be found at http://216.119.67.159/resources_asheville2009.html



Martin Suarez from Olympus High School in Salt Lake City is recognized at the Asheville 2009 banquet as the youngest presenter at a US rock mechanics symposium. His paper, developed with his father Roberto Suarez-Rivera, was titled *Water Imbibition in Oilfield Rocks and Applications to Oil Recovery*

ARMA Fellows

Four ARMA members were tapped to join the ARMA Fellows at the Asheville symposium. The ARMA Fellows program recognizes individuals who have achieved outstanding accomplishments in the area of rock mechanics and who have contributed to the professional community through ARMA. The 2009 Fellows are: Ahmed Abou-Sayed, Don Banks, Derek Elsworth, and John Hudson.



2009 ARMA Fellows (l to r): Don Banks, 2008 Fellow Sid Green, Ahmed Abou-Sayed, Derek Elsworth, 2008 Fellow Jean Claude Roegiers. John Hudson is not pictured and will receive his medal at the 44th US Rock Mechanics Symposium in Salt Lake City in June.

Awards

The 2009 ARMA Awards were also given out at Asheville. Recipients were:

- Rock Mechanics Research Award: *Laboratory Study of Hydrothermal Deformation in Unconsolidated St. Peters Quartz Sand*; Stephen Karner, Andreas Kronenberg, Judith Chester, Frederick Chester, Andrew Hajash.
- Applied Rock Mechanics Research Award: *Fractured Rock Hydromechanics: from Borehole Testing to Solute Transport and CO₂ Storage*; Chin-Fu Tsang, Jonny Rutqvist, Ki Bok Min
- Applied Rock Mechanics Research Award: *A Risk Evaluation Approach for Pit Slope Design*; Luis-Fernando Contreras, Peter Terbrugge, Oskar Steffen, Julian Venter

- Case History Award: *Microseismic Monitoring of a Controlled Collapse at Ocnele Mari, Romania*; Cezar Trifu, Vladimir Shumila.



Cezar Trifu and Vladimir Shumila receive the 2009 Case History Award from Awards Committee chair Don Banks and ARMA President Sarah Wilson.

Other ARMA Activities and News

- The National Science Foundation, Office of International Science and Engineering and the Directorate for Engineering awarded ARMA a two-year grant to establish an exchange program with rock mechanics faculty in Afghanistan. Four faculty from Afghanistan will attend the 44th US Rock Mechanics Symposium in [Salt Lake City 2010](#).
- The ARMA Digital Library now includes most U.S. rock mechanics symposium proceedings. OnePetro manages the library for the Society of Petroleum Engineers. Corporate subscriptions are now offered. See: www.onepetro.org
- ARMA continues to work with the National Science Foundation on the proposed Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory that, if funded, will be located at the former Homestake Mine in Lead, South Dakota. Geomechanics and rock engineering will be one of the components of the laboratory facilities as will be the construction of the underground facilities in jointed rock mass.

- ARMA subscribes to the Engineering and Science Career Network, a service that links employers with potential employees. Many engineering and science professional societies are part of the network. If you are looking for work or need to hire, check out: <http://careers.armorocks.org/>
- At its meeting in October 2009, the board of ARMA elected the following officers:
The board elected the following directors to officer positions:
 - President: Azra Tutuncu
 - Vice President: Mark Zoback
 - Treasurer: Bill Dershowitz
 - Secretary: Rico Ramos Chair of the Board: Sarah Wilson (as immediate past president)
 - Executive Committee Member at Large Member: David Yale