United States

The American Rock Mechanics Association (ARMA, www.armarocks.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

caption: 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
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.

[caption: 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.

[Caption: 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](http://www.arma.org/symposium/).

- 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](http://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.armarocks.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

Canada

The Canadian Rock Mechanics Association (CARMA - http://www.carma-rocks.ca/) serves as the ISRM’s National Group for Canada. Members are from CARMA’s two constituent groups, the Rock Mechanics Division of the Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS), and the Society for Rock Engineering of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (CIM). A combined total of 259 CIM (163) and CGS (93) members paid for membership into CARMA and the ISRM in 2008. A combined total of 237 CIM (152) and CGS (85) members paid for membership into CARMA and the ISRM in 2009 (2009 count is based on October numbers. Few will more members are expected to join in November and December).

CARMA’s recent and ongoing activities have included:

- Sponsorship and organization of the 3rd Canada-U.S. Rock Mechanics Symposium & 20th Canadian Rock Mechanics Symposium, held in Toronto, Canada on May 9-15, 2009, which included over 90 papers, and attracted an international audience of 200 participants.
- The Canadian Rock Mechanics Association (CARMA), comprised of the Rock Engineering Society (RES) of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM) and the Rock Mechanics section of the Canadian Geotechnical Society, has proposed to host the 13th ISRM Rock Mechanics Congress in 2015 in Montreal, Canada.
A proposal package was presented during May, 2009 at SINOROCK 2009, the 2009 ISRM-Sponsored International Symposium in Hong Kong, by Dr. Ferri Hassani, of McGill University, who will be Chair of this proposed event. The decision will be taken at 2010 ISRM symposium in India. This initiative has the support of Canadian industry, the Federal Government of Canada, the Provincial Government of Quebec, and of academia from across Canada. Furthermore the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM) has offered to collaborate fully and to contribute to the organization of this event. Using a successful outreach model that has been deployed by the CIM for the past several years, the national and provincial associations that relate to the earth sciences sector will also undertake participatory measures that can enhance effective marketing campaigns in order to boost attendance.

**Awards**

- Peter Kaiser (CEMI) was awarded with the Rock Mechanics Award from the Rock Engineering Society of CIM during the ROckEng09 symposium held in Toronto.
- Douglas Stead (Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC) was awarded the Canadian Geotechnical Society’s 2009 Franklin Award for contributions made in the fields of rock mechanics and rock engineering. Established in 1993, the Award honours the past President of the International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM), John A. Franklin.

**Projects**

- Peter Kaiser (CEMI) is instrumental in developing a multidisciplinary international research project that focuses on studying fault slip mechanisms in situ.
- CARMA has formed a partnership with the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM) to support future Canadian rock mechanics symposia by organizing the meetings in conjunction with the CIM’s Annual Conference and Exhibition. This partnership will help to strengthen and highlight the important role of rock mechanics in the continuing success of the Canadian mining industry. After Toronto 2009, the next event will be in 2012 in Edmonton, Alberta.