

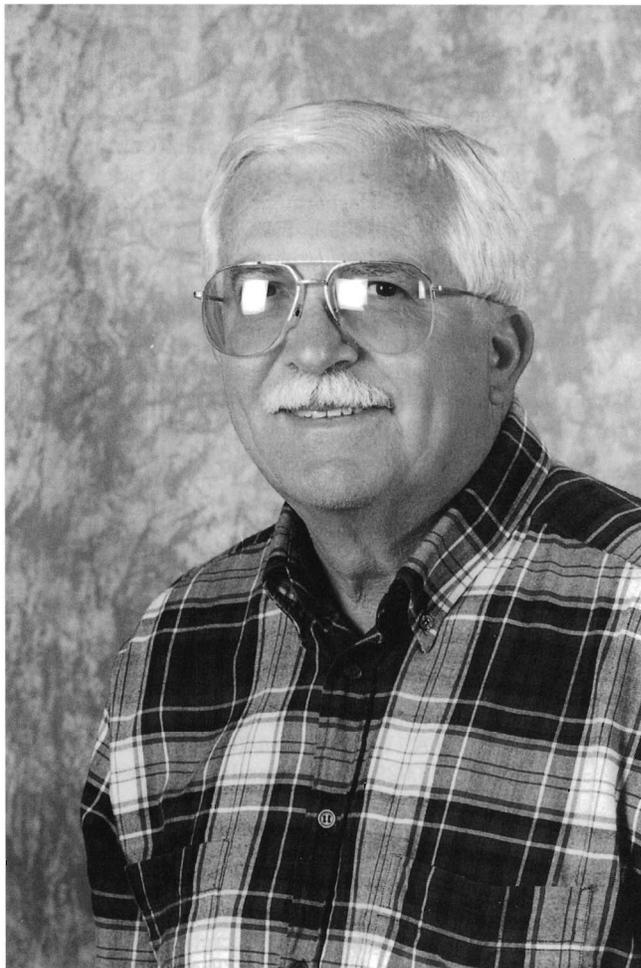


NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richard A. Davis Retires as JCR Associate Editor

Richard "Skip" Davis retires with this issue of the JCR as Associate Editor (AE) for Coastal Geological Processes. Skip was a reviewer of scientific manuscripts submitted to the JCR for many years, probably the better part of the last decade. Having officially served on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Coastal Research* since 1997, Skip was in charge of the peer review process for probably several hundred manuscripts that were submitted to the JCR. His oversight and experience, personal contacts with coastal specialists around the world, and wide experience enabled Skip to provide high quality vetting for contributions. The coastal research community is indebted to Skip Davis for his gratis service as an editor and reviewer to the JCR and we give him a collective "thank you" for his kind support, interest, and stewardship. It is uncommon for contributors to benefit so much from long years of academic and professional performance as exhibited by Skip Davis.

It is perhaps worth while taking a moment to reflect on the role of Associate Editors in general. Sometimes, what is obvious to one observer is not evident to another looking from a different point of view. With that thought in mind, it should be clear that it would not be possible to produce the high quality papers that appear in the JCR if it were not for the unstinting and unselfish service of the Associate Editors. The AEs provide an essential service to both researchers and the journal; they additionally constitute a critical link or focal point in the chain of command from the Editor-in-Chief to the regular editorial board members. The AEs conduct the peer review process from manuscript receipt to final adjudication of the revised papers. There is often considerable correspondence that involves peer reviewers and authors. Additionally, there is the matter of manuscript tracking and general housekeeping chores of maintaining an editor's office. Most of us are familiar with reviewers who do not respond within the suggested time frame for evaluation of a contributed work, for various reasons, and authors who regrettably become stressed with overdue reports that they should have received sooner. There are also pressures of one's own work that must be conducted as part of normal routines and so some editorial responsibilities become an overarching burden on the editor's time, effort, and level of energy. To that last comment we might add *patience*, which is a real virtue when one is an editor. Everything comes in its own time, but authors some times have different ideas about what constitutes a speedy review! Authors who become editors soon better understand the problems that are involved in securing timely reviews from busy researchers and peripatetic professors traveling around the world. In short, an Associate Editor has a large responsibility to keep the review process moving smoothly so there is a more or less even flow of papers for publication. Last, but not last, AEs must be diplomatic and



sensitive to the needs and concerns of both reviewers and authors. The job is, in a sense, a balancing act that can become quite complicated at times. Skip Davis exhibited all of these good qualities and we are pleased to have worked with him on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Coastal Research*.

Speaking on behalf of the JCR Editorial Board and the many coastal researchers that Skip has assisted in the course of his editorial duties, we give him our heartfelt words of thanks. We wish him well in his retirement, an adventure where no grass will grow under his feet, except on the golf course, of course!

Charlie Finkl
West Palm Beach, Florida