

2001 FOUNDERS AWARD

The American Institute of Hydrology (AIH) established this award in 1990 to honor the founders of AIH, Sandor C. Csallany, Roman Kanivetsky and Alexander Zaporozec, for their initiative and vision in forming the Institute. The award is given at the discretion of the AIH Executive Board to a member of AIH for outstanding, long, and dedicated service to the Institute. The first AIH Founders Award was presented to Ralph C. Heath at the 10th Anniversary Meeting of the American Institute of Hydrology in Orlando on November 4, 1991.

Citation Alexander Zaporozec

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, ten years have passed since we gave the first Founders Award. Today, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary, we honor another of the AIH “pioneers”, without whom the AIH would not be where it is now--Verne H. Scott, Professor Emeritus, University of California at Davis.

Dr. Scott spent his long and distinguished career with the UC Davis, where he began as a technician on a watershed runoff program, after receiving an M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1948. Then he became an assistant professor, and after several years took a leave to complete his Ph.D. at the Colorado State University. In 1959, he returned to Davis and taught numerous courses in water resources and hydrological sciences, and trained many students for the next 30 years. Besides having a busy teaching load, he was very active outside his immediate work environment. For example, he helped the university in the development of the Campus Internship Program and of the Independent Study Program.

After retiring from the UC Davis in 1989, Dr. Scott worked as a consultant and completed a number of projects in the U.S. and abroad. However, his consulting in water sciences gradually faded out, and gave way to consulting in sports management. Besides work in sports and fitness organizations, he also became a quite accomplished athlete. Together with his son, Dave, he started competing in triathlons, and participated in these races for some 20 years until a knee surgery three years ago.

Verne has also actively participated and held a number of offices in several scientific and technical societies (ASCE, ASAE, and NWWA). He became AIH member early in its beginnings and almost immediately became involved in AIH activities and operations. First, he served on the Task Force on Professional Evaluations, which was set up to help the Registration Board with the evaluation of a large number of applications received in 1983-84. He was appointed Chairman of the Registration Board on July 1, 1984 and served in that function until April 1, 1986. Although he served less than two years, he was instrumental in eliminating the backlog of initial applications and he introduced improved procedures for the evaluation of applications. More than 500 applications passed through his hands, and each of them received his personal attention. In addition, since January 1997 he has served on the AIH Advisory Board.

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Thanks to his efforts, diligence, and management skills during the critical period of AIH growth, the Institute took off and quickly grew from 100 in 1983 to 540 in 1986. The growth and development of AIH would not have been possible without him and other recipients of the Founders Award--Ralph Heath, Doug James, John Moore, Joe Rosenshein, Ken Brooks, Jack Sharp, Brook Kraeger, and Darryll Pederson--who deeply believed in the AIH purpose and mission and were willing to give 100 percent of themselves to this goal. Verne, thank you very much! I am grateful that I had an opportunity to become acquainted with you and enjoy your company.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor and privilege to present to you the 2001 recipient of the AIH Founders Award, Verne H. Scott.

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Appendix C

Response: *Verne H. Scott*

A "Founders" day or award has special meaning to many.

In the case of the founders of the United States, it was a group of individuals who had the vision and goals to establish the basic framework for a new institution and a Constitution that we all enjoy.

Approximately 200 years later, a small group of professional people had the vision and wisdom to establish the American Institute of Hydrology (AIH). They were willing to take some risks. They had limited resources and incurred personal financial losses to move forward. The process was difficult and painful at times. It had to compete with other professional, long standing organizations. It was not easy to champion the virtues and identification of the science of hydrology. Nevertheless, they established a new, professional organization that has gained credibility and stature over the years

The credit for founding the American Institute of Hydrology goes to Sandor Csallany, Roman Kanivetsky and Alexander Zaporozec. I and others salute you. Many, like me, have followed over the years to contribute brick and mortar to the basic framework established 20 years ago.

My vantage point for observing and being apart of the evolution of hydrology began in 1948 when I started my academic and professional career with the University of California at Davis. It was a combination of diverse activities involved in teaching, research, public service and consulting.

In teaching I had the opportunity to work and learn with students, and to have the tremendous satisfaction of seeing them go out into the field of hydrology and make significant contributions. The Institute has and should continue to provide more ways for participation of students in its activities. This is a win-win situation for the students and AIH. In addition more faculty need to be alerted to the awareness and advantages of student members in AIH and to encourage students to be involved.

In the mid 50's I was a member of a small group of faculty from universities across the country that organized the University's Council of Hydrology (UCOH), which later become the Council of Water Resources (UCOWR). These organizations helped to identify the importance and science of hydrology, and the American Institute of Hydrology was one highly successful and significant result.

It has been gratifying for me to witness the growth and maturity of AIH through its' international activities, awards, registration and certification process, academic affairs including students and the overall development of the Institute. These are commendable and deserve support of the entire membership.

I am proud to have been a part of the Institute for the past 20 years and am grateful and appreciative for being a recipient of the Institute's Founders Award.