



THE AEG INSIDER

Alaska presidential visit

By Gary Luce

In early October, I was able to visit the Alaska Section, which has been struggling to hold meetings since the Annual Meeting was held there in 2011. My trip included visiting University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Alaska, Anchorage as well as Alaska Pacific University also in Anchorage. My message to the students was the incredible demand for geoscientists that is being projected due to the retirement of the baby boomer generation over the next ten years and the increasing awareness of the engineering and environmental sustainability to society.

The Section Meeting in Anchorage was very well attended with a presentation on **“A Comparison of Submarine Landslides in South Central Alaska Triggered by the 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake”** by **Dr. Peter J. Haeussler** - U.S. Geological Survey, Anchorage. The 1964 Alaska M9.2 earthquake triggered numerous submarine slope failures in fjords of southern Alaska. The talk highlighted the mapping of the submarine landslides and the associated on-shore shaking and tsunami impacts. The talk was incredibly interesting to me, especially noting the 50-year anniversary of the event is this coming year. The fact that we are still learning from the event says a lot about how much we can learn from case studies and why we as AEG emphasize this type of learning!

All in all the Section has new leadership and I think we can expect to see the Section flourish again over the next few years. Special thanks go to my hosts, Dr. Debu Misra in Fairbanks and Brian Mullen and Eric Cannon in Anchorage who made my visit seamless and a great experience. Thanks also to the Section Chapter Support Committee and particularly to Cynthia Palomares (Chair) for assisting in putting this visit and the technical program for the Section meeting together.



Photo: *H and Pipe Piles Meet Permafrost!* (From the lobby of the Geological Engineering Department, Uof A, Fairbanks)