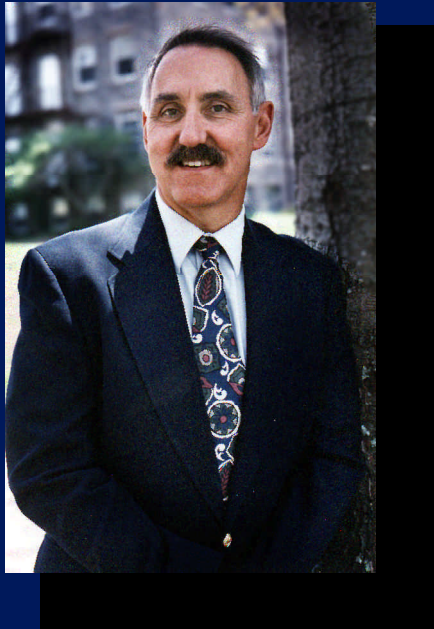


EDUCATION & OUTREACH

2002 Student of the Year, Oran Viator



Oran (Skip) Viator completed his Ph. D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering in May, 2002. As a doctoral candidate, Skip participated in two URI Transportation Center research projects. The first studied chemical contaminants in the sediments off Quonset Point Rhode Island, the proposed site of a major cargo / passenger port for which dredging would be required. The characterization of the contaminants within this area was essential to determine if there were toxic constituents present that could be re-suspended in the water column by dredging.

Skip was the primary trace metal analyst for all samples collected during the project. The second was the "Contamination of Urban Lakes by Storm Runoff from Highway and Railway Drainage Systems." This project studied surface sediments, radiometrically dated cores, and water samples collected during and after wet weather events to document both historical and modern contamination inputs to the lakes. Skip participated in the wet weather field portion of this study, directing the sample site selection, site preparation, public and private coordination and training of all personnel involved in the wet weather study. His untiring efforts and attention to detail in both projects were major factors in the successes of the work. Additionally, he conducted and supervised the analysis of over 180 samples for 22 separate constituents. The results of this research will be instrumental in the future design of storm drainage systems within the watersheds of urban lakes. Prior to beginning his work at URI, Skip was a career Naval Flight Officer.

The URITC is honored to have Oran Viator as its 2002 Outstanding Student of the Year.