

the news



**PHILADELPHIA SECTION
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS**

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National ASCE Central Number 1-800-548-ASCE • Toll Free

The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE

Our 94th Year

Vol. 79-5

February 2007

FEBRUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, New Jersey Section, South Jersey Branch and
American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2007

Crowne Plaza Hotel • 2349 W. Marlton Pike (Route 70) at Cuthbert Road, Cherry Hill, NJ
Cocktails 5:30 PM • Dinner 6:30 PM • Meeting Presentation Follows

SUBJECT: Engineers Without Borders

SPEAKER: Student Groups from Rowan University and Villanova University

RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2. All reservations should be made through ASCE South Jersey Branch's reservations system. The Philadelphia Section will NOT be accepting any reservations for this meeting. Checks should NOT be sent to our Post Office Box and calls will NOT be accepted through the Section Hotline. Please make your reservations with **Jennifer Holland** of **Consulting Engineer Services** at (856) 228-2200 or at **JHOLLAND@CES-1.com**. The cost of dinner will be \$35 per member or guest, \$15 per ASCE Student Member. Payment will be accepted at the door. Walk-ins will be subject to acceptance on a space-available basis. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE.

Rowan University's Engineers Without Borders Student Chapter traveled to El Amaton, El Salvador this past August. The group of five students, accompanied by two professors, were tasked with a means to provide fresh running water to this small town. To aid their design the students performed both a land survey and a survey of each household. Both surveys were critical to the design because the land survey provided an idea of the town's topography as well as the location of each house with respect to the center of town, which was vital for designing and planning the proposed pipe network. The household survey gave the students an understanding of the townspeople's needs and uses of the water, as well as the quantities of water that would be required. These needs included drinking, bathing, cleaning, and caring for their animals.

The students analyzed data from both survey efforts and plotted information on a map of the town. Flow rate requirements were calculated and used to design the pumping, retention and

Continued on Page 2

MARCH JOINT DINNER MEETING

Women's Transportation Seminar, Philadelphia Chapter,
Institute of Transportation Engineers, Mid-Atlantic Section,
Engineers' Club of Philadelphia and
American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

Please note the date is not finalized as of presstime.

The date will be provided in the March edition of THE NEWS.

Union League • 140 South Broad Street (at Sansom Street), Center City Philadelphia
Cocktails 5:30 PM • Dinner 6:30 PM • Meeting 7:30 PM

The Subject and Speaker for this meeting have not yet been confirmed. More information will be provided in the March edition of THE NEWS.

Please send your check for the number of attendees at \$30 per member or guest, \$15 per ASCE Student Member. Checks should be made payable to "Philadelphia Section ASCE" and sent to **ASCE, PO Box 58186, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8186**. Reservations can also be made on the Electronic Message Center, (800) 461-4190, or via e-mail at **info@asce-philly.org**. Walk-ins will be subject to acceptance on a space-available basis. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE.

2007 ENGINEERS WEEK — IT'S HERE!

This is a reminder that the 2007 celebration of Engineers Week will take place from **Friday, February 16 to Saturday, February 24, 2007.**

Engineers Week's activities will kick off with the **Proclamation Luncheon** at the **Loews Hotel** in Center City on **Friday, February 16**, with the 2007 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, ASCE, Phila. Section Member **Joseph Viscuso**, as the guest of honor.

The 2007 Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year will be cited at the Young Engineer dinner on **Wednesday, February 21**, at the **McCall Country Club** in Upper Darby. Section Director and Member **Jeremy Colello** will be honored as one of two co-recipients of Young Engineer honors at this dinner.

For the first time, **Rowan University** will host the **Engineers Week Banquet**, the culmination of the Week's events. This will take place on **Saturday, February 24**. Numerous award winners and projects will be recognized, including the Engineer of the Year, the Young Engineer of the Year, the Outstanding Engineering Achievements in the Delaware Valley, the Outstanding Math and Science Teachers, Student Paper Contest winners, Scholarship recipients, and the winners of the local Future City Competition.

Please consult the **Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council's** website, **www.dvewc.org**, for more details and information on prices and reservations for these events.

The Phila. Section is well represented on the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council, which coordinates Engineers Week activities locally. ASCE, Phila. Section Members on the Council include **Susan Best, Tom Brady, Ed D'Alba, Ruben David, Pat Dougherty, Eric Flicker, Victor Marcus, Jim Markham, Carol Martsoff, Mike McAtee, Chris Menna, Larry Moy, Harry Perks, Fred Plotnick, Joe Syrnick, and Bob Wright.**

SPRING SOCIAL SCHEDULED

The **Annual Spring Social and Dinner Dance** is scheduled for **Thursday, May 10, 2007**, at the **National Constitution Center** in Center City. The day and location are both new. *Please mark your calendars accordingly.* More details on this event will be provided in coming issues of THE NEWS.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you enjoyed the holidays. Now that the holidays have passed, the ASCE board is hard at work to give you great ASCE events!

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

What is it, you ask?

Engineers Without Borders is one of the best examples of Civil Engineers doing good work to help humanity around the world. Civil Engineers are always doing great things all around us but **Engineers**

Without Borders helps developing nations, ones that don't have clean water or adequate infrastructure. Swarthmore, Villanova, Penn State, and the University of Pennsylvania, just to name a few, have Student Chapters. One of my New Year's resolutions is to become a member of **Engineers Without Borders** by our next Section meeting (**February 8**), when we will be featuring **Engineers Without Borders**. Two student chapters, Rowan and Villanova, will be talking to us about their projects. Please join us on **February 8** to learn how Civil Engineers are making great strides in helping humanity around the world through **Engineers Without Borders!**

Also, please attend the **Younger Member Forum Winter Social** on **January 31**. It is one of the most successful events of the year.

Please **SAVE THE DATE: May 10, 2007** will be our **Spring Social and Awards Dinner** at the **CONSTITUTION CENTER!** It is sure to be a great time, so don't miss it!

See you at the next ASCE event!

Sincerely,
Carol C. Martsolf, P.E.
President — Philadelphia Section, ASCE

FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING

Continued from Page 1

distribution systems. The results of the students' efforts were recognized by the local Peace Corps contacts as well as the town's mayor, who expressed his desire to become involved with the project. The overall goal of the undertaking, the provision of a dependable and safe water system for the town, was accomplished. The student group has remained in contact with the Peace Corps' representatives to ensure that the mayor fulfilled his promises. This meeting will also feature a presentation by students from **Villanova University's Engineers Without Borders Student Chapter** on its recent programs.

Directions to Crowne Plaza Hotel

From Center City Philadelphia – Take the Ben Franklin Bridge to New Jersey and follow US 30 after reaching the Toll Plaza. Follow US 30 and stay left for the NJ 38/70 junction, which follows an overpass over the Airport Circle. At the end of the overpass, stay to the right and follow the signs for NJ 70. Follow NJ 70 to the Cuthbert Blvd. interchange. The Hotel will be on your right just past the interchange.

From the North – Take I-95 to the Betsy Ross Bridge. Follow the Bridge into New Jersey. Exit for US 130 South and follow US 130 to the Airport Circle (junction with US 30, NJ 38/70). Make a left turn onto NJ 38/70 and proceed east. Stay to the right and follow the signs for NJ 70. Follow NJ 70 to the Cuthbert Blvd. interchange. The Hotel will be on your right just past the interchange.

From the South (Walt Whitman Bridge) – Take the Bridge to New Jersey, staying in the right lane. Exit for US 130/NJ 168 at the end of the bridge. Follow this roadway to the US 130

North exit. Take US 130 North to the Airport Circle (junction with US 30, NJ 38/70) and follow the ramp to NJ 38/70. Stay to the right and follow the signs for NJ 70. Follow NJ 70 to the Cuthbert Blvd. interchange. The Hotel will be on your right just past the interchange.

For more information on the Hotel location and directions, visit www.ichotelsgroup.com.

DON'T FORGET — SEND US YOUR SUGGESTIONS!

A new **electronic Suggestion Box** has been established by ASCE, Philadelphia Section President **Carol Martsolf** to solicit and field good ideas from Section members for future events, programs, areas of concentration, etc. She kicked off this idea at the Spring Social in May and awaits your thoughts, comments, etc.

We are hopeful that you, our members, will put this tool to good use and give us feedback on things we should be focusing on, thinking about, and/or doing. Accordingly, we hope that you will send us your thoughts for consideration. These should be directed to suggestions@asce-philly.org.

The problem with the designated driver program, it's not a desirable job, but if you ever get sucked into doing it, have fun with it.

At the end of the night, drop them off at the wrong house.

— Jeff Foxworthy

ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2006-07 SEASON

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR
MARCH '07 ISSUE
FEBRUARY 16, 2007**

TECHNICAL GROUPS/CHAIRS

Information on the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's Technical Groups is given below. Vice President **Mark Tiger** will coordinate activities of the Groups. If you have any topics that you think would be of interest to the Groups, please feel free to pass this information along to the Group Chair.

CONSTRUCTION

Dennis MacBride
SEPTA
1234 Market Street, 12th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-580-3404

DELAWARE VALLEY GEOINSTITUTE

Michael S. Carnivale, III
Penni Associates Inc.
515 Grove Street, Suite 2C
Haddon Heights, NJ 08035-1756
856-547-0505 ext. 3416

ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

William J. Mulloy
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Philadelphia District
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100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-656-6583

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES

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Penni Associates, Inc.
3001 Market Street, 2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-222-3000

STRUCTURAL

Mohiuddin (Ali) Khan
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1 Evergreen Place
Morristown, NJ 07962
973-898-0300

TRANSPORTATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

William T. Thomsen
Urban Engineers, Inc.
530 Walnut Street, 14th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215-922-8080

TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Structures Groups

March Luncheon Meeting

SUBJECT: Seismic Performance of Non-structural and Infill Wall Systems in Buildings

SPEAKER: Dr. Ali M. Memari, Ph.D., P.E., Associate Professor, Department of Architectural Engineering, Penn State University, University Park, PA

DATE: Wednesday, March 21, 2007;
12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM

COST: \$10; Students pay \$5.

LOCATION: Conference Room Y, 16th Floor, Municipal Services Building, 15th Street and JFKennedy Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA

MEETING SCHEDULE — 2006-07 SEASON

The current season is rapidly winding down, and we have only one remaining Section Meeting after March, in addition to the Spring Social. Here is the information on our remaining program schedule:

Thursday, April 12, 2007

Comcast Building, Project Team; Joint meeting with Engineers Club of Philadelphia • Union League, Phila., PA

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Annual Spring Social/Dinner Dance • National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

By Fred Vesce, Forum Editor

John Federico, Forum President 2006-07

Urban Engineers, Inc.
530 Walnut Street, 14th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 922-8080
jefederico@urbanengineers.com

YMF Happenings

Various YMF members attended the joint **Engineers' Club of Philadelphia (ECP)/ASCE** technical committee luncheons during the past month. On January 10, 2007, **John Bosco, P.E.** of Engineered Arresting Systems Corporation (ESCO) presented the application of their Airport Runway Overshoot Arresting System Design. On January 24, 2007, **Mark Kocent** of the University of Pennsylvania discussed the University's proposed project development at the former Main Post Office at 30th and Market Streets and parcels controlled by the Postal Service to the south of this building. Thanks go to the speakers at these technical luncheons and ECP/ASCE for hosting the events

On the weekend of January 27, 2007 six members of the YMF Board participated in ASCE's **Northeast Regional Younger Member Conference (NERYMC)**. The conference, which was held in Princeton, New Jersey, focuses on developing leadership skills and learning more about ASCE's organizational structure. Our Board members performed a skit on Engineering ethics, and rumor has it that one of the Board members impersonated a "teapot." Be sure to check the YMF website for more coverage of the conference, the skit and the "teapot" impersonation (www.ymfphilly.org).

And, of course, the always-popular **YMF Winter Social** took place on **January 31, 2007**

Greater awareness about seismic design requirements for nonstructural wall systems has necessitated review of conventional systems and in some cases introduction of alternative solutions. In this presentation, the results of recent research on seismic design requirements for nonstructural wall systems in buildings and their inclusion in seismic design codes will be discussed. Dr. Memari will present behavior of architectural glass curtain wall, brick veneer walls, cladding panels, masonry infill walls, and light frame partition walls during a seismic event.

at its new location, the Independence Brew Pub in Reading Terminal. A full report on this event will be provided in this space next month.

Annual Critical Issues Seminar!

How can we, as Engineers, leverage the political process, affect policy and budget decisions, and educate politicians to position ourselves for success in the coming decades? On **March 14** we hope to get some answers to these questions. This is when the ECP/ASCE team will bring us this year's *YMF Critical Issues Seminar*. The seminar will cover the increasingly hot topic of Politics and Engineering. This event will feature a panel of experts in the field of Engineering, politics and capital budget programming, all of whom have a stake in tackling the political issues that our profession will face in the future. Please visit the YMF website and watch this space next month for more information, including the time, place, and announcement of panel members.

YMF Member Spotlight

Christopher Shaeffer, E.I.T

Chris joined DMJM Harris in January 2006 as a Civil Engineer after three and a half years with Parsons Transportation Group. He is a graduate of Drexel University and is currently pursuing a Masters in Business Administration at St. Joseph's University with a concentration in Finance. His work experience includes Civil and Structural design for various transportation projects, such as PennDOT's SR 309 Reconstruction Project.

When he's not working or studying, Chris keeps himself busy with an unending list of home improvement projects. He enjoys going out to dinner with his wife and is an avid sports fan. Additionally, he loves to get out on the golf course whenever he can.

A buffet lunch will be served starting at 12:00 noon with the presentation beginning at 12:20 p.m.

Reservations are required and seating is limited to 50. Please contact **Ali Khan**, Chairman, Structures Group, at (609) 332-1136 or call the Electronic Message Center: 1-800-461-4190 (Open 24 hours/day). Please send your check for \$10 to **ASCE, Phila. Section, P.O. Box 58186, Phila., PA 19102-8186**

UPDATE ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS IN PENNSYLVANIA

As reported in the December/January edition of THE NEWS, Senate Bill 655 was signed by Governor Rendell in November, and this means that Pennsylvania joins the list of states that will require continuing professional development (CPD) as a condition of license renewal. We have received some updated information on this from our friends at the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) and would like to share this with you, in case you haven't already heard it.

In the last article, we noted that Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists would need to obtain **24 credit hours** of continuing education each licensing period (2 years). The details as to what coursework or education is acceptable and accredited will need to be developed by the State Board which, under the terms of the Act, has 18 months to do so. It is likely that the necessary regulations will be

similar to those adopted in other states which require continuing education and could follow the already-established National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES) model.

Another aspect to consider is the timing of the legislation. PE licenses will be up for renewal this year. Since the State Board has 18 months to develop the requirements of the program, this will not affect PE renewals until the following period (2009), which will most likely be the first renewal that will have the verification of continuing education requirements.

In any event, Pennsylvania has taken a major step forward in this area, and we will keep you posted on developments as they occur.

Thanks to PSPE and members **Ruben David** and **Eric Flicker** for this information.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS — AND WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ONE?

The ASCE, Phila. Section is continuing our successful Sponsorship Program this season. We have now reached a new "high" of 37 firms which have opted to participate as Sponsors for this season. As always, the Section extends its collective "thank you" to our sponsors for their commitment and continued support of the Section.

There are several benefits available to you as a Section Sponsor. For a low \$300 annual fee, you too can be a part of this program and have your business card appear in each edition of THE NEWS. Your logo will appear on a "thank you" board on display at each main Section meeting. Your firm will be listed as a Section sponsor in the program for our annual Spring Social/Dinner Dance. You will also be able to post two employment ads on the ASCE, Phila. Section website free of charge for the duration of the season.

We have designated pages 7 and 8 of THE NEWS as our Sponsors' Pages, where the business cards of our sponsoring firms are displayed (and, with this season's success, we've had to "steal" part of page 6 to provide enough room for the cards!). If your firm is not in this esteemed group, and you would like to become a sponsor, please contact our Editor, **Bob Wright** at newseditor@asce-philly.org.

SECTION WEB SITE!

Check us out at www.asce-philly.org. Make sure you bookmark this site to check on our latest meetings and events, links and much more! Comments and/or suggestions? Please contact us either via our Electronic Message Hotline at **1-800-461-4190** (24 hours a day) or e-mail at info@asce-philly.org.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Wright Moves, But Section Finds Him

As you may have heard on the "rumor wire", your Editor has changed places, so if you've been trying unsuccessfully to get him recently, this is why. In early December, **Bob Wright** began service as a Vice President at Urban Engineers, where he will direct Urban's new Municipal Engineering group.

You may recall that Bob has been with the City of Philadelphia Department of Streets for what seemed to be "forever", but was actually only (!) 27 years, and this was the only "real" job he held since obtaining his degree. (So you're detecting a pattern – every 27 years this guy's gonna change jobs!) Bob started as a Graduate Engineer with the Department in 1979 and worked his way up to the position of Chief Engineer and Surveyor, succeeding Past National Director and Section President **Joe Syrnick** in January 2005. Bob can be reached at his new "digs" at **(215) 922-8081, x1647** or at rmwright@urbanengineers.com.

Best Elected Director of ITE

ASCE, Phila. Section Member, **Susan Best**, was elected to serve as **Director, District 2**, on the International Board of Direction of the **Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)**. She officially took the "reins" as Director in January.

Susan represents **District 2**, which encompasses all of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, as well as southern New Jersey and a portion of northern Virginia. Two Sections — the Mid-Atlantic Section (also known as "MASITE") and the Washington DC Section — fall within this area. District 2 is also known as Mid-Colonial District. She will serve through December 2009.

We congratulate Susan on this achievement!

WHOOOPS!

Yes, again — it's been every issue this year, so far, so at least your Editor is consistent, if nothing else... (The aging brain and eyes ain't what they used to be...?)

Your Editor seemed to get a case of the missing parentheses in December/January, for some reason. In at least two places, he put a closing parenthesis in a place that had no corresponding opening complement (thereby blatantly ignoring and violating a very basic rule of English grammar) and removed a telephone number but not its accompanying 'at' and 'or', leaving an awkward construction. (He'll leave it to you, faithful readers, to find these – no prize other than bragging rights.) While he often can be accused at having an overabundance of his favorite punctuation tool, quotation marks (and he uses them so much, in casual writing he tends to use the single quote in place of its more-correct "brother", the double quote), he somewhat skimmed on the parentheses, and he should know better. Of course, he should know better than to write run-on sentences, and, despite that, he put two in the holiday message and is offering two more that you've just read!

Your Editor can blame part of this on a recent move (covered elsewhere in this edition). As one who will never be a good nomad, the move obviously upset all of his remaining sensibilities to the extent that THE NEWS, which was unfortunately "under construction" at the time, suffered as a result of this disruption of his treasured routine. He offers his profuse apologies all around!

To cure the Editor of his errant ways, he has agreed to spend some time with his 10-year-old Catholic-school-trained niece, who has mastered the use of quotation marks and who will hopefully have the patience to set the old uncle straight with her 5th-grade guidance in this area.

As far as the run-on sentences go, well, your Editor will freely admit that he's no Hemingway and anyone who thinks that they can teach this old dog some new tricks is certainly welcome to try. (And there's two more never-ending sentences...!) If you try to diagram these monsters, bring some big sheets and an extra red pen.

E-WEEK BANNERS TO BE DISPLAYED AGAIN

You may recall that the ASCE, Philadelphia Section formed a **Banner Committee** last year to design a banner to be displayed on the street during **Engineers Week**. The banners will hang once again this year, this time on **Market Street** in the vicinity of **Loews Hotel**, the location of the **Engineers Week Proclamation Luncheon** (see the Engineers Week article on page 1 for more details). The ASCE, Phila. Section used grants from ASCE National to engage a graphic designer, fabricate the 4' by 9' banners, and employ the Center City District to hang them. *Take a look for them on Market Street during Engineers Week!*

FOUNDATION FOR AN EXCELLENT PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION

By C.R.Pennoni, P.E.

This article appeared in the August 2006 edition of CE News, in the "Beyond Words" column, and is reprinted with CE News' permission.

It has been my long-held belief that an excellent professional reputation is the single most important attribute necessary for the long-term success of an organization. There are several important foundations of a professional reputation — honesty and integrity in our conduct, knowledge of our trade, dedication to the community, passion for our work, and a dedication to a quality product or service. In the 40 years since founding Pennoni Associates, Inc., I have found that all are equally important.

Honesty and integrity

In business, as in life itself, we cannot guarantee a profit from our endeavors; however, we can guarantee that we will conduct ourselves with honesty and integrity. It is that guarantee that makes a mark on the people with whom we come into contact and with whom we do business. In any endeavor, there is an entity charged with defining ethical conduct. As a Civil Engineer, these guidelines exist in the American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) Code of Conduct. And as a licensed Professional Engineer, ethical conduct is mandated in the State Licensing Act. Ethical conduct is governed by some very basic rules,

including those outlined in the 1940 Definition of the Profession of Engineering by ASCE.

Honesty and integrity are the cornerstones of this definition. In the post-Enron business climate, nearly every business's actions are under a microscope. It is easy to declare publicly that we conduct ourselves with honesty and integrity; it is instead necessary that we demonstrate on a daily basis that we practice our profession in an ethical manner. To build an excellent professional reputation, we must understand clearly what is expected by ethical conduct and act accordingly. This conduct is important throughout an entire organization and of paramount importance within an organization's leadership.

Specialized knowledge

We must also deliver a quality product or service, demonstrating a specialized knowledge in our area of practice. I once heard that a Professional Engineer is one who can design and construct a structure for \$1 that any fool can do for \$2; Professional Engineers may not be the only ones who can complete a project, but they are the ones who possess the knowledge, ability, and skills to do it correctly and economically.

The combination of ethical conduct and specialized knowledge defines the professional, and are among the important building blocks necessary to achieve an excellent reputation.

This status must be created over time, though, and is built one block and one event at a time. In the 40-year history of Pennoni Associates Inc., we have placed excellent professional reputation first and foremost in our vision, mission, and goals. The firm's leadership is challenged not only to keep this mantra out in front, but also to lead by example.

Pennoni's professionals are held to high standards; they are expected to maintain their expertise through continuing education; to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity, both within the firm and externally to their clients; to participate in professional/technical organizations as a means of education relative to the expectations of ethical/professional conduct; and to be involved in their communities and in the political processes of their local governments.

This certainly is a tall order, especially when they also are expected to deliver their work as per the scope, on schedule, and within budget. These expectations, though, are what should be expected of every true Professional Engineer. In building an excellent and long-lasting reputation, it is not good enough simply to provide quality Engineering services; one must also consistently be striving to maintain professional development, ethical conduct, community involvement, charitable giving, and involvement in the political process. All of these help to shape the Engineer's reputation in the community in which they live and work.

Ability and skill

We as professionals are measured by our capabilities, ability, and skill. Ability can be learned and developed, but skill is a Godgiven art. We can all take piano lessons and develop the ability to play, but without natural skill we cannot all be Lang-Lang. I have strived to identify the skills of our staff and to give them the opportunity to succeed. Allowing people to perform using their natural skills goes a long way toward ensuring happy and successful staff that have a passion for the profession, a sense of pride and ownership in the firm, and a dedication to providing a quality product or service. This, in turn, results in the satisfaction of our clients, and is necessary to build an excellent professional reputation.

While it takes time and hard work to cultivate and maintain, an excellent professional reputation is the number-one ingredient for long-term success. While Pennoni Associates, Inc., has worked on some truly amazing and important Engineering projects, the excellent professional reputation that our firm has enjoyed for the past 40 years is perhaps our greatest achievement.

C.R. "Chuck" Pennoni, P.E., is chairman of Pennoni Associates, Inc., Philadelphia. He is a Past President of ASCE National as well as a Past President of the ASCE Philadelphia Section.

SECTION HUMPHREY FUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Once again this year, the ASCE, Philadelphia Section is pleased to announce the availability of the following types of undergraduate scholarships. Scholarships will be awarded at our Annual Spring Social/Dinner-Dance on **Thursday, May 10, 2007.**

We anticipate that at least two Student Chapter scholarships will be awarded. The number and amount of the actual awards remains at the discretion of both the Section's Scholarship Committee and the Section's Board of Directors.

Eligibility Requirements

- The student must be matriculating in a full-time Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering program in one of the five colleges which have Student Chapters in the Philadelphia Section (Drexel University, Swarthmore College, Temple University, Villanova University or Widener University).
- The student must be an active participant in the ASCE Student Chapter.
- Students in their sophomore and junior year (and Pre-Juniors at Drexel) are eligible to submit.

We will also make the ASCE, Phila. Section Member scholarship available and anticipate that one will be awarded.

Eligibility Requirements

- The student must be the child of an active ASCE, Philadelphia Section member.
- The student must be matriculating in a full-time Civil Engineering or Architectural

Engineering program at an accredited college or university.

- The student must be an active participant in the ASCE Student Chapter at his/her school.
- Students in their sophomore and junior year are eligible to submit.

The candidate will be required to submit an essay, limited to 1,000 words, on a topic to be determined.

The candidate's name, GPA and/or class rank and an address/telephone number where they can be reached must be included. Additional information for consideration (such as need) is allowed. A letter and/or resume is an acceptable means to provide this information.

A recommendation letter from the candidate's faculty advisor is not required but is strongly suggested.

For the Section Member Scholarship ONLY, a second letter of recommendation from a faculty member of the candidate's Civil Engineering program (other than his/her advisor), or a present or past employer, is required.

The Section Scholarship Committee will evaluate all nominations and select award recipients for scholarships or other form of stipend.

Awardees will be invited as guests at our **Annual Spring Social/Dinner Dance** to receive their awards and will be asked to participate in future ASCE educational outreach activities.

More information on submissions and requirements will be included in the March edition of **THE NEWS.**

When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading.

— Henny Youngman

DECEMBER DINNER MEETING

Wednesday, December 13, 2006

Philadelphia Airport Hilton, Philadelphia PA

The One-Cleanup Program

by Robert Wright, Editor

A group of approximately 70 people were in attendance at the annual joint meeting of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), Philadelphia Post and the ASCE, Philadelphia Section. Despite the fact that the topic as advertised in the November edition of THE NEWS had been changed and the speaker had not been known at presstime to be included in THE NEWS, about a dozen Section members (not counting students) decided to attend the "mystery meeting" anyway!

SAME Philadelphia Post President **Richard "Rad" Delaney** welcomed all and opened the meeting with several Post announcements and handed the podium to ASCE, Phila. Section President **Carol Martsoff**, who thanked the Post for the joint meeting and gave a few notices about Section activities.

A contingent of students from **Widener University**, accompanied by Engineering Dean **Fred Akl** and Professors **Vicki Brown** and **Victor Marcus**, made the trip from campus to represent the school as the featured ASCE Student Chapter. (As we know, Widener students frequently show up at all Section meetings, so sometimes it's hard to tell when the Widener Student Chapter is actually being featured!) President Martsoff introduced Chapter Vice President **Mike Franceschina**, who updated the attendees on the Chapter's current activities.

President Martsoff also brought Section Director **Jeremy Colello** to the podium to brief attendees on the Younger Member Forum's recent events, including the upcoming always-popular Winter Social. The Social is consistently well-attended both by Forum members and their older friends as well.

President Delaney thanked the meeting's sponsor, **Langan Engineering and Environmental Services**, and then asked SAME Regional Vice President **Melissa Smith** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and deliver the meal's blessing, and dinner proceeded.

Following dinner, President Delaney returned to the podium and opened the evening's presentation with a brief overview of the "One-Cleanup Program" as it was implemented at the Boeing Company site in Ridley Township. Three speakers "tag-teamed" the program — **Jeff Smith** and **Brian McGuire** of Langan, Project

Managers for the effort, and **Walter Payne**, Case Manager, of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Southeast Regional Office. President Delaney introduced the team and Mr. McGuire began with a site orientation and background on the program.

Boeing Site Experience

The One-Cleanup Program was developed by PADEP in conjunction with the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to serve as a "one-stop shop" for compliance with federal and state regulations on site remediation and cleanup. The primary intent of this undertaking was the facilitation of brownfield redevelopment, which would lead to revitalization of affected sites and communities. The program requires that any such remediated site must be handled in compliance with three federal laws — the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act (also known as "Superfund").

As Mr. McGuire indicated, the desired result of this is a streamlined process which is intended to efficiently advance site closure and to help stimulate productive reuse of abandoned industrial sites. In the past, contaminated site cleanups often were mired in regulatory difficulties that made the permitting process a lengthy one with few immediate benefits. He noted that the Boeing site was not the first project undertaken in this program but it was the first one completed, which is a significant achievement given the complexity of the site and the typically slow review/approval process.

Mr. Payne explained that the site had previous uses before Boeing's acquisition and there were landfill areas and lagoons that had to be positively located, investigated and monitored to protect active aquifers. The Baldwin Locomotive Works plant occupied this location for many years and

there were few records of what was left on the site and in the ground after it went out of business. At least two of the "suspect" areas in question had been reused by Boeing — a building was constructed on one, and the other serves as a parking lot — and these would be particularly difficult to monitor using typical methods. In some cases, the ground use was well documented and monitored and in these instances data was relatively easy to obtain and collect.

Mr. McGuire covered pertinent facts and figures about what existed on the site and how it would be addressed and remediated. Under the One-Cleanup Program, the ultimate goal is to obtain a Release of Liability/Final Decision as quickly as possible to permit compliance with federal and state obligations in a reasonable and cost effective way without undue delay. This Decision allows future land-use plans to proceed. The Program has been found to be a landmark achievement in this area, particularly at industrial sites where previous uses are not always clearly documented. It has been seen as a significant "win-win" for government agencies and industry.

Other Sites

Mr. Smith highlighted three other sites that are being included in the Program. The Harley Davidson motorcycle plant in York, a former defense site, was actually the first location to be considered in the One-Cleanup Program, but it was not the first completed. Locally, the Frankford Arsenal and the USX/US Steel Fairless Works are also being handled under the new guidelines, although the Arsenal is not officially in the Program. The Arsenal has an additional complication of unexploded ordinance, although this is limited to only a few known areas. Fairless Works is being reused for power generation purposes, and this includes a possible "wind farm" for alternative energy source production.

A short question and answer session followed. Post President Delaney was faced with the difficult decision of having only one speaker's commemorative gift to divide among the three presenters.

COMING NEXT ISSUE...

- More information on the March and April meetings
- Reports on the January and February Section meetings
- Report on Engineers Week activities
- Information on this year's Spring Social/Dinner Dance

Look for this in the March edition of THE NEWS, coming in early March.



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