



### 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 THAT THE DATE AND LOCATION OF THIS MEETING  
HAVE NOT BEEN FINALIZED AS OF PRESSTIME! PLEASE CONSULT  
THE SECTION'S WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS. \*\*\***

**We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.**

*SCHEDULED SPEAKER:* **Mary E. Peters**, Secretary, United States Department of Transportation

**Mary Peters** was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the **15th Secretary of Transportation** on September 30, 2006, after spending more than two decades crafting solutions to our nation's toughest transportation challenges.

Secretary Peters brings a unique perspective to her role as the nation's transportation chief, having spent her career working on transportation issues in the private and public sectors, including leading both federal and state transportation agencies. This hands-on experience allows her to understand and appreciate the real-life aspects of planning, building and operating transportation systems on local, regional and state levels.

*Continued on Page 6*

### APRIL DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

**THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2007**

**Union League** • 140 South Broad Street (at Sansom Street), Center City Philadelphia

Cocktails 5:30 PM • Dinner 6:30 PM • Meeting 7:30 PM

*SUBJECT:* **The Comcast Tower**

*SPEAKER:* **John Abruzzo, P.E.**, Principal, and **Anjana Kadakia, P.E.**, Principal, Thornton Tomasetti

*SPECIAL FEATURE:* **Temple University Night.** The ASCE Student Chapter, Faculty and Alumni of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of Temple University will be honored at this meeting. All Faculty, Alumni and Students of Temple are cordially invited to attend and participate.

*SPECIAL FEATURE:* **Past Presidents Night.** All Past Presidents of the ASCE, Philadelphia Section are cordially invited to attend as guests of the Section to be honored for their contributions.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2007.** Please send your check for the number of attendees at \$40 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](mailto: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.**

Philadelphia's skyline is about to change again. After years of being "ruled" by a gentlemen's agreement that no structure should be taller than William Penn's statue atop City Hall, the completion of Liberty Place in 1987 led the way for a number of new skyscrapers that dwarfed the Penn statue. Upon its opening later this year, the new **Comcast Tower** on John F. Kennedy Boulevard between 17th Street and 18th Street will surpass Liberty Place as the city's tallest building. The Thornton Tomasetti design team will present the challenges and difficulties faced and resolved with this undertaking.

### ATC-20 POST-EARTHQUAKE SAFETY EVALUATION OF BUILDINGS TRAINING WORKSHOP

The ASCE Committee on Critical Infrastructure (CCI) is pleased to offer a training seminar on **ATC-20 Post-Earthquake Safety Evaluation of Buildings** immediately preceding the **2007 Structures Congress in Long Beach, CA, on May 16, 2007.** The training is in cooperation with the Applied Technology Council (ATC). ATC has developed procedures for evaluating building safety after earthquakes in its publication, *Procedures for Post-earthquake Safety Evaluation of Buildings (ATC-20)*, which was first published in 1989.

ATC-20 provides procedures and guidelines for the safety evaluation of damaged buildings. These procedures and guidelines are written specifically for volunteer Structural Engineers, as well as Building Inspectors and Structural Engineers from city building departments and other regulatory agencies, who would be required to make on-the-spot evaluations and decisions regarding the continued use and occupancy of damaged buildings.

Visit [www.structurescongress.org](http://www.structurescongress.org) and click on "Technical Program" for more information or to register for this training workshop.

### CHECK OUT OUR REVAMPED WEBSITE

Expect some surprises if you haven't been to our website ([www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org)) lately. And, even if you've visited recently, we invite you to take a peek at our totally updated site! (We'd say it's new and improved, but we know how worn out that expression is...)

We've added some new features and rearranged others to make it easier to navigate and get to specific topics, areas and segments. Links are provided for more information and direct e-mails to Section Officers and Board members, and we've provided some background and biographical information on our Officers for your knowledge. We are also exploring ways to allow members to register on-line for meetings and events.

We invite you to peruse the improved website and send us your feedback. Thanks to Vice President **Mark Tiger**, who led the Website Committee and coordinated it with our new webmaster, **Rich Knaster.**

*Continued on Page 5*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

It is now March and as I am writing this message, I am anxiously awaiting the call from Mary Peters' scheduler for our March meeting date. **Mary Peters**, US Department of Transportation Secretary, is our Guest Speaker and it is sure to be a wonderful evening. It is a Joint Meeting with the Philadelphia Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar, the Mid-Atlantic Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia.

As such, you will notice THE NEWS does not yet include a March meeting date. Please STAY TUNED via our website [www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org) and check our hotline at **1-800-461-4190**. Also, we will be sending out an e-mail with the date and details of our March meeting, once we get them finalized. If you do not receive e-mail from us, please send us your e-mail address at [info@asce-philly.org](mailto:info@asce-philly.org).

Another big event coming up is our statewide **Legislative Affairs Day** in Harrisburg (**May 8, 2007** — see the item elsewhere in this edition for details). This promises to be an exciting event. We hope you can be there!

See you at the next ASCE meeting!

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

## TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

### Structures Group

#### 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 C, 16th Floor, Municipal Services Building, 15th Street and Kennedy Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA**

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.

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**

## TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

**Engineering Management Technical Group, Joint Meeting with Construction Group and Transportation and Urban Development Group**

**SUBJECT: Traffic Accident Reconstruction**

**SPEAKER: David Fleisher, P.E.**, Principal — Fleisher Forensics

**DATE: Monday, March 12, 2007;**  
**12:00 Noon to 1:15 PM**

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

**LOCATION: Conference Room E, 16th Floor, Municipal Services Building, 15th Street and Kennedy Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA**

A drunken driver crashed his automobile into a traffic signal pole on Roosevelt Boulevard in Philadelphia. The driver's passenger, who was also intoxicated, filed a lawsuit against the City, State, Engineer, Contractor, and the bar which served him alcohol prior to the accident. The passenger retained an expert witness who opined that the pole was improperly located and should have been protected. For those reasons, the expert claimed that the City, State, Engineer, and Contractor were liable for the passenger's injuries. Mr. Fleisher, a Consulting Engineer specializing in Forensic Engineering, who testified on behalf of the defendants, will present the technical aspects of the case and the lawsuit's ultimate resolution.

A buffet lunch will be served starting at 12:00 noon, with the presentation beginning at 12:20 p.m. For reservations, please contact **Bill Mulloy** at (215) 656-6583 or email [William.J.Mulloy@usace.army.mil](mailto:William.J.Mulloy@usace.army.mil) or **Dennis MacBride** at (215) 580-3404 or email [dmacbride@septa.org](mailto:dmacbride@septa.org). You may pay at the door.

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When we drink, we get drunk. When we get drunk, we fall asleep.  
When we fall asleep, we commit no sin. When we commit no sin,  
we go to heaven. Sooooo, let's all get drunk and go to heaven!

— Brian O'Rourke

**COPY DEADLINE FOR  
APRIL '07 ISSUE  
MARCH 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

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### ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

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Philadelphia, PA 19107  
215-656-6583

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES

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215-222-3000

### STRUCTURAL

Mohiuddin (Ali) Khan  
The RBA Group  
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

## NOMINATIONS FOR SECTION OFFICES NOW OPEN

In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Section, President **Carol Martsoff** has appointed a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of Officers for all Section elective offices for the 2007-08 administrative year.

The positions which will be open for nominees are President Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and at least three Directors.

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, March 30, 2007**. Any nomination should be submitted to the Section's Secretary, **Jenn Walsh**, whose contact information is given on page 2.

## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

By *Fred Vesce, Forum Editor*

**John Federico**, Forum President 2006-07  
Urban Engineers, Inc.  
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Philadelphia, PA 19106  
(215) 922-8080  
jefederico@urbanengineers.com

### YMF Happenings

**"If you build it, they will come."** –*Shoeless Joe Jackson, Field of Dreams*

Well, the YMF has certainly built it, and 175 people certainly did come to the **11th annual YMF Winter Social**. The Independence Brew Pub proved to be an excellent new location to accommodate the record crowd, with a large private room upstairs and open bar privileges on both floors. The amount of corporate sponsorship was also tremendous, with raffle prizes totaling well over \$1,500, resulting in large donations raised for local charities. The YMF wants to sincerely thank all of the sponsors for helping build this event to its current level of success.

On the weekend of January 27 our illustrious YMF leaders went to the **Northeast Regional Younger Member Conference (NERYMC)** in Princeton, New Jersey looking to increase their knowledge of ASCE and, of course, network with fellow YMF'ers. They came back as potential nominees to host the event in early 2009. For the first time ever, our Board members performed a skit on Engineering Ethics in front of the entire conference. **John Federico** and **Mike Wagner** were the two actors, while **Jeremy Colello** narrated. The other YMF attendees were **Dave Petrucci**, **Vincent Chin**, and **Don Gusic**. Gentlemen, thank you for representing our Philadelphia YMF so well. Photos of these events are available for your viewing at <http://www.ymfphilly.org/photos.htm>.

The YMF is co-sponsoring a technical event with the **Environmental and Water Resources Technical Group** (see the item under the Technical Groups heading for particulars). On **March 6, 2007**, **Kristeen Gaffney** of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will present recent news on Brownfield sites and Land Revitalization throughout Region 3 (Mid Atlantic Region). Thanks go to Kristeen for contributing her valuable time and to **Sharon Perez-Suarez** for setting up the event.

### Annual Critical Issues Seminar! Tomorrow's Issues are Critical Today

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, 2007**, 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, including the Engineers' Club of

Philadelphia Chairman **Eric Flicker** and ASCE's National Director for Government Relations, **Brian Pallasch**, all of whom have a stake in tackling the political issues that our profession will face in the future. The event is free of charge and will be located on Drexel University's campus. For more info and directions visit the YMF website <http://www.ymfphilly.org/events>.

### YMF Member Spotlight Frederick Vesce, E.I.T

Fred graduated from Drexel University in 2002 with a Bachelor's Degree in Architectural Engineering. He had been working for HNTB Corporation for 3 years while finishing school, and after graduation has been with the Philadelphia office's structures group for more than 4 years.

During his time at HNTB, Fred has been involved with the design and construction of multiple roadways and structures for PENNDOT, PTC, AMTRAK, NJTA, and the DRPA. Some of the projects he worked on include the High Speed EZ-PASS installation at the Garden State Parkway's Raritan Interchange, the biennial inspection of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge, the preliminary and final design of the Monongahela River Bridge for the PTC's Mon Fayette Expressway, and the design and construction services for the platform Rehabilitation of AMTRAK'S New Carrollton Train Station.

During his free time, Fred likes to sleep or ride his bike, when not putting together this column for THE NEWS. He reads books related to current events, philosophy and history. Laughter and courage are two things Fred values highly (*this explains the hat Fred was wearing at the YMF Social – Ed.*).

## TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Environmental & Water Resources Group,  
Joint Meeting with YMF

### March Luncheon Meeting

**SUBJECT: The Business of Brownfields**  
**SPEAKER: Kristeen Gaffney, US EPA**  
**DATE: Monday, March 6, 2007, 12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM**  
**COST: \$5**

**LOCATION: Conference Room E, 16th Floor, Municipal Services Building, 15th Street and Kennedy Boulevard, Philadelphia**

Ms. Gaffney, from EPA's Brownfields and Land Revitalization Group, will speak on Brownfield redevelopment and the role of the private sector. This is a joint event with the Younger Member Forum. Please RSVP to [RSVP@ymfphilly.org](mailto:RSVP@ymfphilly.org) by **March 2, 2007**.

### CPESC Course and Exam

Due to the overwhelming response last Fall, the Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) course and exam will be held **April 25-26, 2007** at the **Tredyffrin Township Building**. Please contact **Jeremy Colello** at [jcolello@pennoni.com](mailto:jcolello@pennoni.com) for registration forms and more information.

## LOOK! A COMIC!!

After your Editor's continued wishes to have a cartoon for THE NEWS, help has finally arrived. ASCE, Phila. Section Member **Karen Anne Riley** took the lead and found **Alma Radocaj**, a local illustrator and fine artist, who agreed to "give it a shot" and provide artwork for us. (Of course, it was either this or your Editor's crude stick people, so...) We hope you enjoy the as-yet-unnamed feature.

And, speaking of this, we're looking for a name for our newest addition. We've offered a few here for consideration (and hopefully some creative thinking "kick-starting"). If you have one, or if you'd prefer that none of those listed below that your Editor has come up with (also known as the "lame list" (apologies to "Almost Live!")) get the nod, please send your idea(s) along to the website or the Post Office Box. We'd like to make this a contest but no one's identified a prize just yet, other than the usual "honor and glory" one.

$E=mc^2$  (Engineers are mutually comical and cerebral)

$f = Mc/I$  (funny is mainly comical over intellectual)

$L_{eng} = 0.5V + 0.33v + a_{thought}$   
(Engineers' laughter is half visual, a third verbal and a little thought)

Civil Chuckles

Civil Comics

$H_{eng} = (g + s)/t$  (Engineering humor is guffaws and snorts over time)

And now, a little about our artist. Alma Radocaj grew up in Northeast Philadelphia, and since her childhood has had a passion for art and comedy. Alma graduated from Moore College of Art & Design in 2004. During that time she was fortunate to study arts abroad in Mexico, France and the United Kingdom, and later at home, at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Her work ranges from comics, to printmaking, to painting, to sculpture, and everything in between. She thoroughly enjoys working with local individuals and companies creating art on a freelance basis.

Alma describes herself as "inquisitive and energetic," and aspires to become an educator. Along these lines, she is currently enrolled as a Masters of Art Education student at the University of the Arts. However, she does not object to becoming a professional muse.

We welcome and thank Alma for her generous contributions to THE NEWS, and you'll see more of her work in future issues.

## COMING NEXT ISSUE...

- More information on the April meeting
- More information on the Spring Social/Dinner Dance
- The Section Award winners for this year
- The sendoff/"roast" of President Martsoff...

Look for this in the April/May edition of THE NEWS, coming in early April



Question: What is the ration of an igloo's circumference to its diameter?

Answer: Eskimo Pi!

## ...AND A MEETING ON THE REPORT CARD...

The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE), Delaware County Chapter, will host our own **Christopher J. Menna** and **Mark Tiger**, who will give a presentation on *The 2006 Report Card for Pennsylvania's Infrastructure — A Continuing Effort*. The presenters will first give an overview of how the report card was developed from the concept to the finished product and will summarize the results of the press releases and the media attention received. They will additionally report on all post-press release activities and how Pennsylvania Engineers can get more involved. For a check on the national report card from ASCE, check out the following web site: <http://pareportcard.org>.

This meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 21, 2007** at the **Towne House Restaurant**, 117 Veterans Square, Media ([www.townehouse.com](http://www.townehouse.com)). The social hour (cash bar) starts at 6:30, with dinner at 7:00 and the presentation following at 8:00. The cost is \$25 per person.

Advance reservations are required and must be made by contacting **Carl DuPoldt**, at [dupoldt@verizon.net](mailto:dupoldt@verizon.net) or (610) 357-6226. Payment will be required at the door. The deadline for reservations is **Friday, March 16, 2007**.

## SECTION HUMPHREY FUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

As announced last month, the ASCE, Philadelphia Section is pleased to announce the availability of undergraduate scholarships for 2007. Scholarships will be awarded at our **Annual Spring Social/Dinner Dance on Thursday, May 10, 2007**.

Full details on the program are provided in the February edition of THE NEWS and on our website, [www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org).

We urge eligible students to consider this to help fund their academic pursuits.

The deadline for submissions is **Friday, March 30**. The President-Elect will forward all submissions to the Section's Scholarship Committee for review and final determinations.

## MEA CULPA, MEA MAXIMA CULPA (AGAIN?!)

We promised no more "oopses" and we'll deliver on this. In the future, as we continue to prove that the staff of THE NEWS is human and will err, we'll continue to atone for it. (For those of you who are not Catholic and for you Catholics under 40, ask an older Catholic friend about the title...)

In February, we thought we had it all there, and we thought we'd have no more miscues in the future. As it turns out, we were correct in our incorrectness. A couple of hyphens managed to get out of their cages and sneak into places that they shouldn't have been. If you found them all (and there were three at our count), sorry for making you read extra characters. If you didn't find them all, or didn't even notice anything wrong, your Engineering degree is serving you well. But we jest... (we could take a job at a certain institution of higher education here, but we're not in a great position to do so!).

We have lots of better things to fill the pages of THE NEWS so we're once again hoping that the remaining editions will be error-free. Of course, now that we've had five issues so far with this same goal, we're kind of on a roll (and hoping to get off it). Our motto will remain "illus me paenitet, dux" (which sounds much better in Latin than it does in English, "sorry about that, chief").

## ETHICAL PROBLEMS CONFERENCE

Villanova University will host an interdisciplinary conference on *Contemporary Ethical Problems in Engineering Practice: A Dialogue*. This conference will bring together practicing Engineers, academics, representatives of professional societies, and others associated with ethical problems in Engineering. The aim is to construct a picture of (a) the ethical problems facing Engineers in practice today; (b) what can be or is being done to help Engineers deal effectively with ethical problems; and (c) how can we transfer this knowledge into the Engineering curriculum. The conference will feature invited plenary speakers followed by panel discussions. The goal of the conference is to facilitate conversation, across disciplines, on the dilemmas facing the Engineering professional.

The conference is being conducted at Villanova from **Thursday, May 31 through Saturday, June 2, 2007**. The registration fee is \$200.

You can register on-line at [www.ethics.villanova.edu/conference](http://www.ethics.villanova.edu/conference). For more info, please contact **Mary Quilter** at [mary.quilter@villanova.edu](mailto:mary.quilter@villanova.edu); tel: (610) 519-4692; fax: (610) 519-8026.

**Resolve to attend ALL Section Meetings and Functions This Year!**

## ASCE LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DAY IN HARRISBURG

The four Pennsylvania Sections of ASCE (Central PA, Lehigh Valley, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia) released the PA Infrastructure Report Card in 2006. The report card alerted the public and our elected officials of a crisis in the condition of the Commonwealth's Infrastructure. In November 2006, the Governor's Transportation Funding and Reform Commission released a report that validated the Report Card's findings on the critical needs for Transit, Highways and Bridges.

We will be visiting our elected officials in Harrisburg on **Tuesday, May 8, 2007** and we need your participation.

The day will consist of a kick-off session with speakers outlining our positions and how to have effective meetings with our elected officials. You will then have between one and three meetings with elected officials to review the findings of the PA Infrastructure Report Card ([www.pareportcard.org](http://www.pareportcard.org)), express our support for the findings of the Governor's Transportation Funding Commission, and indicate your interest in providing your professional knowledge to support important policy decisions effecting the health, safety and welfare of Pennsylvanians

If you are interested in attending the **ASCE Legislative Affairs Day** in Harrisburg, please contact **Chris Menna**, our Infrastructure Report Card Chair at [christopher.menna@phila.gov](mailto:christopher.menna@phila.gov), or (215) 686-5183. If Civil Engineers don't tell our elected officials about the importance of our infrastructure, who will? We encourage you to ask your employer to support you in this important event.

## SAME CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA

The Philadelphia Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) invites you to attend "SAME 2007," its **Joint Engineer Education and Training Conference/Expo**. This will be held from **May 1-4, 2007** at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Highlights include:

- Contingency Engineering and Reconstruction; Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Installation Development and Realignment
- Installation Management
- Professional Development
- Developing Military Leaders

For additional information check out the website: [www.phillysame2007.org](http://www.phillysame2007.org). **REGISTER TODAY!**

### 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.

## 2007 ENGINEERS WEEK COMPLETE and SUCCESSFUL

As you may have heard (we hope!), **Engineers Week 2007** was celebrated from **Friday, February 16 through Saturday, February 24, 2007**. And, once again, the Week's events were successful! The "bookend" events — the Luncheon, held at the **Loews Hotel** in Center City on February 16, 2007, featured nearly 250 guests, and the Banquet, conducted for the first time on the campus of **Rowan University** in Glassboro on February 24, 2007, attracted over 220 attendees — were great affairs. The Young Engineer of the Year Dinner on February 21, 2007 was similarly well attended.

We congratulate two ASCE, Phila. Section members who were specifically recognized during this year's festivities — **Joe Viscuso**, the **2007 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year**, and **Jeremy Colello**, a co-recipient of the **2007 Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year** honors.

## "ANACE" CORNER

Every so often, your Editor comes across something that he thinks will be of interest to you even though it has absolutely nothing about or concerning Engineering. Since technical folks tend to like acronyms, this can be shortened to "ANACE." In this vein, here's something appropriate for your St. Patrick's Day plans?

### Strange But True... A Department of Beer

As the American colonies gained their independence way back when, one important item that would need to be addressed was the colonies' need for ale. English ale was a significant import for two main reasons — one, the barley needed for brewing couldn't be grown in New England, and, two, the early colonial cities were seaports, so imported beer was a natural.

George Washington, who was an avid porter drinker and brewed his own (his recipe remains on display at the New York Public Library), called for boycotts of imported English ales in the 1770's to help bolster the domestic beer industry, which, incidentally, was untaxed by the crown.

In 1789 James Madison led a successful effort to limit the new government's taxes on beer to help the domestic brewers once again. With the assistance of an English brewer displaced by the Revolution, Thomas Jefferson began to brew and bottle his own beer at his Monticello estate. A British entrepreneur, Joseph Coppinger, worked with Jefferson to create a government agency to actually brew beer, and this idea was proposed to President James Madison in 1810 in response to the soft import market as well as the government's fears that drinkers would turn to more readily-available harder stuff. Jefferson, at this point a former President, became an advocate for the creation of a national brewery, with Coppinger serving in the newly-created position of Secretary of the Brewery (or would it be Brewmaster General?).

Unfortunately, events leading up to the War of 1812 had become more pressing to Madison and the idea of the national brewery was dropped.

—From "Beer Blast" by Philip Van Munching

## SCIENCE FAIRS COMING UP! AND NEW LOCATION

The **Delaware Valley Science Fairs** will be conducted on **Wednesday, April 4, 2007**. Since the Fort Washington Expo Center, the previous venue for this event, is now closed, the Fairs have moved to the **Valley Forge Convention Center/Scanticon Complex**. The ASCE, Phila. Section will once again participate in the Fairs and offer four Special Awards for projects that have a Civil Engineering theme, with two awards for Grades 6 through 8 and two for Grades 9 through 12.

As usual, judges are needed for this effort. The judging will require you to spend most, if not all, of your day (approximately 8 am to 3 pm) at the Fairs, examining and short listing possible projects in the morning and then interviewing the students who assembled them and finalizing the selections in the afternoon. It is always a very interesting and enlightening experience.

If you are interested in being a Special Awards judge for the Section please contact **Chris Rood** at [chris.rood@dmjmharris.com](mailto:chris.rood@dmjmharris.com). You will also need to register for this and this can be done through the Fairs' website — [www.dvsf.org](http://www.dvsf.org).

For more information on the Fairs please visit the above website. We hope you can join us for this!

## DON'T FORGET — SEND US YOUR SUGGESTIONS!

A new **electronic Suggestion Box** has been established by ASCE, Philadelphia Section President **Carol Martsof** 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](mailto:suggestions@asce-philly.org).

## CHECKOUT REVAMPED WEBSITE

*Continued from Page 1*

Additionally, if you already haven't done so and are interested, you can contact us through the website to have THE NEWS delivered electronically to you each month. Over 200 members have opted for this so far. This allows you to receive THE NEWS about 7-10 days before it would normally reach you through the mail. You can also choose to receive both the e-mail and hard copy versions if you'd prefer.

**Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.**

— Benj. Franklin

## JANUARY DINNER MEETING

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Radisson Hotel, Valley Forge, PA

*Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Transportation and PennDOT*

*But Were Afraid to Ask*

by Bob Wright, Editor

A rambunctious crowd of nearly 240 folks packed the room at the Radisson for the annual Joint Meeting between the American Society of Highway Engineers, Delaware Valley Section and our own Philadelphia Section. Delaware Valley Section President **Jeff Obrecht** opened the meeting with introductions, and after a short benediction, ASCE, Phila. Section President **Carol Martsoff** made several announcements.

PennDOT District 6 Assistant District Executive for Construction **George Dunheimer** gave introductory remarks for the evening's featured speaker, **Rina Cutler**, Deputy Secretary of Transportation and Acting District Executive, District 6. Ms. Cutler explained PennDOT's overall program in general and what District 6 encompasses (the five-county metropolitan Philadelphia region). District 6 is the smallest of PennDOT's 11 subareas but is the most populous, has the busiest roads and the most vehicle-miles traveled among the Districts.

Ms. Cutler noted that the recent party change in Congress has resulted in the rethinking of funding authorizations for critical projects, and this, coupled with Pennsylvania's own current reconsideration of how transportation efforts will be funded, has resulted in a slowdown of project production. As explained in the Transportation Funding Reform Commission's report (the subject of our November Section meeting), projected funding will not keep up with current needs and costs. Possible solutions are continued use of public/private partnerships ("3P"), increases in user fees such as tolls and fuel taxes, and other revenue enhancement measures. The newly-announced casinos and racinos in the state, four of which will be in District 6, come with added pressure for highway improvements to accommodate the expected traffic demand but without funding to provide for these needed improvements.

While the State's population is not growing rapidly, it is aging and sprawling, and Ms. Cutler explained that each of these "directions" must be adequately served. The aging population is increasingly depending upon mass transit, and funding resources are being targeted to transit in every portion of the state. The sprawl issue means that new facilities must be built and existing ones expanded to increase capacity. This comes with an additive factor of an increased maintenance burden at a time when PennDOT is hard-pressed to sustain the existing network.

Inflation in the construction industry has been severe in the past 18 months and Ms. Cutler remarked that this factor has taken its toll in both project programming and long-range planning. Funds for future projects must be "borrowed" to pay for higher costs for bids coming in now.

PennDOT has been involved in a major effort to "right-size" projects to account for this, but the realities of needs remain, and the aging and deteriorating infrastructure must be addressed.

Section Presidents Obrecht and Martsoff thanked Ms. Cutler for her insightful talk and presented her with tokens of each Section's appreciation for her effort.

## MARCH DINNER MEETING

Continued from Page 1

Over her 20-plus years in transportation, Secretary Peters has earned a solid reputation as an innovative problem solver, a force for safety and a strong advocate for effective use of taxpayer dollars. As Secretary of Transportation, she intends to use these same skills to tackle today's most pressing challenges including fighting congestion across all modes of transportation, improving safety and addressing strains on traditional sources of transportation funding. She is responsible for maintaining a safe, reliable and efficient transportation system, while leading an agency with almost 60,000 employees and a \$61.6 billion budget that oversees air, maritime and surface transportation missions.

## FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ

*Engineers Without Borders*

by Bob Wright, Editor

The ASCE, Philadelphia Section's annual Joint Meeting with the South Jersey Branch of the New Jersey Section saw a healthy crowd of about 90 attendees, of which about 40 from "our side" of the river ventured across the Delaware to hear about **Engineers Without Borders (EWB)**. The meeting was, fortunately, held in Cherry Hill, closer to the City than previous meetings further "down the pike."

South Jersey Branch President **Andy Feranda** started the evening's activities with a few announcements, and then handed off to Section President **Carol Martsoff** for some updates on happenings in our Section.

After these announcements and updates, President Feranda introduced the **Villanova University** chapter of EWB to present its project. Chapter leader **Sarah Arscott** gave a rundown on the Chapter's efforts to build a new outdoor playground area at the Cadlau public school in New Orleans, which began in late 2005 and continued through the latter part of last year. Ms. Arscott displayed a number of photos of the effort, in which the Villanova chapter both designed and constructed the improvements. The work consisted of the removal of existing pavement and its replacement with topsoil/mulch, and the replacement of playground equipment.

Much of the work was done on holiday and class breaks, with at least one instance of "special dispensation" for final exams given. Schedules were tight and the working conditions were not always the most ideal, but the effort was a success and well received by the school's administration and students.

The **Rowan University** group focused on the town of El Amaton, El Salvador, and was tasked with means to provide fresh running water to the townsfolk. Before this effort was begun two years ago, the only way for the locals to get water was to walk to the nearby stream and transport it back in containers by hand.

The students determined the residents' needs and conducted a topographical survey to determine how to get the water reasonably close to each home. Flow rates for these needs were calculated and used to design the pumping, retention and distribution systems. As the effort began to show some success, the students had to contend with the town's mayor as he stepped in to "assist" in the effort. The group was able to obtain the assistance of local Peace Corps contacts to get its work done. The student team jointly presented a short slide show which illustrated its efforts.

Branch President **Feranda** and Section President **Martsoff** thanked the groups for their presentations and cited each student with a certificate of appreciation.



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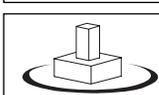
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