

ASCE, PHILA. SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2007-08

The ASCE, Philadelphia Section Meeting program for the 2007-08 season is taking shape. Dates have been set for the remaining Section meetings. We are still working on the details of the Spring Social and should have some information for your planning purposes shortly.

As always, we would advise that you watch this space in future issues of THE NEWS and the Section website for updated information on our meeting program.

All dinner meetings feature a cocktail hour starting at 5:30PM, dinner at 6:30PM, and the meeting presentation following at approximately 7:30PM. As always, you are welcome to attend the meeting presentation without dinner at no cost if you prefer to do so.

Thursday, March 13, 2008 — Joint meeting with Mid-Atlantic Section, Institute of Transportation Engineers, Women's Transportation Seminar, and the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia — Location: Center City, to be determined — Topic: The New CBS 3/CW 57 Multimedia Studio

Thursday, April 10, 2008 — Joint meeting with Engineers' Club of Philadelphia — Location: Center City, to be determined — Topic: Current Developments in the Port of Philadelphia



GOOD TIDINGS TO ALL ...

The Officers and Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Section, ASCE extend our heartfelt wishes to all Section Members, their families and friends for a joyous holiday season — whatever special day or time you celebrate — and for all the best for the coming year. As always, we hope your holiday season is full of good cheer and is safe, enjoyable and memorable!

JANUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

American Society of Civil Engineers, Reading Branch

American Society of Highway Engineers, Delaware Valley Section

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2008

Radisson Hotel, Valley Forge • 1st Avenue and Gulph Road, Valley Forge, PA

Cocktails 6:00 PM • Dinner 7:00 PM • Meeting 8:00 PM

Cost \$25 before January 11 (\$20 for government employees), \$35 January 12 and after and at the door.

SUBJECT: Creating a Civic Vision for the Central Delaware Riverfront

SPEAKER: Harris Steinberg, FAIA, Executive Director, Penn Praxis

RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2008. RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE THROUGH DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION, ASHE. 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. Payment for reservations must be received at ASHE by the January 11 deadline. Those who reserve past this date and walk-ins will be charged the higher rate.

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.

Checks for reservations should be sent to Delaware Valley Section ASHE, 1500 Walnut Street, Suite 1105, Philadelphia 19102. Checks should be made to "Delaware Valley Section ASHE".

Harris Steinberg is the founding executive director of **PennPraxis**, the clinical consulting arm of the School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the faculty of the Department of City and Regional Planning at Penn where he teaches a course in civic participation and community visioning.

The mission of PennPraxis is to foster faculty and student collaboration on real world projects across the five disciplines of the school: architecture, landscape architecture, city and regional planning, historic preservation and fine arts. Praxis projects range from a plan for a biotechnology park in Grenada, Spain to a strategy for achieving shared prosperity for the Village of Arts and Humanities in North Philadelphia.

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FEBRUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section,

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2008

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: "Extreme Makeover" Project — Home in Pennsauken

SPEAKER: The Speaker has not been confirmed as of press time.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2008. ALL RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH ASCE, SOUTH JERSEY BRANCH'S RESERVATIONS SYSTEM. (Reservation information will be provided in the February issue of THE NEWS.) 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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let me borrow a quote from our new Mayor — Michael Nutter:

"To make Philadelphia one of the truly great cities in the world, we must work together and everyone must do their part... Are you ready to roll up your sleeves and help us?"

Your Philadelphia Section of ASCE is already one of the truly great Sections of ASCE thanks to the countless volunteers who have contributed their time and talent over the past 95 years. **Are you ready to pitch in?**

In May the new Board of Directors will begin planning for the 2008-09 season, and the health and well-being of our Section depends on the capabilities and effort of these people. **Will you be one of them?** The Nominating Committee will be seeking people to fill vacancies on the Board and on committees. Whether you are inclined to commit to a Board position, or a committee, or you are inclined to help out with a single project that will improve the Section, we will help you help your Section. We can find a role for you that matches your available time and your inclinations.

What do you get out of it? For every volunteer in ASCE there is a personal story of the benefits that they realize from giving back to their profession. For me, there are several benefits ranging from the satisfying feeling of carrying the important message of our nation's infrastructure to getting to know and befriend several like-minded Engineers.

If you would like to be more involved in making our Section great, I encourage you to:

- 1) Contact any of the current or past Board members and ask them about their experiences. If you look to the right of this message, you will see the list of current Section Officers and Board of Directors.
- 2) Attend the remaining ASCE, Philadelphia Section meetings and talk to your fellow members about serving the Section.
- 3) Contact us at info@asce-philly.com and let us know your interests and availability for the 2008-2009 season.

The ASCE, Philadelphia Section thrives because a lot of different people from a lot of different professional and personal backgrounds have volunteered their time and talents to the cause. **Will you help your Society thrive moving forward?**

Voluntarily Yours,
James Markham, P.E.
President
ASCE, Philadelphia Section

2008 ENGINEERS WEEK — ON THE SCHEDULE

Engineers Week 2008 will start on **Friday, February 15** and will run through **Saturday, February 23**. As you may be aware, Engineers Week is held in February each year to highlight the birthday of our nation's first president, George Washington, who supported extensive Engineering and surveying activities throughout his military service. It is a time during which various Engineering accomplishments throughout the nation are cited and honored.

Locally, Engineers Week programs have been held since 1953, and these include the selection of the Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, the Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year, and other honors. Activities will kick off with the Proclamation Luncheon at the Loews Hotel in Center City Philadelphia on **Friday, February 15**. The 2008 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, **Dr. Dianne Dorland**, will preside as the guest of honor.

The 2008 Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year dinner is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 20**, at the **McCall Country Club** in Upper Darby. The incoming Young Engineer of the Year, to be determined, will be honored, along with all candidates nominated for this award.

The culmination of the Week's events, the **Engineers Week Banquet**, will take place at Drexel University on **Saturday, February 23**. 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 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 ASCE, Phila. Section is well represented on the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council, which coordinates Engineers Week activities locally.



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**COPY DEADLINE FOR
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JANUARY 18, 2008**

DECEMBER DINNER MEETING

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

The Down Town Club, Philadelphia

The Construction Industry Institute

By Robert Wright, Editor

The December meeting was quite a production, with **five** — count 'em — **FIVE!** **technical societies** joining forces to put on what proved to be a successful event — SAME, CMAA, ECP, PMI and ASCE for CII. In English, the host of the meeting, the **Society of American Military Engineers (SAME)**, **Philadelphia Post**, was accompanied by the **Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Construction Management Association of America (CMAA)**, the **Engineers' Club of Philadelphia (ECP)**, and the **Delaware Valley Chapter, Project Management Institute (PMI)**, in addition to our **ASCE, Philadelphia Section**. This proved to be a true "alphabet soup" of organizations, and the meeting drew a large crowd of over 140 attendees.

SAME Post President **Rad Delaney** welcomed the crowd and brought representatives of the three firms sponsoring the meeting to the podium to say a little about their firms. **Mike Griffin** of Hill International, **John Taylor** of PB Americas, and **Thom May** of Urban Engineers made their brief remarks (interestingly, each of these men is a Phila. Section member as well!).

President Delaney then gave each society's President a chance to make announcements. As this was done in alphabetical order, ASCE, Philadelphia Section President **James Markham** was the first to speak, followed by CMAA Chapter President **Lorraine Kay**, ECP President (and Past Section President) **Ruben David**, and PMI Chapter President **Michael Brennan**. A short benediction and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

After dinner, President Delaney returned to the podium and introduced the Marine Corps representative for SAME's **Toys for Tots** effort. Following that, Mike Griffin returned to the podium to introduce the evening's presenter, **Major General Hans Van Winkle**, Retired, President of Hill International's Domestic Project Management Group.

Mr. Van Winkle noted that he had just flown in from Kuwait but was ready to talk, and he began his talk on the **Construction Industry Institute (CII)**. The Institute was established in 1982 to facilitate construction industry research and development, and it was formally founded in 1983 at the University of Texas-Austin. CII serves as a non-profit forum for industry research.

Mr. Van Winkle explained that CII is needed since there is very little research and development in industry. Budgets are not sufficient to provide this in the Architecture/Engineering arena, and in manufacturing roughly 3-5% of budgets are targeted for this purpose. Thus, the construction industry realized that it would have to create an instrument to push for research, as companies could not do it alone.

CII is a consortium of leading owners, contractors, suppliers and academia. Mr. Van Winkle went

through a list of current members, and many large companies are among this group. Annual dues is on the high side (\$36,000), but this level is necessary to provide resources to complete CII's mission to create and disseminate knowledge.

One of the "signature" issues that CII has addressed is safety, as Mr. Van Winkle showed statistics which bear out the industry's accident rates. Through its efforts, CII members have seen their accident rates remarkably decrease compared to the industry as a whole. The use of CII techniques and procedures has resulted in costs savings on projects on the order of 8% of budgets. CII has also attempted to address issues with construction schedules but has to date not been as successful as in other areas.

Mr. Van Winkle reviewed 14 items that CII has identified where "best practices" can be applied to enhance performance. Among these are pre-project planning, partnering, construct-

ability reviews, and risk allocation.

CII has promoted the professional development activities of its members as a way to increase training and have a more knowledgeable workforce. Mr. Van Winkle noted that a successful 3-week **Leadership Program** has been established at the business school of the University of Texas-Austin which helps industry personnel keep current with new practices.

Mr. Van Winkle closed his presentation with a review of productivity metrics categories and a general statement that the construction industry will continue to improve as a result of CII's ongoing efforts.

President Delaney thanked Mr. Van Winkle for flying in from Kuwait and giving his interesting talk, and closed the evening's activities.

ADVICE FOR THE DAY:

If you have a lot of tension and
you get a headache, do what it says
on the aspirin bottle:
"Take two aspirin" and
"Keep away from children."

—Author Unknown

PHILADELPHIA SECTION 2008 AWARDS PROGRAM NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN!

The Section's Awards Program for 2008 is now open for nominations. These Awards recognize Section members and others for their contributions to the Civil Engineering profession. All Awards will be presented at the Spring Social/Dinner Dance. More information on the Spring Social will be included in upcoming issues of THE NEWS.

GUIDELINES/RULES

- Nominations must be postmarked by Friday, January 25, 2008, or faxed to the Awards Committee Chair by the close of business that day. Nominations should be submitted on nomination forms which are available from the Committee Chair.
- Individuals may be nominated for awards by a member in any grade of membership.
- Individuals may receive only one award in a single year, but may be nominated for more than one award in a single year.
- Award recipients are subject to the approval of the Section's Board of Directors.
- All awards are presented only in years in which, in the judgement of the Selection Committee or the Board, there is at least one suitable candidate.
- The Selection Committee, at its discretion, may nominate an alternate for each Award for Board consideration.
- The Selection Committee will recommend to the Board whether the recipient should also be nominated for applicable National or Regional awards by the Section.
- A nominee for any award MUST be a member in good standing of the ASCE, Philadelphia Section in the year in which the nomination is

made, with two exceptions (Government Service Award and Philadelphia History and Heritage Award). For these awards, membership in the ASCE, Philadelphia Section is NOT required.

AWARDS

The Section has a total of 13 awards which cover various specialty areas. In addition, the Section President can nominate an individual for the Presidential Award at his/her discretion. The awards are as follows:

- Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year
- Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer of the Year
- Philadelphia Government Engineer of the Year
- Philadelphia Young Government Engineer of the Year
- Government Service Award
- Educator of the Year
- Philadelphia History and Heritage Award

Individual Technical Awards:

- Civil Engineering Manager of the Year
- Construction Engineer of the Year
- Geotechnical Engineer of the Year
- Structural Engineer of the Year
- Transportation Engineer of the Year
- Water Resources Engineer of the Year

If you are interested in submitting a nomination for consideration, please contact **Bob Wright**, Committee Chair, at **(215) 922-8081, x1647** (or via e-mail at **newseditor@asce-philly.org**) to obtain a nomination form. You may also call Bob if you have any questions or need any additional information on the Section Awards Program.

JANUARY DINNER MEETING

Continued from Page 1

Civic engagement is a hallmark of Harris' work at Praxis. Projects include the award-winning 2003 Penn's Landing Forums and 2005 Franklin Conference on School Design produced in partnership with the Editorial Board of the Philadelphia Inquirer and Penn's Center for School Councils. In 2005 and 2006 Praxis worked with the Philadelphia *Daily News* on the Slots and the City series which tested the physical impact of casinos on the city. In 2005, Praxis played a leading role in the design and facilitation of the National Summit on School Design convened by the American Architectural Foundation and the KnowledgeWorks Foundation at College Park, MD.

Harris recently led a 13-month public planning process for seven-miles of the central Delaware riverfront in Philadelphia. The process, *A Civic Vision for the Central Delaware*, was established by executive order of Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street in October 2006 and was funded by the William Penn Foundation with support from the Knight Foundation and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Working in close partnership with the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, the project included a 46-member advisory group drawn from the civic, government and business communities. It was a citizen-driven, open and transparent process that engaged over 5500 Philadelphians; including more than 1500 who attended the standing-room-only public presentation of the civic vision at the Pennsylvania Convention Center on November 14, 2007.

Harris received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of Pennsylvania and his Master of Architecture degree from Penn where he was awarded the Paul Phillipe Cret Prize for Architectural Design. He is the recipient of the Young Architects Award from the Philadelphia Chapter of the AIA and in 2006 was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. From 2001 to 2006, he served as a member of the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

DIRECTIONS TO RADISSON HOTEL VALLEY FORGE:

From Philadelphia via I-76 — take exit 327 (Mall Blvd.) Turn right onto Mall Blvd. at the traffic signal at the end of the ramp. Turn right onto Gulph Road at the next traffic signal. Follow Gulph Road for approximately 2 miles to its intersection with 1st Avenue. The Radisson/Scanticon complex will be on your right past 1st Avenue.

From Pennsylvania Turnpike — from the Philadelphia/Valley Forge interchange (exit 326), follow I-76 to exit 327, the first exit past the toll plaza (Gulph Road). Bear right on the ramp onto Gulph Road. Follow Gulph Road for approximately 1 mile to its intersection with 1st Avenue. The Radisson/Scanticon complex will be on your right past 1st Avenue.

"UNDERSTANDING FINANCE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER — CUTTING THROUGH THE CLUTTER"

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia (ECP), in concert with its Younger Member Forum, will be sponsoring a Continuing Education Seminar on this topic on **Saturday, February 9, 2008**, at Pennoni Associates (3001 Market Street). This seminar will be held from 8 AM to 4 PM. The featured presenter is **David Wahby**, President, Wahby and Associates. Dr. Wahby is a past principal financial employee of a large multi-disciplined firm, a nationally recognized finance and management consultant to A&E companies, a faculty member at Georgia Tech, a popular ASCE National seminar presenter, and a contributing column editor to professional publications.

The session will feature discussions and real, practical advice from a seasoned, financial Engineering manager. Topics include, but are not limited to revenue, expenses, reimbursements, overhead, company budgeting, multipliers, labor utilization rates, and cash flow. All are welcome — especially up and coming senior Engineers/project managers from consulting firms and owners/agencies.

The seminar is worth 6 PDH's or 0.6 CEU Value. The course price, a low \$150, includes breakfast, lunch, on-site parking, and useful handouts. Students are eligible for a half-price discount.

Reservations are limited to the first 80 participants. Payment in advance is required.

Please visit www.wahby.com/Seminars for more information on the instructor and a more detailed explanation of this special opportunity. For more information about this course and the Engineers' Club in general, please visit www.engrclub.org or call (215) 985-5701.

A limited edition official ECP-YMF golf shirt, and an introductory, discounted one-year membership in ECP will be available at the seminar for \$50 per person. Payment can be made separately at the seminar.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

The ASCE, Phila. Section Sponsorship program continues to grow, and we now have 28 firms which have signed on 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. If your firm's card is not on our Sponsors' pages, and you would like it to be, please contact our Editor, **Bob Wright** (215) 922-8081, x1647 or newseditor@asce-philly.org for more information.

**An Engineer is someone
who is good with figures,
but doesn't have the
personality of an accountant.**

— An Arts Graduate's View of Engineers

TECHNICAL GROUPS/CHAIRS

Information on the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's Technical Groups is given below. Vice President **Kristen Bowman Kavanagh** 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
Pennoni Associates Inc.
515 Grove Street, Suite 2C
Haddon Heights, NJ 08035-1756
(856) 547-0505 ext. 3416

ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

William J. Mulloy
US Army Corps of Engineers
Philadelphia District
Wanamaker Building, 7th Floor
100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 656-6583

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES

Jeremy Colello
Pennoni Associates, Inc.
3001 Market Street, 2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104
(215) 222-3000

STRUCTURAL

Dr. Mohiuddin Ali Khan
JMT Inc.
1300 Rt. 73 South, Suite 313
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
(856) 778-5517

TRANSPORTATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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

The Engineering Management and Construction Technical Groups are currently looking for new members to help plan and manage future programs. Please contact the respective Chairman if you are interested.

COMING NEXT ISSUE...

- Information on the February and March meetings.
- Report on the January meeting.
- Information on the Spring Social.
Look for this in the February edition of THE NEWS, coming in late January.

SPONSOR PROFILE

KMJ Consulting, Inc. Ten Years Later...

By Karen Jehanian, President

A lot has changed at KMJ since we began in 1998. Over the last ten years, we've grown from a sole proprietor to a multi-person transportation consulting firm that works on projects up and down the East Coast.

In that time, we've expanded our capabilities and taken on larger and more complex projects. But one thing that hasn't changed is our commitment to the core values that we held from day one. These values have guided every aspect of our business and have become ingrained in our standard operating procedures. Our clients agree with this commitment to core values. We conducted a recent survey in which their feedback stated that they were impressed with the fact that we are:

Technically strong. Technical competence is critically important and we take our technical knowledge very seriously. We actively and consistently work on honing our skills through continuous education and professional development.

Reliable. Technical competence alone does not complete a project. Clients need to have confidence that their consultants are able to get the job done and deliver a project on time and on budget. Our clients stated that they can depend on KMJ.

Responsive. Since it is exceedingly difficult to differentiate from the competition in a meaningful way based on technical ability alone, we strive to be more responsive than our competitors. When a client calls with a question or an issue, we respond within 24 hours.

Honest. We don't make promises we can't keep — even if that means turning down work. It's sometimes difficult to do, but the last thing we want is to over promise and under deliver. We don't dance around tough issues — we confront them head on before they become problems. It's important to ask the difficult questions and raise issues that may become potential problems, even if the clients don't want to hear it. Clients don't hire us to tell them what they want to hear. They hire us to tell them what they need to hear and to enlighten them on issues that might have eluded them.

At KMJ, we have embraced change as we have grown, but we have also kept some things constant. Our core values have served as a touchstone to help guide our decisions and to sustain our client relationships.

We look forward to the next ten years of continued commitment to our clients' needs and thank you for your continued support!

About KMJ — Headquartered west of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, KMJ Consulting, Inc. is a DBE/WBE firm that provides consulting services in the areas of Traffic Engineering, Transportation Planning, Transit Planning, Transit Oversight and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). The firm is a certified DBE/WBE in Pennsylvania, Maine, New York, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Arizona, and South Carolina. For more information on KMJ Consulting, Inc., please visit our website www.kmjinc.com.

ANACE*

The Twelve Days of Christmas

You've probably heard this song a number of times this season, along with its several variations. Did you ever wonder what it's all about?

If you did, you may be in luck. We at THE NEWS have learned at least one version of its origin. This is not documented, but we were handed it, and we think the source is reliable, so...

Anyway, please take this for what you will.

From 1558 through 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. To get around this issue, several methods were devised to allow people to follow their religion without violation of the law.

Allegedly, the Twelve Days of Christmas was written as a catechism song to be sung by young folks. Each element in the song has a code word for a religious belief or fact that the child could remember by singing it.

The partridge in the pear tree — Jesus Christ
Two turtle doves — the Old and New Testament
Three French hens — faith, hope and love
Four calling birds — the four gospels
Five golden rings — the Torah (or Law), the first five books of the Old Testament
Six geese a-laying — the six days of creation
Seven swans a-swimming — the gifts of the Holy Spirit (prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership, mercy)
Eight maids a-milking — the eight Beatitudes
Nine ladies dancing — nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control)
Ten lords a-leaping — the Ten Commandments
Eleven pipers piping — the eleven faithful disciples of Christ
Twelve drummers drumming — the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed

Some of you may also be familiar with the version created by Bob and Doug McKenzie, the take-off of Canadian life on SCTV several years ago. Their "code words" were:

Seven packs of smokes
Six pack of 2-4 [you beer drinkers will know what this is]
Five golden toques
Four pounds of back bacon
Three French toast
Two turtle-necks
And a beer (in a tree)

And, as you have no doubt heard at this point in the season, there are any number of spin-offs, variations, etc of this song which we won't repeat here (and you're welcome!), as well as at least two or three updates on the present-day cost of all of the gifts covered in the song.

*ANACE — Absolutely Nothing About or Concerning Engineering

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

by Krista Pohl, Forum Editor

Joseph Platt, Forum President 2007-08
Traffic Planning and Design Inc
Sanatoga Commons, 2500 E. High Street, Suite 650, Pottstown, PA 19464; jplatt@trafficpd.com

Critical Issues Seminar A Success!

On Wednesday, November 28, the YMF held its annual **Critical Issues Seminar** at Taylor's Olde Mill in Norristown. The event was jointly hosted with the **Valley Forge Chapter, PSPE**. This year, the topic of "*The PE as an Expert Witness*" featured the experienced panel of **Christopher Schubert, Esq., Greg Richardson, P.E., Fred Brehm, Esq., and David Fleisher, P.E.** The event, attended by nearly 90 people, centered on what it means for a Professional Engineer to be an expert witness, how to prepare for expert testimony and how to explain technical information to a non-technical audience. Depositions and court testimony are often unnerving and dreaded occurrences, and the panel shared their stories and experiences with the group. A lively question and answer session followed. Thanks go to the speakers for spending their time discussing this important topic.

Happy Hour in Conshy

On Thursday, November 15, the YMF hosted a Happy Hour at The Boathouse in Conshohocken in an effort to appeal to the suburban crowd. The event was attended by approximately 25 people. Thanks to **Cathy Golata** and **Guy DiMartino** for setting up the event.

The Winter Social is Coming!

On **Monday, January 28, 2008** the YMF will be hosting its **12th Annual Winter Social**. This year, this legendary and popular event returns to **McGillin's Olde Ale House**, the location of several past Winter Socials until the popularity of them outgrew the capacity of McGillin's private second floor room (which can hold about 125!). To get around this constraint, and to ensure that everyone who wants to attend will have a chance to do so, the YMF has reserved the entire first floor bar and restaurant area of McGillin's for the evening.

The Social will run from 5:30 to 8:30 (both PM!) with a cost of \$15 for those who reserve in advance. For those who do not reserve and pay at the door (and there is no guarantee that there will be space for you if you do this — this is a popular event!), the cost will be \$25. The cost covers a buffet of hot roast beef, meatballs, baked penne pasta, sandwiches, salad, as well as a wide selection of beers (including domestic, micro-brews and imports), house wines and well drinks.

There will also be a raffle of several fine prizes, which will benefit local charities, so don't forget to bring some extra cash.

McGillin's is located at 1310 Drury Lane, a half-block south of Chestnut Street, in Center City.

Please visit our website for additional information. To RSVP please email: **RSVP@ymfphilly.org**. We hope to see you there!

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

Thursday, November 8, 2007

The Down Town Club, Philadelphia

Engineering the Political Landscape

By Robert Wright, Editor

After the usual onslaught of election ads on television, radio and in print, and the culmination of these ads on Election Day, a brave group of roughly 60 attendees came out on a chilly November evening to hear a little more about politics, although (hopefully!) in a much more positive light. ASCE, Phila. Section President **James Markham** welcomed the crowd and opened the meeting, with Past Section President Carol Martsof leading the group in a moment of silence for the invocation.

Mike Griffin, ASCE, Phila. Section Member and Board Member of the local chapter of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA), took the podium to give an update on the planned joint meeting on December 12, 2007 that would be sponsored by CMAA, the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), the Project Management Institute (PMI), the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia (ECP), and our Section. (See the report on this meeting elsewhere in this edition of THE NEWS.)

Mike turned the podium back to President Markham, who introduced the evening's program and our featured speaker, **Dr. Richardson Dilworth**, Associate Professor of Political Science at Drexel University.

What's the Connection?

Dr. Dilworth gave a short background of his interest areas and noted that Drexel is currently engaged in a number of collaborative programs that span across the discipline/school boundaries. He has been working with Engineering faculty on two topics, urban systems modeling/management and emergency planning. He is also assembling a Masters level program in urban systems policy management that will hopefully be offered by Drexel in the near future.

To answer the question of why political scientists would have an interest in Engineering, Dr. Dilworth embarked on his presentation. The reasons lie in part in the history of development of our cities. As institutions, cities have a cloudy legal status, as they are not directly mentioned in the Constitution. The Constitution describes and differentiates the rights of individuals, but not the rights of individual groups, as is the European tradition. One direct result of this is that cities never gained full legitimacy in the legal/constitutional sense.

In the 1890's, law began to redefine the public corporation as a subunit of the state, and clear legal divisions began to emerge to separate private and public corporations. The public body/corporation was defined more in terms of an economic development policy unit than a governmental operation.

Metropolitan Fragmentation and the "Nativist" Movement

Since the 1950's, many issues related to lifestyle changes can be attributed in part to the fragmentation within urban areas. This led to competition among smaller communities and, in the 1970's, became a bigger problem as economic sorting created even more fragmentation. This division often had a significant impact on municipal services as these do not have direct economies of scale and tend to have high fixed costs.

Dr. Dilworth explained that cities in the "Rust Belt" of the northeast and midwest United States expanded rapidly, but stopped growing physically at the turn of the 20th century. Population continued to rise, but it was constrained within the city corporation limits. State laws were enacted and changed to stop this growth, and suburban towns found it easier to incorporate and thus resist annexation more strongly than before. The principal way that cities in the Sunbelt have grown is through continued agglomeration of unincorporated areas, which tends to be encouraged by state laws in that area. For example, Houston has fairly wide latitude to annex areas very easily through Texas' statutes.

As Dr. Dilworth outlined, those who were "native" to the United States resisted immigration and started to move from the crowded cities where most immigrants were settling. This "nativist" movement was strong just before the Civil War. A direct result of this movement was the growth of close-in suburban communities that later resisted annexation by the cities left behind by those who moved out to avoid the "big city" problems.

The Effect of Public Works and Access to Infrastructure

None of the factors Dr. Dilworth put forth was as strong as the need for public works and infrastructure for cities to grow and expand. Small towns were not readily able to pay for and build water systems, roads, and similar facilities, and they often got these by allowing the nearby large city to annex them and then provide the public works.

History is full of the stories of political machines and strong bosses who were often empowered by their access to the oversight and direction of public works. The Tammany organization in New York is a prime example of this. As Dr. Dilworth mentioned, despite the notorious graft and corruption, this was good for civil Engineers, since this provided a major learning and growing opportunity.

An example closer to home is the development of the gas works in Philadelphia. Our experience differs from other cities in that ours was a private undertaking that was later

absorbed to become a city-owned service. The impetus for this purchase was the ability to use the gas works as a major patronage body. Dr. Dilworth noted that private providers continued to serve other cities and had little to do with the city's growth as the gas service was built as development occurred. This is much the same pattern as the private companies that offer water in suburban areas, a growth industry with many "mega-firms" today.

The public works experience has an interesting relationship between politicians and Engineers, as Dr. Dilworth observed. The Engineers, who tended to be progressive and independent of political machines, fought patronage. The politicians had to endure this, even though they did not agree with it, since they needed Engineers to run their works.

In the 1890's, technology had advanced to the point that infrastructure became more affordable to smaller communities. As technological innovation continued, these communities had less and less dependence on the larger cities for these services, and annexation was no longer the greatest solution to this issue. This is when fragmentation of metropolitan areas began to occur, according to Dr. Dilworth. While the larger cities could still sell these services to the smaller towns, the towns had more options and could resist being swallowed by the growing cities. It made it easier for the "nativists" to support their arguments for separation from the cities as well.

There remained a need for large-scale public works projects to serve the greater needs of the cities and their large populations, and Engineers and politicians found that they could work hand-in-hand to develop and produce these. Smaller communities did not have this need for large projects, for the most part, and could remain independent.

Philadelphia's Future?

Dr. Dilworth outlined what he believes are two significant events that could happen in Philadelphia's future:

- The growing empowerment of quasi-suburban "governments" within the City, such as the special service organizations (Center City District, University City District) — as the city's ability to deliver services diminishes, these groups will become stronger and usurp this duty.
- Cities cannot physically move, and to "re-invent" themselves, they have to start with what they have and rebuild in place. In this way, they can act more like a commercial concern which can relocate, to a point. Dr. Dilworth outlined an example in which Philadelphia was permitted to join New Jersey and absorb Camden, although this might require the addition of a more prosperous community (such as Cherry Hill) to make it more palatable. Congressional approval would be needed for this, but it is a viable solution.

A short question and answer period followed. President Markham thanked Dr. Dilworth for his insightful presentation and offered a token of the Section's appreciation for his efforts.

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ANACE* (PART 2)**If You Drink, Read This**

You may have seen some advertising recently that celebrated the 75th anniversary of the end of Prohibition. The celebration might be a little premature, but we know how people like to start partying (and sometimes for no real reason). And we know how drinking can obscure things (we've been told, at least). At any rate, here are the facts.

The manufacture, sale and transport of "intoxicating liquor" (having an alcohol content greater than 0.5%) was outlawed in the United States by the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, also known as the Volstead Act (in tribute to its prime supporter, Rep Andrew Volstead, a Minnesota Republican) and the National Prohibition Act. This was passed by Congress on December 18, 1917 (90 years ago, if anyone wants to have a drink to that!), but vetoed by President Wilson. Congress overrode the veto and the Amendment was ratified on January 16, 1919.

As history will note, the Amendment was not all that effective and a major industry grew around bootlegging, rum-running, bathtub gin, etc. To respond to the ineffectiveness of the Amendment, and to reflect changing times and morals, Congress passed the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, which repealed the 18th Amendment and ended prohibition, on February 20, 1933. The Amendment was ratified on December 5, 1933.

Thus, while we entered the 75th year of legal alcohol, the end of Prohibition will see its 75th anniversary in December 2008. Try to hold your celebrating until then.

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