

ASCE, PHILA. SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2009-10

The ASCE, Phila. Section Meeting program for the upcoming season is starting to take shape. The TENTATIVE dates have been provided below for your planning purposes. We would suggest that you use this to mark your calendar at this time and hold the dates.

We are diligently working to schedule topics and speakers that will offer interesting and insightful events. In coming issues of *THE NEWS*, we will provide updates as information becomes available. We also suggest you visit the Section website for the latest changes in our meeting program.

We also noted the success of the varied locations of meetings and will continue to schedule a mix of Center City and suburban venues to make them as convenient as possible for you. More details will be provided on meeting locations in upcoming editions of *THE NEWS*.

Dinner meetings generally follow a schedule of a cocktail hour starting at 5:30 PM, dinner at 6:30 PM, and the meeting presentation following at approximately 7:30 PM, unless otherwise noted. We also intend to follow our second-Thursday pattern except where joint meetings will preclude this. You are welcome to attend the meeting presentation without dinner at no cost if you prefer to do so.

DATES TO SAVE, as of this printing, are:

- 2009** _____
 Wednesday, December 9, 2009;
 Joint meeting with Society of
 American Military Engineers
- 2010** _____
 Wednesday, January 20, 2010;
 Joint meeting with American Society
 of Highway Engineers
 Thursday, February 11, 2010
 Thursday, March 11, 2010
 Thursday, April 8, 2010

REMINDER — 139TH ASCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2009 ASCE Annual Conference will be held **October 29-31 in Kansas City**. The theme this year is *From Builders to Integrators — Civil Engineers Leading the Way*. More information is provided on National's website and in the September edition of *Civil Engineering*.

OCTOBER DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2009

Down Town Club • Public Ledger Building, 6th & Chestnut Streets, Center City Philadelphia
 Cocktails 5:30 PM • Dinner 6:30 PM • Meeting 7:30 PM

SUBJECT: Social Media for Project Managers

SPEAKER: Rick Alcantara, Tara Communications LLC

RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2. Please send your check for the number of attendees at \$40 per member or guest, \$20 per ASCE Student Member. Checks should be made payable to "Philadelphia Section ASCE" and sent to ASCE, Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, 215 S. 16th Street, Suite 16, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Reservations can also be made on the Engineers' Club message center, **215-985-5701**, 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.**

Mr. Alcantara will discuss the business benefits, technologies and challenges behind social media. Learn how Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and other platforms will change how you manage projects, find jobs, promote expertise, engage customers and more. Discover which technologies are leading the revolution. Uncover some of social media's hidden traps.

Mr. Alcantara is former president of the Phila. Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America, board member of the International Association of Business Communicators, vice president of the Public Relations Professionals of Southern New Jersey and adjunct instructor at Drexel University and Rowan University. He is a frequent speaker on PR/marketing strategies and issues. He holds a master's degree from Rowan University and a bachelor's degree from Susquehanna University.

Resolve to attend ALL Section Meetings This Year!

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2009

Down Town Club • Public Ledger Building, 6th & Chestnut Streets, Center City Philadelphia
 Cocktails 5:30 PM • Dinner 6:30 PM • Meeting 7:30 PM

SUBJECT: ASCE Infrastructure Report Card

SPEAKER: Andrew Hermann, Hardesty & Hanover

Please mark the date in your calendar. More information will be provided in the November edition of *THE NEWS*.

OUR NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT-ELECT IS...

...**Kathy J. Caldwell, P.E., M.ASCE**. Kathy has been chosen by the Society's membership as the President-Elect for 2010. She will take office at the Annual Conference in Kansas City.

As President-Elect, she will support incoming President **Blaine Leonard** and prepare to assume the Presidency in 2011. A Structural Engineer by

training, the Gainesville, Fla., resident is president of Caldwell Cook & Associates, and is an adjunct professor at the University of Florida. She has been a member of ASCE since 1984, and was most recently a member of the Board of Direction and the Executive Committee.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At our annual Spring Social this past May, I emphasized that the ASCE Philadelphia Section exists to serve our members and only remains viable through the efforts of our member volunteers. The volunteers plan, promote, and advocate on our behalf. In addition to being respected professionals, our volunteers organize monthly meetings, technical meetings and tours, networking opportunities, and leadership opportunities. They coordinate with local student chapters, plan happy hours, manage our finances, write the newsletter, send out

email blasts, etc.

In the coming season, the Section — through the efforts of our dedicated volunteers — will strive to expand and improve upon the services we provide to our members, particularly with respect to creating fun opportunities for networking and socializing, increasing the breadth and frequency of technical meetings to provide continuing education opportunities for members to satisfy the State of Pennsylvania's impending requirements for continuing professional development hours (PDHs) for Civil Engineers, organizing monthly meetings that are educational and relevant, and improving our member communications. But in order to be successful, we need the participation, ideas, time, and financial support of all members.

I would like to ask each member to consider volunteering for the Section in a small or large way. There are several committees in need of additional volunteers including the Email, Sponsorship, Awards, Nominating, and Strategic Planning Committees. The following technical committees could also use additional support to enhance our PDH offerings:

- Environmental & Water Resources
- Engineering Management
- Transportation and Urban Development
- Construction
- Structures

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact me at kbkavanagh@flowscience.com. You can volunteer as much or as little time as you are comfortable with, and we can never have too many volunteers. And if you just cannot commit your time right now, then please consider volunteering your ideas.

We have a busy year ahead of us, and the new Board members and I look forward to working side-by-side with you to continuously improve our Section.

Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, P.E.
President, ASCE, Philadelphia Section

Villanova University PENNSYLVANIA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

Bailing Out Stormwater • Oct. 14-15

The symposium is intended to advance the knowledge and understanding of sustainable stormwater management for those dealing in all aspects of planning, design, implementation and regulatory compliance. This is the seventh symposium on stormwater issues that has been held at Villanova.

This year the group will be addressed by **John Hines**, Deputy Secretary of Water Management, and **Glenn Rider**, Director of the Bureau of Watershed Management, as well as many notable speakers from both the private and the public sector. Of course, our researchers will present their latest results!

Technical topics and speakers will include a star-studded lineup, with Green Infrastructure, the many new stormwater initiatives in Pennsylvania, and the Philadelphia Water Department Office of Watersheds among them.

A one-day Municipal Workshop will present practical information and strategies for dealing with stormwater runoff in your municipality. We start with stormwater fundamentals, look at inspection and infiltration testing, and end with runoff controls and maintenance. This one-day workshop is for municipal elected and appointed officials, and their staff and planners.

More information can be found at www.villanova.edu/VUSP.

CEU's will be given for attendance at the symposium. The symposium proceedings will be published to the Internet. Potential exhibitors and sponsors are encouraged to contact **Dr. Robert Traver** at (610) 519-7899.

HEC-RAS CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE

Learn how to use the HEC-RAS program for basic open channel flow analysis. Course topics include: water surface profiles, bridge and culvert hydraulics, multiple opening analysis, and bridge scour computations.

WHEN: January 11–13, 2010
(Monday through Wednesday)
WHERE: The College of New Jersey,
Ewing, NJ

Contact **Dr. Michael Horst** directly for course price and registration at (814) 571-5607, or horst@tcnj.edu. Register before **December 1, 2009** or register three or more people from the same organization to receive a discounted rate.

Please visit <http://www.tcnj.edu/~horst/conned.htm> for specific details about the course including a complete course agenda, information about the instructor, course materials, and directions to The College of New Jersey.

ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2009-10 SEASON

At the Spring Social on May 13, 2009, the ASCE, Phila. Section's Officers and Board members were officially installed.

They are as follows:

PRESIDENT

Kristen Bowman Kavanagh,
Flow Science, Inc.

PRESIDENT ELECT

Thomas W. Brady, Louis Berger Group

VICE PRESIDENT

Ann M. Tomalavage,
Malarkey Consulting, Inc.

SECRETARY

AnnMarie L. Vigilante, Langan Engineering
& Environmental Services

TREASURER

Joseph Platt, Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Guy DiMartino,
Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Peter Sitkowski, Citizens Bank

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Christopher W. Wright, AECOM

DIRECTORS

Vicki L. Brown, Widener University ('09-'11)
Jeremy Colello, Pennoni Associates, Inc. ('08-'10)
Soheila Rahbari, Schoor DePalma ('09-'11)
Jennifer K. Walsh, McMahon Associates Inc. ('08-'10)
Keith Yamatani, Kleinfelder ('09-'11)
John Zarsky, Pennoni Associates, Inc. ('08-'10)

PAST PRESIDENTS

Mark J. Tiger, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.
James P. Markham, Pennoni Associates, Inc.
Carol C. Martsolf, Urban Engineers, Inc.

PRESIDENT, READING BRANCH

Gerald Donnelly, STV, Inc.

We wish these brave and generous folks our collective good luck for the coming season.

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR
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OCTOBER 16, 2009**

TECHNICAL GROUPS/CHAIRS

Information on the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's Technical Groups is given below. President-Elect **Tom Brady** will be coordinating 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 appropriate Group Chair.

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ENGINEERS WEEK GOLF OUTING

The **10th Annual Engineers Week Golf Outing** will be held on **Thursday, October 1**, at the **Island Green Golf Course** in Northeast Philadelphia. Sponsorships, foursomes, and individual play are available. Registration starts at 8:00 AM and clubs start swinging with a shotgun start at 9:00 AM. Please visit the Engineers' Club website, www.engrclub.org, for more information.

SECTION GOES ELECTRONIC THE NEWS GOING DIGITAL

THE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN

As reported in the Summer edition of THE NEWS, we will shortly be going digital. Starting with the December/January edition of THE NEWS, we will be changing our distribution methods, with e-mailing becoming the "default".

Postage and printing costs continue to increase, and we see the e-mail option as a major tool available to us to save the over \$15,000 we spend each season on these combined expenditures. These savings can be allocated into other areas in our budget, meaning we can better utilize these resources on programs, meetings and other items which generally have more tangible benefits to our members.

Over the past several years, we have offered e-mail delivery of *THE NEWS* as an option to members. E-mailing allows THE NEWS to get in your hands quickly and efficiently. Over 200 members have opted for this to date and they have found that *THE NEWS* gets to them at least one week faster than via conventional mailing.

We are compiling the e-mail addresses of our members, but do not have all of them. Thus, we may need to obtain your preferred e-mail address at some point in the coming season to keep our address book current and make sure we have the correct address so *THE NEWS* can continue to reach you in a timely fashion.

We realize that not all of you are ready for this, or have e-mail capability or computer savvy, so we would still retain the hard-copy mailing option if you so prefer. If you would like to continue receiving a hard copy in addition to the e-mailed version, please notify us at info@asce-philly.org or via mail to our address at the Engineers' Club by **December 15**.

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Lindsey Glavin, Forum Editor
Cathy G. Farrell, Forum President 2009-10
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
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On September 3, the **YMF**, in conjunction with the **South Jersey YMF** and **Engineers Without Borders (EWB)**, rounded up more than thirty volunteers who took part in the "*Red Goes Green*" event with the **Philadelphia Phillies** at Citizens Bank Park. The event was a great success with two dumpsters of recyclable cans and bottles (approximately three thousand total) being collected by volunteers in the first seven innings. After the seventh innings several members stayed and enjoyed a beautiful night and a Phillies win at the ballpark.

The YMF is also planning a **Philly Cares Day Team (October 17)** and is looking for volunteers. You'll get to work side by side with your friends and colleagues to put fresh paint on classrooms,

CONSTANTINE PAPADAKIS

As you are no doubt aware, Dr. Constantine "Taki" Papadakis, the President of Drexel University, passed away suddenly on April 5. He was one of the more prominent and well-known civil engineers in our region and he had achieved considerable recognition and many honors in the field before he even got to Drexel.

Dr. Papadakis was born in Greece, and received his diploma in Civil Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens. He came to the United States to pursue his Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Cincinnati and, later, a Doctorate from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Dr. Papadakis joined Bechtel Power Company in 1974, where he served in several engineering positions. He managed a group of engineering specialists who did pioneering work in flood-control systems, hydroelectric power and cooling systems for nuclear reactors. He subsequently moved to positions at STS Consultants as vice president in charge of the Water Resources Division of the company, and Tetra Tech, where, as vice president, he led FEMA and Superfund environmental projects.

Dr. Papadakis was lured back to academia when he realized that strong management could revolutionize an institution. In 1984 he agreed to head up Colorado State University's Civil Engineering department, then the second largest in the nation and known for water resources research and an entrepreneurial faculty. Two years later, he became the dean of the University of Cincinnati's College of Engineering, where he built top-quality graduate programs, more than quadrupled research contracts and grants and established relationships with leaders of local industry. During his tenure he increased the size of the faculty from 94 to 170.

After serving in industry and academia, Dr. Papadakis joined Drexel in 1995 as its President. He shaped Drexel into a full-scope academic institution and a national leader in higher education, transforming engineering education and leading the College of Engineering to become a world-class research institution.

organize libraries, and/or clean-up playgrounds at schools throughout the City. This is the largest service event in the area and is always an amazing experience. Thousands of children will benefit from a few hours of our labor. Please feel free to bring your friends, your family, or your co-workers. Please consider working with the YMF to make this a success. If you would like to participate, please RSVP to rsvp@ymfphilly.org by **Friday, October 2**. Check out the event flyer for additional information.

SPONSOR PROFILE

TPD Ranked Top Three C.E. Firm in the Nation

Judges for the annual *CE News* magazine Best Civil Engineering Firms To Work For competition ranked **Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. (TPD)**, a Transportation Engineering Firm that recently celebrated its 20 year anniversary, as one of this year's **Top Three** firms on its prestigious list of the **Best Firms To Work For** in the United States. The magazine bases selection on companies' commitment to providing a positive work environment and challenging and interesting work opportunities for employees. This is the 6th consecutive year TPD ranked among the Top 25 firms nationwide for achieving this unique working environment.

Proving their dedication to employees, TPD's strategic plan during the current economic crisis is to expend financial resources to preserve human resources with a primary goal of "No Layoffs," which is a direct contributor to TPD's Top Three ranking. Operating in five locations, TPD prides itself on working seamlessly as "One Company with Multiple Locations" as a way to leverage the considerable expertise of our professional staff and achieve project success. TPD's strategically-located network of offices, progressive management structure, aggressive investment in technology, and priority on individual accountability enable the firm to provide high quality service, responsiveness, and local knowledge for the benefit of clients, teaming partners, and ultimately, the traveling public. In addition, TPD's "One Company with Multiple Locations" philosophy effectively addresses the two leading causes for employee turnover at "Best Places To Work," namely proximity to family and commuter travel time. As such, TPD's employee retention rate is among the best in the nation, averaging better than 99% over the past three years. The direct benefits to TPD's clients, teaming partners, and vendors include a cumulative knowledge base that grows exponentially, long-term relationships with TPD's project managers, and stability in every aspect of the organization, from Engineering and business operations staff through to the management and ownership structure.

Since 1989, TPD has continually demonstrated a commitment to providing exceptional staff benefits, including financial support and flexible schedules, to encourage a healthy Work/Life Balance and aggressive Professional Development. From Pennsylvania offices in Pittsburgh, Pottstown, Harrisburg, and the Lehigh Valley, and a New Jersey office on the Camden Waterfront, TPD's 135 members specialize in transportation planning, highway and traffic signal design, bridge design and inspection, environmental permitting, and construction management and inspection services for municipal, state (DOT), and private clients. Visit us on the web at www.TrafficPD.com.

THE 2009 SPRING SOCIAL

May 13, 2009

Loews Hotel, Philadelphia, PA

by Robert Wright, Editor

Spring and fall are arguably the better seasons in our part of the world, especially for those who do not enjoy the hot and cold extremes of the other two seasons. Appropriately, the ASCE, Phila. Section picked a great spring evening on May 13 to end the 2008-09 season with our annual Spring Social. Over 100 members and guests came to the 33rd Floor of the Loews Hotel to celebrate the theme "Philadelphia Landmarks" in one of the actual landmarks, and with a great view of several others.

The evening featured the traditional induction of new Officers and Board Members as a main order of business. Region 2 Governor and Past Section President **Chris Menna** was tapped for the duty, which he handled ably as he administered the Oath of Office to the new Officers as well as those completing the second years of their terms.

Outgoing Section President **Mark Tiger** was there to preside over his final minutes as President and to reflect on the many successes of the Section's programs and activities during his term. He welcomed incoming President **Kristen Bowman Kavanagh**, who made the crowd shudder a little when she told everyone how she liked to talk, but then proceeded to give a short and inspiring presentation. She noted that, while Mark admitted he could write his speeches on the back of a business card, she would need a little more paper for hers.

The Section's first-place winners at the Delaware Valley Science Fairs were there to display and discuss their winning projects. **Vincent Chiara**, an 8th grader at The Pilgrim Academy in Egg Harbor City, New Jersey, the Grades 6-8 awardee, made the long trip to Center City with his parents and one of his teachers. His project was "Soil Erosion Caused by Rain." Making a similar long drive from the Lehigh Valley, Grades 9-12 winner **Maggie Schneiderman** presented her experiment on "The Battle of the Beams — Which Is Stronger, Solid Wood or Wood Composite Beams?" Maggie is a junior at Easton Area High School and was accompanied by her parents.

The ASCE, Phila. Section Awards for 2009 featured six recipients who were highlighted mainly through the audiovisual show that has become a Section standard. Information on each of the awardees follows.

Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year

The Section's highest honor, the **Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year** award, was presented to **David S. Lowdermilk**.

Dave serves as Vice President and Transportation Technology Principal at Pennoni Associates at its headquarters in University City. He has also taken on the role of Principal for Intelligent Infrastructure Solutions, a new effort that Pennoni has created in conjunction with Drexel University. This provides owners of bridges

state-of-the-art diagnostic tools and methods for structural capacity and risk assessment.

Dave manages over 150 staff members with an annual earnings value to the firm of \$20 million and serves as principal-in-charge for the firm's projects with PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission as well as program manager for projects with the Burlington County Bridge Commission. He has been involved in several major projects in our region, including portions of I-95, US 202, the Blue Route, and the Frankford Transportation Center.

Dave received his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University in 1979 and is a Registered Professional Engineer in eleven jurisdictions. He is the current president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies and is an active member of several professional societies. Earlier this year, he was cited as the 2009 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year.

Dave and his wife Missy live in Wallingford.

Young Civil Engineer of the Year

The Section nominated **Donald Gusic** as our **Young Civil Engineer of the Year**.

Don is with Pennoni Associates at its office in University City and has served as a Project Engineer in the highway group for Pennoni's Transportation Technology for the past four years. He is the Lead Project Engineer for several efforts for private developers and municipal clients. Among these are the new Health Center Boulevard in University City, the replacement of seven bridges carrying cross streets and pedestrian walkways over the Vine Street Expressway in Center City, and the realignment of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway at the Art Museum.

Don received his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Drexel University in 2001. He has professional registration in Pennsylvania and is a member of the American Society of Highway Engineers in addition to ASCE. In our Section, he is completing his term as President of the Younger Member Forum. He is also involved in community issues and, as an owner of two dogs, is an active member of a local dog park association.

Don, his wife Jackie, and their two children live in the Passyunk Square neighborhood of South Philadelphia.

Transportation Engineer of the Year

Karen M. Jehanian was nominated for our **Transportation Engineer of the Year** award.

Ten years ago, Karen founded her own firm, KMJ Consulting, Incorporated, which specializes in transportation engineering and planning, traffic studies and analysis, and the application of intelligent transportation system methods and solutions. As President of this firm, she directs

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SPRING SOCIAL

Continued from Page 4

market development, business opportunities and sales activities. She has additionally been involved in numerous transportation projects for the departments of transportation in Pennsylvania and Delaware, Philadelphia International Airport, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, SEPTA and other agencies. Prior to starting KMJ, she had 15 years of transportation and traffic engineering experience in other consulting firms.

Karen received her Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Drexel University in 1982 and returned for her Masters in Business Administration in 2000. She has co-authored a dozen technical papers to date. She is active in several technical societies in addition to ASCE and currently serves as President of the Intelligent Transportation Society of Pennsylvania.

Karen lives in Haverford.

Engineering Manager of the Year

Michael T. DiCamillo was the recipient for the **Engineering Manager of the Year** award.

Mike is a Senior Program Manager for Transit Facilities for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority. He has held this position for the past two years and has been with SEPTA in various capacities since 1983. His responsibilities include the planning, organization, control and direction of capital projects from conceptual Engineering to completion of construction. He directs a staff of 15 people with an annual budget of \$23 million. Among his projects are the City Hall/15th Street subway station improvements, the upgrading of the North Philadelphia Transportation Center, accessibility improvements and elevators at various subway and elevated stations, and the replacement of the Frankford Transportation Center.

Mike earned his Bachelor's degree in Civil and Urban Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania in 1979 and his Master's degree from Penn in 1985. He is a member of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia in addition to ASCE. He has been a long-time mentor of the Future City teams at his parish's grade school, Our Lady Help of Christians, which has consistently placed among the top regional and national winners of this competition. For his efforts in this program, he was inducted into the Future City Hall of Fame last year.

Mike and his wife Mary have three sons and three daughters and reside in Abington.

Geotechnical Engineer of the Year

The recipient for **Geotechnical Engineer of the Year** honors was **Robert Sabanas**.

Bob is a Senior Vice President at the Exton office of NTH Consultants and serves as the office's Manager of Geotechnical and Construction Services as well as the firm's Mid-Atlantic Regional Executive. He directs the office's activities in geotechnical analyses and investigations, commercial building construction, site development, and Geoenvironmental Engineering. He has 22 years of experience in these fields and

has served a key role in the construction of over 10 million square feet of retail space in the tri-state area. His notable local projects include the southwest pavilion addition at Paoli Memorial Hospital and the multi-purpose athletic building at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

Bob is a 1986 graduate of the University of Rochester, where he received his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering, and he returned to school at Drexel University for his Masters degree which was awarded to him in 1998. He is the current treasurer of the Section's Geo-Institute. He is proud to be able to say he is an Eagle Scout.

Bob, his wife Cheri and their three children reside in Lansdale.

Construction Engineer of the Year

This year's candidate for **Construction Engineer of the Year** honors was **Janet Cunningham**.

Janet is the President of JBC Associates, a firm of approximately 65 people located in King of Prussia which she founded in 1988. She directs the firm's activities in contract administration, project direction, planning, design and construction management for highways, bridges, transit, schools, airports and buildings. She is additionally a recognized speaker and trainer on issues involving scheduling and claims avoidance. Among the recent projects in which she has played a role are the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, the new International Terminal at Philadelphia International Airport, the Philadelphia School District's High School of the Future, and the Pennsylvania Turnpike's Susquehanna River Bridges.

Janet received her Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University in 1980. She is active in the Construction Management Association of America and the American Society of Highway Engineers in addition to ASCE. Last year she was recognized as one of Pennsylvania's Best 50 Women in Business and has received similar citations for her activities in the past.

Janet, her husband Michael Pfister, and their two sons live in Wayne.

Special thanks are extended to those who helped make the Spring Social a success once again this year. This includes the Program Committee (chaired ably by **Jenn Walsh**, with the assistance of **Tom Brady, Ruben David, Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, Carol Martsoff, Chris Menna** and **Bob Wright**), the Awards audio narrators, who once again stayed inside on a nice spring evening to donate their voices to the effort (**Carol Martsoff, Mark Tiger** and **Bob Wright**), and the Awards Committee (**Carol Martsoff, Allan Moore** and **Bob Wright**).

The Section's Social Committee is already busy with consideration of locations and details for the 2010 Social. We hope to have information on this early in the new year.

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING — LET YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES KNOW!

It seems that as time goes by we forget catastrophes that harm the reputation of our profession:

- the August 1, 2007 collapse of the I-35 bridge in Minneapolis
- the December 27, 2005 SR 1014 beam collapse on I-70 in Washington County, PA
- the August 28, 2005 failure of the levees in New Orleans
- the April 5, 1987 Schoharie Creek Bridge collapse near Fort Hunter, NY
- the June 28, 1983 collapse of the I-95 bridge in Greenwich, Connecticut

There is a significant long-term need for Pennsylvania's transportation infrastructure. We cannot continue to be economically competitive in the United States and with other nations if we continue to struggle with a transportation system which does not meet the basic needs of our state's residents. ASCE recently graded our highway system as a "D" and our bridges as a "C-." Average commuting time for workers in the Commonwealth is anticipated to grow over the coming years. Our bridges currently rank 49th out of the 50 states, and we have the highest percentage of highly deficient bridges.

Each year approximately 1450 people are killed in traffic crashes on our highways. Our roads are congested and commercial vehicles are being routinely delayed in delivering freight that provides for the basic needs of our economy. Emergency service providers and school bus drivers encounter these deficiencies every day. Simply put, Pennsylvanians will not be able to compete if our transportation needs are not addressed for the long term.

The economic recovery and rehabilitation plan recently passed by Congress is a one-time allocation of federal funds that focuses on sustaining and creating jobs to jolt the nation's sagging economy. Again, we need a long-range solution that will put Pennsylvania on the road to recovery and prosperity. We are encouraging you to advise your elected officials to take a bold initiative and help us and our future generations to find the necessary resources that will enable Pennsylvanians to thrive as the nation's economy begins to recover from the current recession.

Please join me in my efforts to re-establish a high priority for improving the transportation system of America by contacting your elected officials.

Thanks to Tim O'Brien, Manager of Business Development, dck worldwide LLC, for this insightful article.

**In youth we learn.
In age we understand.**

— Marie Ebner Eschenbach

ANACE*

We have a few items we've saved up over the summer for your enjoyment.

WHY THEY DRIVE ON THE LEFT IN SOME PLACES

You may wonder why, in some places, things on the road seem to be backward, and people are driving on the wrong side. You know it's all relative (they probably think we're wrong), but why do they do it? Well, we have the answer!

This was influenced, as many things are alleged to be, by the Romans. The chariot drivers apparently held the reins of the horses with the right hand. The left hand was then forced to be the one used for the whip, which was used for acceleration (today, this has evolved into the gas pedal!).

To keep chariot drivers headed in opposing directions from accidentally striking each other with their whips, the traffic on Roman roads was regulated to have opposing chariots pass each other on the right. The drivers, having the whips in the left hands, would be unlikely to strike each other in this way.

This passed down to modern times, although it changed in some places over time. At present, Britain and many of its one-time colonies, including India and Australia, still practice left-hand traffic operation. Much of the Far East, including China and Japan, also follow this rule. Throughout Europe, things generally started out this way and evolved to right-hand operation over time. For example, Sweden changed in the mid-1960's.

Canada went against its British ties and changed in the 1910's, although Newfoundland and Labrador, which were independent entities until they combined and joined Canada as its tenth province in 1949, followed the left-hand rule until that time. Before that, in British Columbia, left-hand operation was the rule until the 1920's, when it changed to conform to the rest of the country.

On Monday, September 7, 2009, drivers in Samoa started driving on the left-hand side of the road, as the Pacific island nation became the first country to "switch sides" since the 1970's.

Shortly before 6:00 AM local time, radio stations carried the order for drivers in the nation of about 180,000 people to stop their cars on the roadsides. They were then instructed by their Prime Minister to move their cars to the other side of the road. He further advised, "Don't drive if you are sleepy, drunk or just had a fight with your wife." Emergency sirens reinforced the all-clear signal and traffic started moving again.

Most commercial vehicles were off the roads as a two-day national holiday preceded the switch. Alcohol sales were banned for three days after the switch to allow a smooth transition and apparently reduce confusion. Workers toiled through the night just before the changeover to finish painting arrows on roads and shifting signs in urban areas to remind drivers which side to drive on.

The major reason for changing sides is apparently to be in line with Australia and New Zealand, which will allow some of the 170,000 Samoans living in those countries to send used cars home to their relatives. Cars would become cheaper as a result and more people in rural areas would be able to get vehicles to help develop their land.

There is also the bit of trivia you've no doubt seen that the railroad gauge used in North America and much of Europe (4 feet, 8-1/2 inches) evolved from the wheel gauge of Roman chariots. This is similarly related to the width needed to accommodate the two horses which pulled most chariots. (You're probably familiar with the rest of this, which takes the horse's anatomy into account in a manner which we will not repeat here!)

MANHATTAN-BRONX BOUNDARY

In the April-May edition of *THE NEWS*, we explained that the border between the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens is one of only two that is not in water and asked where the other was. Astute reader and native-born New Yorker **Shelly Kinbar** quickly responded with the correct and not-so-obvious answer.

The Marble Hill community is the only part of Manhattan connected to the mainland, due to a little-known quirk of geography. Originally, this 42-acre enclave was the northernmost section of the borough of Manhattan and was surrounded by the winding Spuyten Duyvil Creek. In the 1890's the creek's course was changed to improve navigation around Manhattan, as part of an effort to connect the Hudson River and the then-Harlem Creek, which flows into the East River. This connection physically separated Marble Hill from Manhattan. For nearly 20 years it remained as an artificial island until the fill removed for the new watercourse was used to grade the former stream bed.

Thus, the actual boundary between Manhattan (New York County) and the Bronx (Bronx County) is not completely the Harlem River, the name given to the connecting waterway. This is the only portion of Manhattan not on an island.

TOMATO, TOMAHTO...

Those of us who are backyard farmers enjoy growing tomatoes, which fare well and thrive in our part of the world. There is always the debate on whether the tomato is a fruit or vegetable.

Botanically speaking, the tomato is a fruit, as it is considered an "ovary" of a flowering plant, carrying its seeds. It was, however, declared to be a vegetable in a Supreme Court decision in 1893 (*Nix v. Hedden*), following a challenge filed to the Tariff Act of 1883 which placed a tax on imported vegetables but not fruit. The Court ruled that, based on the way the tomato was used and its popular perception, it was a vegetable, despite dictionary definitions and botanical classification.

*ANACE – *Absolutely Nothing About or Concerning Engineering*

KEVIN AACH

We regret to report the passing of Kevin Aach on September 3. Kevin served as a Bridge Engineer with Michael Baker, Jr. Inc. at its Horsham office for the past eight years, following seven years with Urban Engineers.

Kevin graduated from Penn State University in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering with a subsequent Masters degree from Drexel University. He was an active member of the Section and was involved in the Younger Member Forum for many years.

Kevin is survived by his wife, Wendy, two children, a brother and sister, and his parents. The Section extends our collective sympathy and prayers to Kevin's family. Memorial contributions may be made to the Schnecksville Playground Association, P.O. Box 196, Schnecksville, PA 18078-0196.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Martsof Honored by Temple

Past Section President **Carol C. Martsof** has been selected for inclusion in Temple University's Gallery of Success, which honors outstanding alumni from each of the University's schools and colleges. She will be honored at an awards dinner in October.

Carol received her Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Temple in 1992. She is the Manager of Professional Career Development at Urban Engineers, managing the process of developing Training Institute courses through needs analysis, course development, development of learning outcomes, development of learning assessments, and final evaluation.

"Carol brings to our company, and the profession, an incredible amount of energy, commitment, and focus to improve our organization along with the numerous Engineering Societies in which she serves," said Urban's President, **Edward M. D'Alba**. "Carol gets things done, and she does it with class and a passion for doing what is always right. When Carol takes on a task, big or small, the results are always the same — well beyond expectations! We have benefited immensely from Carol's leadership here at Urban."

Congratulations to Carol on yet another honor!

Aslani Joins KMJ Consulting, Inc.

KMJ Consulting, Inc., a Transportation Engineering and Consulting Services firm, welcomes **Pooyan Aslani, Ph.D.** to its team as a Project Controls Specialist. His experience is in construction project management including scheduling, risk analysis and building information management, otherwise known as "BIM." Prior to joining KMJ Consulting, he worked for Turner Construction in New York and also taught masters-level risk analysis classes at New York University's

Continued on Page 7

REGION 2 COLUMN

*Some words from your Local Governor,
Christopher J. Menna*

The Region 2 Board of Governors (R2BOG) met on September 12 in Philadelphia. The main purpose was to further formalize the upcoming Region 2 Assembly. The **2009 Assembly** will be held on **October 10** in Harrisburg. A **“Save the Date”** as well as invitations has been sent by the Board to all Section, Branch, YMF, and Student leaders. Since one of the main foci of this Assembly will be the students and student interaction at various levels, special emphasis has been placed on inviting the Practitioner Advisors and the Faculty Advisors from all 24 schools within our region. Your Governors have worked hard to enrich and energize the Assembly’s full-day program with the following talented and well-respected ASCE speakers: **Tom Smith**, ASCE Assistant Executive Director and General Counsel, **Leslie Nolan**, Senior Manager, Grassroots Programs and State Government Relations, and **Ron Smith**, ASCE Technical Region Director.

The success of this Assembly will depend greatly on everyone’s participation. Student members are the future of ASCE and the Advisors that work with them are crucial links to ASCE. Any ASCE leader on any level that did not receive information about the upcoming Assembly should contact **Governor Greg Scott** as soon as possible at (412) 809-6600 or gscott@chesterengineers.com.

All members are encouraged to go the ASCE National website (www.asce.org) and to view the pages about our Region. Get familiar with your Governors, contact them for help, and challenge them with your ideas. They are a resource with direct access to the ASCE National Board. Remember that your Governors do not represent your Section in particular, but rather everyone within the Region. Our Region is made up of Sections in all of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and the National Capital Section (Greater Washington, D.C. Area). We have about 10,000 members and Region 2 is the most geographically compact in all of ASCE. Your Governors (4 elected and 2 appointed), Society director, and YMF Representative are ready to serve you.

The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but lack of will.
— Vince Lombardi

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Continued from page 6

Polytechnic Institute. His first assignment at KMJ Consulting will be working on the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Project Management Oversight Contract in New York City.

Pooyan received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Tehran University, and both his M.S. and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the Polytechnic Institute of New York University. His background positions the firm to expand its portfolio of services.

McAtee Moves to New Jersey in Search of More Bridges

Urban Engineers is proud to announce the promotion of **Mike McAtee** to Practice Leader for its New Jersey Bridge Department and relocation to Urban’s office in Cherry Hill. During his 17 years at Urban, he has worked on projects in the Bridge, Transit, Marine and Construction Departments as a Project Engineer, Project Manager, and a technical mentor to several Urban staff members.

In his new role, Mike will be responsible for product quality, monitoring project schedules and budgets, technical training, marketing outreach, proposal preparation and continued staff mentoring.

Good luck to Mike in his new venture in search of bridges that need work in New Jersey. (He may find a few!)

MEETING

UPDATE ON COMING CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PA PE’S

The Philadelphia Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) will be sponsoring a meeting which will provide an update on the **Laws and Regulations** regarding **Mandatory Continuing Education**, which takes effect for Pennsylvania PE’s on October 1. Conveniently enough, the meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 1**, at the **Airport Hilton Philadelphia** (4509 Island Avenue). Section Member **Albert Tantala**, who serves on the State Registration Board, will speak on this issue.

The meeting starts with a social hour at 6:00 PM and dinner following at 7:00 PM. The cost is \$30 if you reserve ahead of time, \$35 at the door.

For reservations and more information, please visit the Chapter’s website, www.pspephilly.org.



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