



ASCE, PHILA. SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2009-10

The ASCE, Phila. Section Meeting program for the upcoming season is nearly set, and currently-planned dates have been provided below for your calendar.

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.

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. As always, you are welcome to attend the meeting presentation without dinner at no cost if you prefer to do so.

2010

January 20, 2010, Wednesday
Joint meeting with American Society of Highway Engineers
Cocktails 6:00 PM, Meeting 7:00 PM,
Dinner 8:00 PM

February 11, 2010

March 11, 2010

April 8, 2010

May 14, 2010, Spring Social
(more details will be forthcoming later in the season — please hold the date for an exciting event!)

PSPE PHILADELPHIA MEETING

The **Philadelphia Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE)** will be sponsoring a meeting on **Quay Pier Rehabilitation at Penns Landing**. The meeting will be held on **November 5** starting at 6:00 P.M. at the **Hilton Philadelphia Airport** (4509 Island Avenue). The speaker will be **William J. Castle, P.E.**

The cost is \$35 with reservation, \$40 at door. For reservations contact www.pspe-philly.org by 11 AM, November 5. This has been approved for Continuing Education Credit in New York State.

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section, Younger Member Forum

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 7:15 PM

(PLEASE NOTE EARLIER MEETING START TIME!)

SUBJECT: ASCE Infrastructure Report Card

SPEAKER: Andrew Hermann, Hardesty & Hanover

RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6. 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.**

SPECIAL FEATURE: Swarthmore College Night

The ASCE Student Chapter, Faculty and Alumni of the Department of Engineering of Swarthmore College will be honored at this meeting. All Faculty, Alumni and Students are cordially invited to attend and participate.

The ASCE Report Card was produced to assess the state of our state's and country's infrastructure in simple, concise and easily-understandable form. It has not been a report card of which anyone should be proud as it is replete with less than admirable grades. It has been used to help decision-makers and leaders comprehend the need for infrastructure funding and emphasis on science and technology careers to help us regain our stature as a world power. New "grades" will be assessed and reported by ASCE next year to determine if any progress has been made in these areas.

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DECEMBER JOINT DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

Society of American Military Engineers, Philadelphia Post

Engineers' Club of Philadelphia

(other societies may be co-sponsoring as well — full list to be provided next month)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 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: Pennsylvania Convention Center Expansion Update

SPEAKER: Joseph Resta, Project Executive, Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority

ALL RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE SAME PHILADELPHIA POST WEBSITE, www.samephiladelphiapost.org. No reservations will be accepted through the Section.

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month I made a call for volunteers and received a very positive response — thank you! It is critical that we continually attract new volunteers so that we have fresh ideas, energy, and a pool of future leaders. I appreciate those that have stepped up to the plate (*Go Phils!*) and invite more of you to do the same.**

In addition to active volunteers, an active membership base is also critical to the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's viability. Four main reasons that members say they are motivated to participate in the Section are to: 1) have fun and make friends, 2) network and develop meaningful business contacts, 3) learn valuable technical information, and 4) develop leadership, organizational, and management skills. I would like to highlight the efforts of the Social Committee in regards to these first two points.

Like most people, in a social setting Engineers tend to talk to the people they already know. So for a new attendee at a Section meeting, it may be intimidating or difficult to get to know anyone. Yet if our members have trouble meeting people, they are not likely to stay involved. Thus the Social Committee has been tasked with organizing events that create fun opportunities for networking and socializing. Tops on their list is a more "social" **Spring Social**. The date is set for **Friday, May 14, 2010**, and the venue (still a surprise!) is sure to be a home run (*Go Phils!*). The committee is also experimenting with ice breakers to facilitate networking opportunities and brainstorming ideas for some fun, non technical events such as happy hours.

We invite you to join us at our next meeting to see the steps we are taking to make your involvement more fun and rewarding on both a personal and professional level. Volunteering for a committee is a great way to get plugged in; but if you cannot do that, then please volunteer your ideas or make it a point to attend meetings regularly. You will not only be supporting the Section but also having fun, making friends, and ultimately developing valuable business contacts.

Happy Halloween and Go Phils!

***If you are interested in volunteering, we could still use some additional support on several committees. Contact kbkavanagh@flowscience.com for details.*

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

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/coned.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.

PENNA. SECTIONS TO UPDATE STATEWIDE INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD

The four Pennsylvania Sections of ASCE will be updating the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Report Card that was completed in 2006 (www.pareportcard.org). The update will focus on progress made in the sections that were previously graded and will include several new sections that were covered in the National Report Card (which itself was updated this year). In order to accurately grade our state's infrastruc-

ture as a whole, we are requesting volunteers to either lead or assist in the writing of a section.

Several areas have already been assigned Champions to lead them. At present, the categories of Dams/Levees, Schools, Public Parks/Recreation, Energy, Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste are in need of Champions.

We are planning on presenting the finished report card in May during our annual visit to Harrisburg. If you are interested in taking on any of the Champion positions, or would be willing to join a specific topic's committee, please contact **Greg Scott** at gscott@chesterengineers.com or (412) 809-6031 to sign up.

...THANKS AGAIN TO OUR SPONSORS!

As you have seen, the ASCE, Phila. Section Sponsorship Program is off to a good start this year, with 19 firms participating so far. This is especially notable in the difficult economic times we have, so we'd like to extend our special and collective THANKS to each sponsor for their financial commitment and support.

And we threw in an added and unadvertised benefit this year. In November, we will begin to show a continuously-running powerpoint presentation which contains our sponsors' logos during the cocktail hour and dinner portion of Section meetings. This will further demonstrate support of the Section and our gratitude. Also, the logos will be included in a special Sponsors section of our website. Thanks to all of you who responded quickly to our short-notice call for logos for this.

If you have an interest in joining our sponsorship program, please contact **Bob Wright** at newseditor@asce-philly.org for more details.

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

As of 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

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Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

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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
DECEMBER '09 ISSUE
NOVEMBER 20, 2009**

TECHNICAL GROUPS/CHAIRS

Information on the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's Technical Groups is given below. Director **Keith Yamatani** 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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WE'RE GOING DIGITAL

THE COUNTDOWN IS UNDERWAY — AND WITH AN ADDED BENEFIT!

The rumors you've heard are true — *THE NEWS* will shortly be going digital. Starting with the 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 will retain the hard-copy mailing option if you so prefer. If you would like to continue receiving a hard copy, in addition to or in place of 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**.

***AND A BENEFIT...** The change comes with one significant benefit (at least that's how we're seeing it!). In the past, *THE NEWS* had a combined December/January edition, which reflected the reduced Section activity usually experienced during December that did not warrant a separate edition. The switch to digital makes it more economical to produce an additional issue of *THE NEWS*, thus we will be having separate editions for December and January. (Oh boy — more of the Editor's stuff you get to read! What a Christmas present!) So you did read correctly in the first paragraph that there will be a January edition — it probably didn't sound right, but it is. **Happy reading!**

Congratulations to each firm on a job well done! (Now, of course, your job is to convey the Editor's comment to *CE News* that the title of the list is grammatically incorrect, ending as it does in a preposition?!)

UPDATE ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS IN PENNSYLVANIA

As you may be aware (and as previously reported in *THE NEWS*), Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists in Pennsylvania are required to obtain continued professional development (CPD) credit to renew their licenses in 2011. This is effective as of **October 1, 2009**.

Exactly how this is to be done is still up in the air as the enabling legislation has not been passed by the Senate as of presstime. It has certainly been the topic of considerable confusion, with one law from 2006 already "on the books" and the status of subsequent modifying legislation still in limbo.

While we await the regulations and requirements, the Section is poised to help our members meet the continuing education requirements. Our meeting program, both the main Section events as well as Technical Group and Younger Member Forum sessions, are generally "countable" for this purpose as long as the subject is technical in nature. We will advise you in meeting announcements if meetings are NOT able to be counted, in our judgement (until regulations and guidelines with better direction are available to us from the State Board).

Generally, meeting topics on business building, marketing, and other non-technical issues (except ethics) will not be able to be counted toward the requirement of at least 24 professional development hours (PDH's) in the two-year licensure period.

Also, please keep in mind that our meeting program DOES satisfy the CPD requirements of other states in which many of you have registration. Thus, we are hopeful that our efforts in the providing, monitoring and issuing of "countable" PDH's are useful for those purposes while we await Pennsylvania's direction.

We are also considering the issuance of "receipts" or other means to help you be able to have proof of meeting attendance. As is the case in many other states with the CPD requirement, the onus for accounting and record-keeping falls on each individual licensee. While the Section can help with records that will be able to support an individual's information, we strongly emphasize that each member needs to carefully keep track of his/her own PDH's. The State Board will have the ability to audit records and may ask licensees for proof that they have indeed fulfilled the CPD requirement.

We will continue to provide updates and information on this important topic as developments occur.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR DUES!

Your dues statement/invoice for 2010 was dutifully delivered to you from National in mid-September. Please don't forget to pay your ASCE and Philadelphia Section dues. Your dues are vital to the support of the Section's activities. We appreciate your ongoing support.

SPONSORS IN THE NEWS

Good news for two of our sponsors!

The annual *CE News* list of **Best Civil Engineering Firms to Work For** hit the streets recently, and **Transportation Planning and Design, Inc.** received top billing. **Matt Malozi**, TPD executive vice president, accepted the award at a ceremony in Chicago.

Among the top 40 firms honored nationwide, **JMT** was included, placing at number 21 on the list.

START PLANNING FOR ENGINEERS WEEK!

The Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee will be offering slightly different events for Engineers Week 2010. Please note this information in your calendar and plan to participate.

Awards and Proclamation Luncheon Friday, February 12, 2010

The revised Awards and Proclamation Luncheon will include:

- A poster session with presentation of student paper winners from 10:00 am to 12 noon prior to the Luncheon
- The Awards and Scholarships presented at the Banquet in previous years will now be featured at the Luncheon
- Engineers Week proclamations will be displayed
- The Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year will make brief remarks

Young Engineer Social Event Monday, February 15, 2010 (Tentative)

This new event, which replaces the Young Engineer of the Year banquet, will be a happy-hour type event at a location geared to younger Engineers. The Young Engineer of the Year will make brief remarks.

Celebration of Engineering Gala Saturday, February 20, 2010

The culminating event of Engineers Week will be a social/networking gala event to celebrate Engineering. Rather than a banquet, there will be cocktails, appetizer stations, and dessert stations. Other features of the event include:

- Award recipients will be honored with posters/exhibits/running powerpoint presentations in the networking area
- Future City Competition Regional winners will display their first place model
- The Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the year will provide brief remarks, followed by a brief recognition of the Hall of Fame, Outstanding Service, and Engineering Achievement award recipients

More information will be provided on price, location, and other details in the coming months. Please visit www.dvewc.org for up-to-date announcements.

Additionally, while not officially an Engineers Week event, the **Philadelphia Future City Competition** will be conducted on **Saturday, January 23, 2010**, at the **Sheet Metal Workers Hall** in South Philadelphia. This will mark 15 years of the competition in our area. Mentoring opportunities are available now and many volunteers will be needed the day of the competition.

As always, volunteers are needed! If you are interested in volunteering for one of the many activities of **Engineers Week**, please contact **Mike McAtee, PE**, Committee Senior Vice Chair, at (215) 922-8081, ext. 2622, or at mjmcatee@urbanengineers.com.

OCTOBER DINNER MEETING

October 8, 2009

The Down Town Club, Center City Philadelphia

Social Media for Project Managers

by Robert Wright, Editor

The 2009-10 ASCE, Phila. Section Meeting program got off to an interesting start. The Phillies and Major League Baseball were kind enough to schedule the Fightins' second Division Series playoff game in the afternoon so as not to conflict with the October Section Meeting. Unfortunately, the home team came out on the losing end of the match, which put a bit of a damper on the evening. However, the bar was open and not crowded, so about 40 fans decided to lift their spirits and attend the meeting regardless.

Section President Kristen Bowman Kavanagh opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance, handing off to **President Elect Thomas Brady** for a short grace and moment of silence for our recently deceased members.

Professor Joseph Martin of Drexel University was introduced and he asked all Drexel alumni in the room to stand. The meeting was supposed to feature the Drexel Student Chapter in a last-minute arrangement that occurred after *THE NEWS* went to print, thus it was not widely advertised. Apparently the students didn't get the word either, as none were in attendance, so Drexel Night will be rescheduled for another meeting.

Vice President Ann Tomalavage came to the podium to introduce the evening's speaker, **Rick Alcantara** of Tara Communications LLC, who had the daunting task of presenting information on the uses of social media to a group of Engineers who mostly knew little about this.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Mr. Alcantara began with an overview of what social media is. This includes programs and tools such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and others. They can be put to use to help Engineers manage projects, find jobs, promote expertise, and engage customers, among other functions. While many of the older portion of the crowd knew little about this, as it is tended to be viewed as something for "the kids," he explained that his task was to make us more familiar with what they had to offer.

There are many differences between social media and traditional media. Mr. Alcantara set out with the goals to outline who is using social media, the various platforms available, and how one gets started in what can be perceived as a scary and overwhelming area.

In traditional media, things are handled by professionals, with little or no control over this available to the sender. The professional acts as the "filter" between the sender and recipients. An example of this would be public relations efforts.

Social media has no "gatekeepers" and is permission-based — the sender must accept or participate, and can opt out or merely not read the material or open the e-mail. Formats of social media include blogs, podcasts, discussion boards/forums and similar activities.

The "reach" and use of social media is growing greatly. Mr. Alcantara noted that Twitter had 6 million participants in 2008. This doubled this year and is expected to grow to 18 million in 2010. Roughly 300 million individual accounts are on Facebook. As of August 2008, there were 78 million blog users. Business is recognizing the market potential, as 16% of the Fortune 500 companies have blogs and 28% have Twitter accounts.

WAYS TO USE SOCIAL MEDIA

Mr. Alcantara outlined the ten major ways that Engineering firms in particular are putting social media to use:

- Recruitment of professionals — Many HR and employment activities are directed in this way to allow firms to expand selection activities without the major costs of newspaper and/or technical journal advertisements. Many, particularly younger folks, are moving away from the traditional newspaper toward web-based information.
- Industry news — This allows firms to get information out quickly on selections, projects, etc.
- Relationship building — Firms can solicit potential partners and joint ventures more easily.
- Marketing/branding — Information can be spread quickly and relatively inexpensively.
- Recruitment of college students — Specific degrees and majors can be targeted much more easily, and students tend to prefer social media to traditional platforms.
- Recruitment of "boomerangs" — As former workers look to return to their previous firms, this helps make the recruitment process more efficient and specifically targeted.
- RFP's — Responses can be made more easily and with less paperwork.
- Professional growth — Firms can offer continuing education and training opportunities at the convenience of employees.
- Research — The latest information on research projects/efforts can be shared much more quickly.
- Idea sharing — In much the same way, ideas on new techniques, materials, etc. can be shared.

Mr. Alcantara demonstrated how he has used social media in his own business dealings to help clients in these areas.

Several questions were posed by the attendees, to which Mr. Alcantara ably responded.

The various platforms, responses, posting, etc. can take a lot of time and can certainly be overwhelming. Time management/budgeting is definitely needed to avoid overconcentration in this area, especially if it leads to too much time being spent at the expense of other needs. A balance is needed.

As far as which platforms one should use, some have (and will) faded away. Each

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TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES GROUP

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

TOPIC: New Jersey's Licensed Site Remediation Program Overview

SPEAKER: Mr. John Oberer, Senior Project Manager; GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.; Fort Washington, PA, Interim Director; New Jersey Licensed Site Remediation Professionals Association

TIME: 12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM

LOCATION: The Philadelphia Free Library, Central Division, 1901 Vine Street, Skyline Conference Room, Philadelphia

COST: \$15 (includes lunch), \$5 Students

RSVP: reservations@engrclub.org by Monday, November 2

STRUCTURES GROUP

Tuesday, November 17

TOPIC: Seismic Analysis and Design Course

SPEAKERS: Dr. Mohiuddin Ali Khan, Chair, Structures Group, and Dr. Nazhat Aboobaker, Ph.D., P.E., Adjunct Professor, Widener University

TIME: 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM

LOCATION: Municipal Services Building, 16th Floor, Room E, 15th Street and Kennedy Blvd., Philadelphia

COST: \$30 (includes buffet lunch)

RSVP: mohidin@temple.edu — the course is limited to 30 attendees

The speakers will lead an overview of seismic analysis and design of buildings and bridges. The course provides an understanding of the theoretical and practical requirements of the latest building and bridge codes.

In addition, NCHRP Reports, PennDOT Design Manual 4 and other States' Manuals in using new recommendations, will be discussed.

DELAWARE VALLEY GEO-INSTITUTE

The Delaware Valley Geo-Institute (DVGI) offers its planned 2009-10 meeting program for your planning purposes. Meetings are held at the Radisson Valley Forge, 1160 First Avenue, King of Prussia, with a 5:30 PM social hour, 6:30 PM dinner, and 7:15 PM presentation.

November 17, 2009

TOPIC: Controlled Modulus Columns for Ground Improvement

SPEAKER: Frederic Masse, DGI-Menard Inc.

OCTOBER DINNER MEETING

Continued from page 4

individual needs to assess which ones are best for particular purposes, needs and potential groups.

Interactive technology has not yet made websites obsolete, but this remains a possibility.

As far as is known, no one e-mailed or "tweeted" any questions (if anyone was participating in the meeting via social media!).

President Bowman Kavanagh and Vice President Tomalavage thanked Mr. Alcantara for his insightful presentation.

January 19, 2010

TOPIC: I-15 and Woodrow Wilson Bridge Projects

SPEAKER: John Volk, P.E., URS Corp.

February 16, 2010

TOPIC: Annual Student Night (location to be determined)

March 16, 2010

TOPIC: Site Specific Seismic Design

SPEAKER: Sissy Nicolaou, Ph.D., P.E., Meuser Rutledge (MRCE)

April 20, 2010

TOPIC: NBME — The Use of High Capacity Micropiles in Wissahickon Schist — Design, Construction, and Analysis

SPEAKER: Terence P. Holman, Ph.D., P.E., MORETRENCH

May 18, 2010

TOPIC: To Be Announced

Please contact Ara Mouradian (amouradian@gfnet.com) for information and reservations.

CONSTRUCTION GROUP

The following meeting is now being planned but not yet scheduled. More information will be provided in coming editions of *THE NEWS*.

TOPIC: Delay Claims from the Owner and Contractor's Perspectives

When a project is delayed due to an owner's actions, a contractor may incur extra costs and seek compensation for those losses. On the other hand, when a project is delayed by a contractor's actions, the owner may seek compensation in the form of liquidated or actual damages. In either case, it is important for both parties to understand the basics of delay claims. This presentation will address contract language related to delays, types of delays and damages and the requirements for a successful claim. A case study will also be discussed.

ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT GROUP

(Joint meeting with Delaware County Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers)

Thursday, November 19, 2009

TOPIC: The Art of Predicting the Future — The Use and Abuse of Models

SPEAKER: Mr. Don Koestler, DJ Koestler LLC

TIME: 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

LOCATION: Towne House Restaurant, 117 Veterans Square, Media, PA

COST: \$30 (includes dinner)

RSVP: Monday, November 16 — Contact Gwen Himes at ghimes@trafficpd.com or (610) 326-3100

There are basically two approaches to creating a model: one based on an empirical data and one based on the expert's knowledge of the fundamentals of the system. Mr. Koestler will review the use of these models in projections and data assumptions.

SECTION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS CHANGING!

The ASCE, Phila. Section's Scholarship Program is changing slightly this year. While the Program and awards are much the same as in previous years, the schedule of submissions and awards has been advanced. Please see the information below for more details.

The Section offers three distinct undergraduate scholarships annually:

- ASCE Delaware Valley Engineers Week Scholarship
- ASCE Student Scholarship
- ASCE Section Member Scholarship

Scholarship winners will be recognized as the Section's guests at our April 2010 dinner meeting. In the past, winners were invited to attend the Spring Social, but this is not always convenient to academic schedules.

ENGINEERS WEEK SCHOLARSHIP

As part of the Delaware Valley Engineers Week celebration, ASCE, Phila. Section will continue to offer one \$2,000 undergraduate scholarship. Completed applications must be submitted by **November 23, 2009**. Please visit the Engineers Week website, www.dvewc.org, for applications and requirements.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

At least one \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded by the Section to an undergraduate Civil Engineering student who meets the following requirements.

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

Application Requirements:

- The applicant's name, GPA and/or class rank, and an address/telephone number where they can be reached must be included with the scholarship application. Additional information for consideration (such as need) is allowed. A letter and/or resume is an acceptable means to provide this information.
- A recommendation letter from the applicant's faculty advisor is not required but is strongly suggested.
- The applicant will be required to submit an essay, limited to 1,000 words, on ONE of the following topics:
 - 1) How can Civil Engineers capitalize on our new-found "fame" resulting from recent stimulus spending on infrastructure? What opportunities do you see to use this new focus on infrastructure to enhance the stature of Civil Engineers as well as educate the public on who Civil Engineers are and what we do?

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ANACE*

With all the rain we had this summer, we heard quite a bit about flooding. While this is not all that common in our area, the severity and intensity of storms have contributed to make it more frequent and more newsworthy. (And, of course, the news media and public that generally ignore Engineers are then looking for us to solve the problem...)

Historically, the worst floods have been caused by water, and you may ask, what else could cause a flood? Here are a couple of examples of catastrophic floods that had nothing to do with water. (Thanks to various sources for this information.)

The Evils of Beer? One More...

Maybe this doesn't sound like it could be that bad, but the London Beer Flood occurred in October 1814 when a large vat, containing over 135,000 imperial gallons of beer, ruptured at the Meux and Company Brewery. This caused other vats to fail in sort of a domino effect, with over 320,000 imperial gallons gushing from the building into the streets.

The brewery was located among the poor houses and tenements of the St. Giles area of the city, where whole families lived in basement rooms that quickly filled with beer. The wave of beer destroyed two homes and crumbled the wall of the Tavistock Arms Pub, trapping the barmaid under the rubble. (Sounds ironic...beer wreaking havoc in a pub!) Nine people were killed in the disaster — eight drowned, one succumbed to alcohol poisoning.

The disaster was later ruled to be an Act of God in the courts, finding no one responsible. The company found it difficult to cope with the financial implications of the disaster, with a significant loss of sales made worse because they had already paid duty on the beer. Through an Act of Parliament, the company was able to recover the duty and remain in business. The brewery was demolished in 1922.

As Slow As Molasses in January? Maybe Not...

For those of us who have heard this expression, this story sounds particularly confusing. If your tastes are more in the sweets than in the bitters, the Boston Molasses Disaster (also known as the Great Molasses Flood and the Great Boston Molasses Tragedy), which occurred in January 1919, may be of interest.

A storage tank at the Purity Distilling Company in the City's North End burst, sending a wave of over two million gallons of molasses rushing through nearby streets at speeds estimated to be at least 35 mph. Twenty-one were killed and over 150 injured. Several buildings were moved from their foundations. A number of supports of the nearby Atlantic Avenue elevated structure were cracked by the flood, with an el train lifted off its tracks.

The depth of molasses was generally 2-3 feet with "swells" of 8-15 feet reported by witnesses. Rescuers found it difficult to make their way through the syrup to help the victims, and after four days, the search for survivors ended. Many dead were so glazed over in molasses, they were hard to recognize, and two were never identified.

Military assistance was requested to help deal with the situation. Sailors from ships in port in Boston, assisted by locals, took over 80,000 man-hours to scrub the molasses from the granite block streets and the structures and basements of businesses and homes. The harbor remained brown with molasses until summer. To this day, residents claim that, on hot, summer days, one can still smell molasses.

At the time, molasses was the standard sweetener in the United States. Molasses can also be fermented, and there was some belief that the company was stockpiling it to produce alcohol just before the start of the recently-passed Prohibition legislation. The cause of the accident is not known with certainty, but the company was found liable and made to pay over \$600,000 in claims and damages.

**ANACE — Absolutely Nothing About or Concerning Engineering*

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Lindsey Glavin, Forum Editor

Cathy G. Farrell, Forum President 2009-10

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Welcome Back Happy Hour and Bowling Night

On September 30, the YMF hosted our annual **Welcome Back Happy Hour & Bowling Night** at Strikes Bowling Lounge in University City. As hoped, the event was heavily attended by student members, especially a large contingent from the Temple University Chapter, with 32 attendees in all. The students caught up with their classmates and met the Board members in a relaxed setting, while the Board members got to know the students and gained some experience approaching and engaging new members. Everyone had a great time and the event helped to reaffirm the YMF's commitment to support and advise the Student Chapters. The event was organized by the YMF Social Chairs.

Philly Cares Day

Members of the Section, along with their coworkers, families, and friends joined together on October 17 to help Philadelphia schools and recreation centers by volunteering for the **16th Annual Philly Cares Day**. The YMF assembled a group of nineteen volunteers to lend a hand at **Wissahickon Boys and Girls Club**. Volunteers helped by painting the interior walls and cleaning the floors; the event was a huge success despite the cold and rainy weather. Thanks to all who participated and special thanks to **Angelo Waters** for coordinating this fun and beneficial event!

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

Continued from page 1



Mr. Herrmann is a Partner of Hardesty & Hanover, LLP, a Transportation Consulting Engineering firm headquartered in New York City. During his 35-plus year career he has been responsible for management of

the firm and many of the firm's major fixed and movable bridge projects. His experience covers inspection, rating, design, rehabilitation, and construction of bridges. He has been president of ASCE's Metropolitan Section and chair of its Structural Division's Technical Administrative Committee on Bridges. He was co-chair of the 2005 Structural Engineering Institute's Structures Congress in New York City and served on the Advisory Council for ASCE's 2003 and 2005 Report Cards for America's Infrastructure and is presently the Chair for the Advisory Committee for the 2009 Report Card.

He has been the ASCE District 1 Director, Chair of ASCE's Region 1 Board of Governors, Chair of the Publications Committee, and will be ASCE's 2010 Treasurer. He has testified on behalf of ASCE before the House Committee on Infrastructure and Transportation, and the Senate Committee on Public Works and Environment on the Infrastructure and the condition of our Nation's bridges. He has been interviewed by magazines, newspapers, radio, and television on the subject of bridges and our nation's infrastructure.

He is a member of numerous Engineering and technical societies. He is also a past Director of Saint Mary's Rehabilitation for Children.

He was the recipient of the ASCE New Jersey Section Manager of the Year Award in 2008, ASCE's Metropolitan Section Thomas C. Kavanagh Service Award in 2007, and the Lower Hudson Branch Engineer of the Year for 2008. He has been selected as the 2009 recipient of the ASCE President's Medal.

He earned his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Valparaiso University and a Masters in Civil Engineering from the Polytechnic Institute of New York. He is a Professional Engineer in 29 states and the Province of Ontario.

Effective Networking, and Interactive Seminar

We invite you to join us as **Samantha Safara**, Marketing Coordinator at Michael Baker Jr. Inc, leads an interactive presentation to demonstrate and discuss several key points of effective networking. The event will be hosted at Michael Baker's office, located at 1818 Market St. Philadelphia, on **Thursday, November 12** from 12 Noon to 1 PM. Cost is \$5 and includes pizza and soda for lunch. This event is encouraged for all younger Engineers, especially students, but will be beneficial for Engineers of all skill and experience levels. RSVPs are required for this event by **November 10** via email to rsvp@ymfphilly.org.

Continued on Page 7

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Continued from page 5

- (2) If you could make a suggestion(s) for introducing Civil Engineering to children, what would it be?

Submittal Deadline:

- Applications (excluding recommendations) must be submitted by **January 15, 2010**.
- All recommendations must be submitted by **February 15, 2010**.
- Scholarship winners will be notified by **March 31, 2010**.
- Applications and recommendations should be submitted by mail or email to:
Mr. Jeff Bade, Scholarship Committee Chair
American Society of Civil Engineers
215 South 16th St., Ste. 16
Philadelphia, PA 19102
jbade@hardesty-hanover.com
(609) 538-8233

SECTION MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP

At least one \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded by the Section an undergraduate Civil Engineering student who is the child of an active Philadelphia Section member and meets the following requirements.

Eligibility Requirements:

- The applicant must be the child of an active Philadelphia Section member.
- The applicant must be matriculating in a full-time Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering program at an accredited college or university.
- The applicant must be an active participant in the ASCE Student Chapter at his/her school.
- The applicant must be in their sophomore or junior year (and Pre-Juniors at Drexel).

Application requirements and submittal deadline are the same as for the Student Scholarship above.

We encourage all eligible students to apply.


YMF NEWS

Continued from page 6


Please see the event flyer for additional information under the Events page at www.ymfphilly.org.

Maxim Magazine Survey Declares "Engineering" as #1 Sexiest Occupation!

That's actually not true but, now that we have your attention, we would like to solicit your ideas and contributions for our **College Outreach** effort. **Katherine Berrillo** and **Jonathan Miller** are this years **College Contact Chairs** for the YMF and are organizing all the college efforts for the Section and the YMF. We are looking for people who would be interested in participating in panel discussions, giving project presentations, construction tours, and/or reviewing senior projects for any of our 5 local colleges: Drexel, Widener, Temple, Villanova, or Swarthmore. Following the lead of the Section to "step up" college student communications and involvement, we are trying to offer the next



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generation of Engineers networking opportunities as well as exposure to "real life" projects that are constrained by fun things like budgets and R.O.W. Any interested parties should contact **Katherine.berrillo @dot.gov** or **jdmiller@urbanengineers.com**.

Pre-College Outreach

The **Pre-College Outreach Committee** is looking for some help from all Section and YMF members. We would like to start initiating outreach programs in local schools but need to first reach out to these schools. Currently we are developing a list of contacts for local schools. We are simply asking for our members who know teachers, administrators or staff at an elementary, middle or high school in or around Philadelphia to send us their contact information. If you know of anyone within the local pre-college school system, please contact **Jennifer Reigle** at **jreigle@pennoni.com** or **Adrienne Nikolic** at **NikolicA@bv.com**.



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