

### THE ANNUAL SPRING SOCIAL — PHILLIES FEVER!

**Go Phillies!** While that's what we all say when we're cheering on our favorite baseball team (Red Sox, Mets and Yankees fans, please skip ahead to the next paragraph!), what's that got to do with the ASCE, Philadelphia Section?

Well, this year, quite a bit. The **2010 Spring Social** will be conducted on **Friday, May 14** in the **Home Run Club** at **Citizens Bank Park**, home of the *Fightins*. While final arrangements are still being tweaked, we suggest that you hold the date and time for what promises to be an interesting and exciting event. In place of a formal dinner, appetizer and entrée stations will be provided, which will allow for more socializing and networking. Some "business" matters, such as the installation of new Section officers, the presentation of Section awards, the recognition of our Delaware Valley Science Fairs awardees, and a vote on the updated Section Constitution and Bylaws, will be featured as well.

There will be guided tours available, offering a unique opportunity to see the Park "behind the scenes" and you might even get your picture and name on the Jumbotron. Word has it that a team member may be visiting us during the Social as well.

The Social will start at 6:00 PM. More information and details will be provided in the May edition of *THE NEWS*.

We invite all Section members and their guests to attend and thank the current Section officers before we watch them go "outta here!"

### ENGINEERS NIGHT WITH THE SIXERS

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia has arranged for its annual Engineers Night with the Sixers, which will be held on **Monday, April 12** at the **Wachovia Center**. The Sixers take on the Miami Heat at **7:30 PM**. Prior to the match, participants will meet in the Hall of Fame Room (6 to 7 PM) to network with other members and to have a question/answer session with Sixers President and General Manager **Ed Stefanski**. For the game, group seating will be available in the mezzanine center area.

The entire evening can be had for a low cost of \$15! For an additional \$6, a food voucher can

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### APRIL DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

**THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2010**

The Mansion at Villanova Conference Center • 601 County Line Road, Radnor, PA

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

SEE BELOW FOR TOPICS AND SPEAKERS.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, APRIL 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](mailto:info@asce-philly.org). You may also electronically reserve through our website ([www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org)) and pay via PayPal, a new service available for this. 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: Villanova University Night**

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

This meeting will feature something a little different with a dinner followed by four different breakout sessions on topics covering Geotechnical Engineering, Structural Engineering, Environmental/Water Resources, and Construction/Transportation. There will be a shared dinner and pre-meeting announcement period, with breakout sessions beginning following dinner. There is no need to pre-arrange for attendance at any specific session — you may choose your favorite that evening.

The breakout sessions will cover the following topics.

#### **Structures: Bridge Failures and Their Remediation**

In recent years there have been failures of bridges due to extreme events such as scour and earthquakes and also due to lack of timely monitoring and rehabilitation. Most of the failures were for older bridges which were designed to a different criteria and needed retrofit and conformance to LFRD Codes. Other failures were during construction due to lack of design for construction load combinations. A variety of case studies will be presented. The need for long term planning, prioritization and life cycle cost allocation will be discussed.

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### NOT OUR "LAST BLAST"!

Usually, with the April edition of *THE NEWS*, we sign off and go "over and out" for the summer (and an extended summer at that). With the recent changes related to electronic delivery and the need to provide information on upcoming events in May, the Section has decided to go one more and have a May edition. After May, the machinery that is *THE NEWS* will then go into its warm-weather hibernation for some tweaking and fine-tuning.

And, as we have done for the past couple of years, we will likely come out of our "cave" to crank out a Summer edition of *THE NEWS*, if for no other reason than to let you know we're still here. We haven't decided definitely on this, but we'll let you know in May (your Editor has to renegotiate his contract for additional services in putting out two new editions this year, December and May — letters and expressions of support would certainly be welcome!).

Unlike the slackers who run *THE NEWS*, our Officers and Board of Directors do not get the same summer break and will continue their efforts to put together a meaningful and interesting meeting program for the coming season.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My "rein" of terror is quickly coming to an end. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who contributed to the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's success this year and all the members who supported the Section with their attendance and participation.

The entire Section Board and volunteers are a truly impressive group of people, and I have enjoyed working with them all immensely. It is a rare

pleasure to serve with a group of people who do what they say they will do, do what needs to be done without being asked, and do it well. In particular, thank you to:

- **Tom Brady** and **Ann Tomalavage** for orchestrating our monthly Section meetings;
- **AnnMarie Vigilante** and **Guy DiMartino** for cheerfully obliging all my last-minute requests for help with correspondence and records;
- **Jeremy Chrzan** for recreating our website so that it is useful and informative (and a sure bet for winning a Society award next year!);
- **Jeremy Colello** for making our emails much more professional and handling the arduous task of meeting registrations, **Joe Platt** for keeping us out of debt and also handling registrations, and to both Jeremy and Joe for always pitching in with a "whatever-it-takes" attitude;
- **Carol Martsof** and **Chris Menna** for sharing their Past Presidents' wisdom and encouragement;
- **Keith Yamatani**, **Eve D'Onofrio**, **M. Ali Khan**, **Ara Mouradian**, **Dennis MacBride**, **Bill Mulloy**, and **Bill Thomsen** for increasing the breadth and frequency of technical meetings and PDHs offered by our technical groups and Institutes;
- **Jennifer Walsh** for planning another smashing Spring Social and creating fun trivia/brain teasers for our monthly meetings;
- **Jeff Bade** for chairing our most successful scholarship program in years during his first year of involvement with the Section;
- **Cathy Farrell** for successfully leading and growing the Younger Member Forum.

Last – but definitely not least – thank you to **Mr. Robert "Bob" Wright**. When I was first met Bob many years ago, he was introduced as the Section's "All Around Good Guy." No moniker could be more fitting. Bob is truly the glue that holds our Section together and allows us to be so successful year-after-year. He serves on or chairs a plethora of committees, produces our monthly newsletter, provides year-to-year continuity and an invaluable repository of Section history and "how-to," coordinates our activities with other local professional societies, and provides quiet mentorship and support. He is hands-down our team MVP.\*

There is little more than a month left before I get put out to pasture, so I had better get back to work and make sure that I, too, get done what I said I would do. If I am successful, it is only because of the support of our volunteers and members. Thank you again to everyone who contributed to the Section's success this year, whether in a small or large way. I truly appreciate your time, ideas, and energy.

With sincere gratitude and respect,  
 Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, P.E.  
 President, ASCE, Philadelphia Section

[\*Two caveats. One, the President forbade any edits to this paragraph. Two, obviously, this was written BEFORE the President saw her sendoff, elsewhere in this issue. Look for the President's retraction/rebuttal in the next edition! Ed.]

## UPDATES TO SECTION CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS APPROVED

In the February and March editions of *THE NEWS*, the proposed changes to the ASCE, Phila. Section's Constitution and Bylaws were published. This is the result of an extensive effort to update these documents, which were last modified in 1992, to be consistent with current guidance from National. Our work began last spring with a committee consisting of **Director Keith Yamatani**, Newsletter Editor and Past President **Robert Wright**, and President **Kristen Bowman Kavanagh**.

The Section Board acted to approve the documents at our March 11 Board meeting. Our next action is a presentation to the general membership at the April Section meeting (April 8) and submission to National for its review and approval. Following each of these steps, Section membership will have an opportunity to cast a

final vote on the amended Constitution at our Spring Social (May 14).

The documents are available for review on our website ([www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org)). We would urge you to examine these and raise questions prior to the final vote if possible. Questions or comments can be directed to any of the committee members (see page 2 for contact information). We welcome your input and encourage you to attend our Spring Social to have fun and vote on the Constitution.

## 3-DAY HEC-RAS UNSTEADY FLOW CONTINUING ED COURSE (MAY 10-12)

Learn how to use the HEC-RAS program for unsteady flow applications. Course topics include: Geometric data preprocessing, basic unsteady flow modeling, unsteady flow applied to bridge and culvert hydraulics, lateral weirs

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

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Vice President  
 Flow Science Inc.  
 1500 Kennedy Blvd., 2 Penn Center, Suite 200  
 Philadelphia, PA 19102  
 (215) 854-6445  
[kbkavanagh@flowscience.com](mailto:kbkavanagh@flowscience.com)

### Secretary — AnnMarie L. Vigilante, P.E.

Project Manager  
 Langan Engineering & Environmental Services  
 P.O. Box 1569  
 Doylestown, PA 18901-0219  
 (215) 491-6500  
[avigilante@langan.com](mailto:avigilante@langan.com)

### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

#### Editor of THE NEWS

Robert Wright

#### Staff Writers

James Markham Joe Szymick

#### SEND COPY TO:

ASCE, c/o Engineers' Club of Philadelphia  
 215 S. 16th Street, Suite 16  
 Philadelphia, PA 19102

**COPY DEADLINE FOR  
 MAY '10 ISSUE  
 APRIL 19, 2010**

## 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.

### CONSTRUCTION

Dennis MacBride  
SEPTA  
1234 Market Street, 12th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3780  
215-580-3404  
dmacbride@septa.org

### DELAWARE VALLEY GEOINSTITUTE

Ara G. Mouradian  
Gannett Fleming, Inc.  
1010 Adams Avenue  
Audubon, PA 19403  
610-650-8101  
amouradian@gfnet.com

### ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

William J. Mulloy  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Wanamaker Building, 7th Floor  
100 Penn Square East  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390  
215-656-6583  
William.J.Mulloy@usace.army.mil

### ENVIRONMENTAL and WATER RESOURCES

Eve D'Onofrio  
E S Design LLC  
128 Regency Dr  
Norristown, PA 19403-1755  
610-630-1660  
edonofrio@esdesignllc.com

### STRUCTURAL

Dr. Mohiuddin Ali Khan  
JMT Inc.  
1300 Rt. 73 South, Suite 313  
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054  
856-778-5517  
mohidin@temple.edu

### TRANSPORTATION and URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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

## APRIL MEETING SPECIAL FEATURES

**Life Member Night** — newly-inducted Life Members will be invited to receive their certificates

**Past Presidents Night** — all Past Presidents of the Section are invited to attend as guests of the Section

## APRIL DINNER MEETING

*Continued from Page 1*

**Presenter: Dr. M. Ali Khan, P.E.**, Project Manager, JMT and Adjunct Professor, Temple University

### **Construction/Transportation: Philadelphia International Airport Runway 17-35 Expansion Program**

This session will cover the planning, design and construction of the Runway 17-35 Extension at the Airport. The effort included the extension of the existing runway by 1,040 feet to reduce delays but also required the relocation of several utilities, relocation of State Highway SR 291 onto Bartram Avenue to allow the abandonment of Industrial Highway, design of a parking lot expansion and new toll plaza for the Philadelphia Parking Authority, coordination of stormwater management design and environmental permitting with the City of Philadelphia, Tincum Township and PADEP, all while meeting the FAA fast track schedule requirements.

**Presenter: Christopher Gubeno, P.E.**, Vice President/Deputy Director, Aviation Group, Urban Engineers, Inc.

### **Environmental/Water Resources: Sustainable Arsenic Treatment Project in West Bengal, India**

In West Bengal, drinking water drawn from underground sources has been responsible for widespread arsenic poisoning affecting over 20 million people. In 1996, **Water For People**, a Denver, Colorado based non profit organization funded \$10,000 to **Bengal Engineering and Science University (BESU)** to conduct research to develop sustainable technology to remove arsenic from drinking water of village of West Bengal. Within one year, the University developed such treatment units based on locally available activated alumina adsorption process. Since then, BESU, receiving funding from Water For People installed about 200 such well-head arsenic removal units.

**Presenter: Arun Deb Ph.D., P.E., DEE**, Vice President, Retired, Weston Solutions Inc.

### **Geotechnical (Delaware Valley GeolInstitute): Failure of the Levee System in Hurricane Katrina: a 5-Year Perspective**

This session will review, compare and contrast the findings of multi-year forensics investigations by the Army Corps of Engineers Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force (IPET) and the National Science Foundation-sponsored Independent Levee Investigation Team (ILIT). While the talk will focus on the geotechnical aspects of the event, other issues such as role of organizations and the recently completed risk analysis of the New Orleans region will also be discussed.

**Presenter: Joseph Wartman, Ph.D., P.E.**, Associate Professor of Engineering, Drexel University

The Villanova Conference Center is NOT on the University's campus. For directions, please visit <http://www.acc-villanovaconferencecenter.com/directions.cfm>.

## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

**Lindsey Glavin**, Forum Editor

**Cathy G. Farrell**, Forum President 2009–10  
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.  
201 Gibraltar Road, Suite 120, Horsham, PA  
215-442-5316; cfarrell@mbakercorp.com

### **ASCE YMF CAN Make a Difference**

The YMF is creating a can structure to raise awareness of global hunger. The event, called **Construction**, will be held at **Liberty Place** (Center City) on **April 23** with structures on display from April 24 through May 2. Locally, the event is sponsored by **Philabundance** and **AIA Philadelphia**. YMF is collecting can and monetary donations from corporate sponsors for the thousands of cans needed for the structure. After the event, all of the cans will be donated to Philabundance for distribution to those in need. For more information about the event or how you can help, please contact **Chris Gray (cgray@timhaahs.com)**.

### **Wissahickon Trail Restoration — Saturday, April 24, 10AM to 2PM**

Spring is here, so it's time we got out into the sun and fresh air. Please join us as we assist with trail maintenance in the Wissahickon Valley of Fairmount Park. Work will include regrading of trails, construction of erosion control berms, removal of downed trees, and invasive species removal. All necessary tools will be provided, as will a snack and drinks.

This is a great event to get outdoors and maintain our natural and recreational environment, while also getting to know some of your colleagues in a very informal setting. For more information and RSVP's, please check our website.

### **Phillies Game — Tuesday, August 10**

This has become an annual event for us in conjunction with the South Jersey and Delaware YMF Sections; hopefully you can attend and keep the tradition going. We've purchased a limited number of tickets for the Phillies game and are selling reduced price tickets on a first come / first serve basis.

Tickets are \$24 per person which includes the reduced price ticket, plus free food and soda during our tailgate party. RSVP's are due by July 6.

### **Interested in joining the 2010-2011 YMF Board?**

Looking to become involved? Want to make stronger contacts? Do you have ideas to improve our organization or event planning? We're looking for motivated younger members (35-years or younger) to join our board. Board positions include (but are not limited to) professional development, community service, social events, college outreach, pre-college outreach, IT, social media, and technical groups. If you're interested, please contact our current president, **Cathy Farrell**, at [cfarrell@mbakercorp.com](mailto:cfarrell@mbakercorp.com) or (215) 442-5316 to discuss your participation. Nominations are due by **Friday, April 23**.

### **Additional Upcoming Events.**

We have a few more events that we'll be announcing soon, including our **Critical Issues Seminar**, a construction tour of the IRS/30th Street Post Office site, election happy hour, and some elementary school visits. Look for info on these events in the coming weeks on our website.

## MARCH DINNER MEETING

March 11, 2010

The Down Town Club, Center City Philadelphia

### *Green and Sustainable Stormwater Management in the Philadelphia Region*

by Robert Wright, Editor

The last time the ASCE, Phila. Section was at the Down Town Club (December's joint meeting with the Society of American Military Engineers), winter was a week away. Our return in March seemed like eons since then, particularly after our brutal winter. With the last vestiges of snow finally gone, the Section looked forward to spring and roughly 90 folks came out to hear about how all that melted snow was going to be handled (or not) by our stormwater system. The prospect of a big rainstorm predicted for the following weekend made this topic that much more timely.

Section President **Kristen Bowman Kavanagh** got things started with grace by our resident prayer leader, Past President **Ruben David**. As dinner was winding down, President Bowman Kavanagh brought **Nicholas Simmons** of Drexel University's Student Chapter to the podium for an update on what's happening there. (A last-minute change precluded the advertisement of Drexel Night in the meeting announcement in the March edition of *THE NEWS*, though we know at least a handful of die-hard Drexel alums will believe this to be on purpose!)

President Bowman Kavanagh called on Environmental and Water Resources Technical Group Chair **Eve D'Onofrio** to introduce the featured speakers, who made their individual presentations accordingly.

### Round 1 – DEP

First up was the topic "*DEP – Future Initiatives for Green and Sustainable Stormwater Management*," presented by **Dominic Rocco**. Mr. Rocco is Chief of the Stormwater Section at the Southeast Regional Office of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). He began by noting that no one has all the answers on the right and wrong ways to handle stormwater. The field is enjoying a renaissance of sorts, as there are many changes in stormwater theory, and the approach has broadened to become truly multidisciplinary.

Mr. Rocco explained that the list of best management practices (BMP's) is by no means a "bible", but it is a tool that should help one make the best decision for the situation. There are many tools available and each has applicability in the context of the particular problem being addressed. While the Pennsylvania focus is on the control of runoff and volume control, through the use of three measures (infiltration, capture/release, vegetation), the real future is most likely in the last two areas.

Very often, the created hydrology of the measure is forced and does not replicate the natural hydrology of the area. As Mr. Rocco outlined, use of vegetated systems, particularly trees and deep-root grasses, will help to copy what nature has provided.

Infiltration, in particular, needs to be undertaken more responsibly, and to do this

properly, one needs to have a good working knowledge of the soils involved. There are alternative volume control measures that can be applied, such as a green roof.

A better understanding of the water cycle is imperative as well. As Mr. Rocco illustrated, more than half the annual rainfall in our area goes to evapo-transpiration (directly back into the atmosphere), but drainage calculations treat rainfall entirely as overland runoff. Thus, measures are typically oversized.

The preservation of trees and deep root grasses are perhaps the best BMP and Mr. Rocco closed his portion of the talk with some examples of how this can be accomplished in a site development setting.

### Round 2 – City Water Department

**Dr. Chris Crockett** was the second presenter, and he covered "*Separate Stormwater Billing Program for Non-Residential Properties – Based on Quantity of Impervious Surface*." He serves as the Director of Planning & Research at the Philadelphia Water Department.

In Philadelphia, over 26 billion gallons of runoff must be handled by the City's stormwater conveyance system annually. Since much of the system is a combined storm and sanitary network, stormwater is often treated unnecessarily. Dr. Crockett outlined Philadelphia's plan to spend over \$1.6 billion to eliminate the combined sewer system. A significant element of this plan is the utilization of out-of-system BMP's which would handle much of this runoff through natural means rather than attempting to put it all in pipes.

The City's Water Department will begin a parcel-based billing system on July 1. Dr. Crockett explained that, at present, water and sewer usage are billed based on the water meter size of the property. For sites that have no water service (and therefore no meter), such as parking lots, the change will be tremendous. Roughly 40,000 properties will be affected by this. Over 450,000 residential properties have been paying this charge on a phased-in basis since 2002, thus the underlying theory is that those properties that have no water service but large drainage needs have been subsidized for many years. Accordingly, the new approach will equalize this so everyone pays his/her fair share.

Dr. Crockett stated that an incentive for larger sites to reduce their charges would be the reduction of impervious areas, which would shift the management of site storm runoff from the public body onto the property owner. Credits will be given for those who pursue and install such measures (so, hint to all the consultants in the room who should be telling their clients to start thinking about this!). The management of more storm runoff on sites will help achieve the goal of less runoff in the storm system. For those who

take on the task of on-site management and reduction, any credits issued will be subject to regular reviews and renewals on a four-year basis to ensure that the BMP's are working properly and the runoff is diverted, retained, etc.

### Round 3 – VUSP

Last on the docket was **Dr. Robert Traver**, a Professor in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Villanova University and Director of the Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership (VUSP). His topic was "*VUSP Green Infrastructure Research*."

Dr. Traver is well known for his research on topics that include modeling of stream hydraulics, urban hydrology, water quality, and measures to mitigate adverse stormwater effects. He noted that new construction on the Villanova campus always offers opportunity for the trial of new methods.

There are variations in climate, vegetation, and other site-specific factors which Dr. Traver explained help make his research efforts interesting. These connections were not previously seen or observed and this is important to show how the "broad brush" approach does not give the best results. In the 1970's, the "push" was drainage. From about 1978 to 2000, flood control was paramount. Since then, a myriad of factors has become critical in the handling and management of runoff, including climate, weather and local characteristics.

While Mr. Rocco observed that the stormwater field was enjoying a renaissance, Dr. Traver considers it more of an evolution. The connection between infiltration and temperature is key. Even with the use of rain gardens for retention and infiltration, there may be the need for secondary storage capability. With this, in the event the rain garden gets contaminated, remediation can be limited only to the rain garden, which is relatively easy to handle.

Dr. Traver explained that even poorly maintained and/or designed features will still work 50% of the time. He noted that if you understand site conditions, uses and climate, take advantage of opportunities, incorporate risks/threats, understand the Engineering (to include possible pollutants), and incorporate maintenance, and you don't try to do it the old way and just add it on, and wait and add it in last, the feature will still work.

Dr. Traver closed with an emphasis on the mimicking of the natural cycle as much as possible in design. He explained the use of a nitrogen neutral parking lot, which does this well. As always, the major threat is no maintenance, which will cause failure eventually.

A lively question and answer period followed. President Bowman Kavanagh thanked all speakers and promised them tokens of the Section's appreciation, as these were not available at the meeting. She also noted that all tables participating in this month's brain teaser contest got all questions correct, so at her discretion, the team with the most interesting name, Gang Green, walked away with the coveted prize of breath mints.

## ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

You may have heard about **Engineers Without Borders USA (EWB-USA)** and wondered what it was about. It is a non-profit humanitarian organization established to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life. This partnership involves the implementation of sustainable engineering projects initiated by internationally responsible Engineers and Engineering students, while maintained by local communities. The Philadelphia regional chapter, **EWB-Mid-Atlantic Professionals (EWB-MAP)**, was established in 2007.

Since its inception, EWB-MAP has worked on establishing its unique vision, finding strong leaders, growing membership and developing fundraising to enable success. Currently, it is working on projects both locally and abroad in an effort to improve the quality of life through sustainable Engineering projects. Most recently, the chapter has completed a successful project in Rwanda that improved the sanitation system, which in turn increased the access to clean water for drinking, bathing, cleaning and cooking for over 100 households in the village of Rugerero.

The village of Apatut in the Philippines is in need of a new potable water supply. Most residents currently obtain water directly from shallow wells within the village. This water is a significant contributing factor to the prevalence of scabies, dysentery, goiters, urinary tract infections, and other related diseases typically associated with poor drinking water quality. To protect themselves, residents must boil the local water before drinking it or buy bottled water. Households with babies and small children are at particularly high risk for disease.

EWB-MAP has partnered with the local Filipino Rotary Club to combat the health problem by developing a sustainable solution. EWB-MAP is designing a new water supply for the community using a nearby spring. The design includes a tap or well at the water source, a reservoir for buffer capacity, 1 mile of pipeline to the school and community, water treatment as necessary, and pumps and power source(s) (wind, solar, diesel).

At this time, EWB-MAP has raised \$6,500 and has a total funding need of \$55,000 for construction of the project. The village of Apatut needs YOU! Please consider donating to the cause.

To donate, please mail a check made out to Engineers Without Borders-USA with "EWB-MAP Philippines" in the memo line to: EWB-USA, 4665 Nautilus Court, Suite 300, Boulder, CO 80301, or donate directly online at [ewb-map.org](http://ewb-map.org). ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

## HEC-RAS

*Continued from page 2*

with storage areas/connections, and dam breach/floodwave routing.

### Course Specifics:

**WHEN:** May 10–12, 2010 (Mon thru Wed)

**WHERE:** The College of New Jersey,

Ewing, NJ

## SECTION SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The ASCE, Phila. Section is pleased to announce that Section Scholarships will be awarded at the April Section Meeting. Following our call for submissions, a total of eight were received by the deadline, giving the judges a tough task to select the most worthy candidates. The judges somehow managed to come through, however, and selected the following for awards:

\$1000 Section Member Scholarship — **Nate Brown**, a junior at Widener University

\$1000 Student Scholarship — **Alisha Strayer**, a junior at Drexel University

\$1000 Student Scholarship — **Brian Studer**, a junior at Villanova University

All three recipients will be invited to be the guests of the Section at our April meeting, where they will be recognized accordingly.

Thanks to the Scholarship Committee for handling this somewhat difficult task. The Committee is chaired by **Jeff Bade**, with assistance from members **Cathy Farrell**, **Carol Martsoff**, **Chris Wright** and **Bob Wright**.

## 2010 SECTION AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED AT SPRING SOCIAL

Section Awards will be presented to five nominees who have been nominated for these honors and approved by the Section Board of Directors at the Annual Spring Social and Dinner Dance on May 14. Information and details on the Social are given elsewhere in THE NEWS. The Section Award recipients are:

- **Mike Gabor**, retired (Urban Engineers) - Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year
- **Cathy Farrell**, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. - Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer of the Year
- **Ted Thomson**, Duffield Associates – Geotechnical Engineer of the Year
- **Chuck Lawrence**, Philadelphia Regional Port Authority – Engineering Manager of the Year
- **Chris Zearfoss**, retired (City of Philadelphia) – Government Service Award

We hope you will join us at the Social to honor our Awardees for this year.

In the October edition of *THE NEWS*, we will present more information on the awardees as well as a detailed report on the Social.

**Cost & Registration:** Contact Dr. Michael Horst directly for course price and registration: phone: (814) 571-5607; email: [horst@tcnj.edu](mailto:horst@tcnj.edu). Register before April 15, 2010 or register 3 or more people from the same organization to receive a discounted rate. Federal, state, and local government employees automatically receive a discounted rate. Members of the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Managers (NJAFM) receive an additional \$50 discount.

## TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

### Structures Group April Luncheon Meeting

**Monday, April 26, 2010, 12:00 Noon–1:30 P.M.**

**SUBJECT: Condition Assessment of Transportation Infrastructure Assets Using Remote Sensing and Geospatial Technologies**

**TIME:** 12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM

**LOCATION:** Conference Room Y on the 16th Floor of the Municipal Services Building, 15th Street and Kennedy Blvd., Philadelphia.

**COST:** \$10 (sandwiches and soft drinks) will be provided. Students pay \$5.

**SPEAKER: Professor Waheed Uddin** has incorporated remote sensing technologies and geospatial analysis in transportation and infrastructure courses. He is Director of Center for Advanced Infrastructure Technology (CAIT) at the University of Mississippi. He is a co-author of three books on infrastructure management and has lectured worldwide in 27 countries.

This lecture on a new technology reviews modern remote sensing technology applications related to transportation infrastructure inventory and condition assessment leading to a quick fix and timely repair. The results of a satellite imagery-based surface classification methodology are presented. The results are used to develop a GIS-based decision support system for assessing storm debris and erosion damages by analyzing post-disaster imageries. This can be helpful for emergency management applications. The impact of built up areas and timely evaluation of environment disasters are keys to planning sustainable future developments.

Reservations are required and seating is limited to 30. **M. Ali Khan**, Chairman, Structures Group, Tel. (609) 332 1136. E-mail: [Mohidin@temple.edu](mailto:Mohidin@temple.edu)

## READING BRANCH OUTREACH/SURVEY EFFORTS

In last month's edition of *THE NEWS* we informed everyone of a survey that was going out to ASCE members whose primary address was in the Reading area. We are pleased to note that the survey has gone out and we have received a positive amount of responses. Our Survey group is now reviewing and compiling these results. Once this is complete, we will be informing members of the next steps concerning the Branch. In the meantime, if you have additional comments, or didn't get a chance to share your comments through the survey but would like to, please feel free to contact **Dan Klein** at (610) 374-5285 or [Daniel.Klein@theARROgroup.com](mailto:Daniel.Klein@theARROgroup.com). Stay tuned for more to come in the near future.

Please visit the following website 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.

<http://www.tcnj.edu/~horst/coned.htm>

## THE BOWMAN KAVANAGH PRESIDENCY — TOO MANY LAST NAMES?!

Now that our 97th president is nearly out the door, we can say what we've wanted to say about **Kristen Bowman Kavanagh**. When was the last time we had a president with three names? Trust us — we haven't. (We thought only assassins and those on the FBI Most Wanted List had three names, but to quote Bob Dylan, the times, they are a changin'...). The list of all Past Presidents is usually provided on the program of the Spring Social, so if you have last year's, take a look and see. (If you don't, well, you'll need to come to the Spring Social to confirm this.)

On a nice spring evening that seems like eons ago, especially with our record-setting winter, Kristen ably took over the helm from her predecessor, **Mark Tiger**. Your Editor has been paying attention for the most part (not one of his strong suits) because he knew he'd need to write this article when April rolled along, and since his memory isn't what it once was, keeping things in mind sometimes becomes a challenge. But enough about your getting-less-young Editor — it's his job to tell you what's what and how this all worked out with President Bowman Kavanagh. Not surprisingly, it went very well.

One "barometer" of how our profession continues to evolve is surely the growing number of women who are choosing Engineering. That increase has been particularly dramatic in the last 25-30 years (or, as long as your Editor has been a part of it). The Section Presidency was a "boys club" of sorts until 1988 when **Sue Lior** broke the barrier and took the helm as our 76th President, with two other women serving since then (**Sandra May** in 1998-99, **Carol Martsof** in 2006-07). Kristen, however, was the first to have two last names, and very likely will not be the last. Your Editor only brings this up as he has had to type "President Bowman Kavanagh" many times this year and has picked up considerable finger strength as a result.

You find that Kristen likes to talk — not a quality generally common to Engineers, unless they're talking to other Engineers or about something they did. She'll freely admit that she enjoys talking. In fact, she did, in front of 100 or so witnesses at last year's Spring Social. If you were there, you may recall how she admired Mark's ability to write his speeches on the back of a business card and then proceeded to show us what type of business card she'd need for hers. It was an accordion of cards taped together. (A little advice from another strictly amateur comedian — if you use a prop, you can only use once, so use it wisely.)

Kristen hails from California although she says she was born here. Obviously she didn't hang around long enough to get a full-fledged Philadelphia accent, whatever that is (we don't have accents, do we?). She might have lost it at Stanford, the prestigious school where she got her degrees. It's been said that Stanford could be Ivy League if one of the other Ancient Eight ever

drops out and makes a place for it, but for now the League barely extends far enough west to include Cornell. Despite her West Coast heritage, she has become a big fan of SEPTA and Car Share to get about. So, that's a step in the right direction from an environmental standpoint. As she is a water resources professional and is therefore associated with the environmental side of our profession, at least there's some consistency between practice and lifestyle here.

Kristen is married to Bill, which makes him the "first man" of the Section, we guess (and the first one at that, as the three previous female Section Presidents were unattached during their presidencies). As Bill is an architect, we certainly hope there are none of the usual A/E conflicts in Casa Kavanagh like those many of us have experienced in our interactions with architects. Of course, Bill is an architect in an Engineering firm, so he's likely already getting his share of grief from Engineers on a regular basis anyway.

Kristen has taken to the President's messages in an interesting way. She actually enjoys writing them, although her time zone usually was not the Eastern one as far as meeting deadlines. In reading her e-mails which asked for clarification of deadlines, your Editor often wondered if a lawyer had written them, especially when the question of how "midnight" was defined would arise. It was not uncommon for e-mails to arrive time-stamped when the rest of us were having Engineering dreams but when Kristen was fully awake and apparently cranking out work products, communications, President's messages, etc. And maybe she's a "wannabe" lawyer — she seemed to enjoy the revamping of the Section's Constitution and Bylaws a little too much? We have to wonder.

Speaking of her President's messages, they were always interesting and surprisingly cogent, keeping in mind the late hours when they were penned. They were made even more interesting with the variety of seasonal photos that accompanied them. Kristen started out with the basic head shot in October, followed by a Halloween photo of her made up to resemble her cat, Galileo, in November. A woodsy fall shot appeared in December and a Happy New Year theme in January. February had the "Love" statue in the background (subtle hint on Valentine's Day — get it?). March reminded us of all that snow (like we really needed a reminder!) with a photo of Kristen on the slopes. Not since Ruben David gave us his photo album during his Presidency have we seen this variety of President pictures.

There was one photo you didn't see, but your Editor, the seldom astute reader that he is, did. Last fall, he noticed a picture in the neighborhood paper that had four women and four horses posed, with two of the women on horseback. The group represented the **Wissa-**

**hickon Horse Lovers Association** (somehow this group got "WHOA" from that — nice try for a cutesy name, but...). One of the women on horseback looked a little familiar, and the photo caption explained why — it was Kristen enjoying one of her newer hobbies. Your Editor and horses have generally not interacted, outside of the ones that run around a track and can be bet on and his enjoyment of Mister Ed years ago. Kristen's April photo shows her pursuing these "cowgirl" dreams, and we wish her luck with them, whatever they may be.

The California roots showed when Kristen and your Editor discovered their mutual like of Mexican food, so notes began to be compared on latest finds of restaurants (until recently, Mexican was not a common cuisine in our area). It was amazing what each of us stumbled upon and then reported to the other, and the results were generally good.

Kristen kept us hopping with committee assignments and reports. Your Editor won a special prize for being energetic (or dumb) enough to be a part of the most number of Section committees. He has yet to use any of the transportation-themed stickers, still waiting for the most appropriate application for them, no doubt. Kristen also looked to liven up Section meetings with Quizzo and other competitions that featured coveted prizes like hand sanitizer, Pop Rocks, and similar "lovely parting gifts" as the 60's game shows might describe them.

So, good luck as a Past President, Kristen! We're sure she'll hang around and keep helping the Section as she's developed a number of good friends and colleagues in her service, and we'll certainly welcome whatever contributions she can make to keep us cutting-edge. So now we move on to **Tom Brady**, who moves into the "hot seat". We all wish Tom good luck in steering the Section in the right direction and we'll continue to support him, and your Editor will once again have to pay attention so he can write this column about Tom a year from now.

## ASCE LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DAY IN HARRISBURG

For the fourth year in a row, the four Pennsylvania Sections of ASCE have planned another event to visit legislators and highlight infrastructure needs. This will encompass a visit of our elected officials in Harrisburg on **Monday, May 24**. Your participation and voice are needed to let our legislators know how important the infrastructure issue is to our economy and our daily lives.

The day will consist of a kick-off session with speakers outlining our positions and how to have effective meetings with elected representatives. This will be followed by meetings with elected officials to express our support for the findings of the Governor's Transportation Funding Commission, and provide your professional knowledge to support important policy decisions effecting the health,

*Continued on Page 7*

## SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION 2010-11 SEASON

At the Spring Social on May 14, the Section's officers and Board members for the current season will be officially installed. They are as follows:

**President: Thomas W. Brady**, Louis Berger Group

**President Elect: Ann M. Tomalavage**, Malarkey Consulting, Inc.

**Vice President: Jeremy Colello**, Pennoni Associates, Inc.

**Secretary: AnnMarie L. Vigilante**, Langan Engineering & Environmental Sciences

**Treasurer: Joseph Platt**, Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.

**Assistant Secretary: Guy DiMartino**, Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

**Assistant Treasurer: Peter Sitkowski**, Citizens Bank

**Membership Secretary: Cathy G. Farrell**, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.

**Directors: Vicki L. Brown**, Widener University ('09-'11)

**Jeremy Chrzan**, Pennoni Associates ('10-'12)

**Soheila Rahbari**, Schoor DePalma ('09-'11)

**Theodore Thomson**, Duffield Associates ('10-'12)

**Jennifer K. Walsh**, McMahon Associates, Inc. ('10-'12)

**Keith Yamatani**, Kleinfelder ('09-'11)

*Past Presidents:*

**Kristen Bowman Kavanagh**, Flow Science Inc.

**Mark J. Tiger**, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.

**James P. Markham II**, Pennoni Associates, Inc.

The President of the Reading Branch will be discussed following the results of the recent survey of Reading Branch members on the continued role of the Branch in the Section.

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

## NIGHT WITH THE SIXERS

*Continued from page 1*

be purchased, which includes a hot dog, popcorn and soda.

Tickets are based on availability, so act now! For more information and/or to reserve your tickets, contact **Dave Reed** at (215) 952-7822 or **dreed@comcast-spectacor.com**. Orders can be faxed to Dave's attention at (215) 339-7658.

## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

*Continued from page 6*

safety and welfare of Pennsylvanians. Last year's event was quite successful, with over 80 attendees from organizations statewide.

More information on the specific event schedule for the day is being assembled and will be included on our website ([www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org)). Please hold the date and check the website for more information.

We encourage you to ask your employer to support you in this important event as well.



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