



### ASCE, PHILA. SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2010-11

The Section Meeting program for the upcoming season is falling into place. 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. As always, 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:

#### 2010

Wednesday, December 1, 2010  
Joint meeting with Society of  
American Military Engineers

#### 2011

Wednesday, January 19, 2011  
Joint meeting with American  
Society of Highway Engineers  
Thursday, February 10, 2011  
Thursday, March 10, 2011  
Thursday, April 14, 2011

### OCTOBER DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section  
American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section, Reading Branch

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2010**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel — Valley Forge • 260 Mall Boulevard, King of Prussia, PA**  
Cocktails 5:30 PM • Dinner 6:30 PM • Meeting 7:30 PM

**SUBJECT: Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool Rehabilitation**

**SPEAKER: Gary A. Moore, Sr., P.E.,** Project Manager, The Louis Berger Group, Inc.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8.** 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. 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: Reading Branch Anniversary**

Join us in the kickoff celebration of our Reading Branch's 35th year of service, complete with a birthday cake!

The Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, the largest of several such pools throughout Washington, D.C., located directly east of the Lincoln Memorial, is a long, rectangular pool visible in many photographs of the Washington Monument. Part of the iconic image of Washington, the Reflecting Pool is a significant attraction to visitors of the National Mall. It is lined by walking paths and shade trees on both sides and reflects both the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.

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### Resolve to attend ALL Section Meetings This Year!

### NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

Joint Meeting sponsored by the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia and co-sponsored by the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA), the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and our Section

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2010**

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

**SUBJECT: Communicating Technical Issues with Levity and Panache**

**SPEAKER: Fred H. Kulhawy,** Professor Emeritus, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

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

How many boring and seemingly never-ending presentations have you had to endure in your career? And, possibly, more painfully, how many of these have you and your team given and made others endure? Your audience might say it was good, but their facial expressions, demeanor, and other reactions might be saying otherwise.

If you want people to be "wowwed" by your Powerpoints and speeches, you need to make them more interesting and memorable. Effective communications need effective methods. Dr. Kulhawy

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write my first President's message our Phillies just reclaimed 1st place and the kickoff to another football season is almost here. I welcome you to a very exciting 98th year of the ASCE, Philadelphia Section! At our Annual Spring Social in May, I emphasized the vision of ASCE is to provide essential value to our members, their careers and the public to improve our infrastructure and build a better quality of life.

During the summer, the Section Board, Technical Groups and Institutes Chairpersons have been planning some great activities for all of you. We established the following goals for the upcoming year: social events outside our monthly dinner meetings; provide PDH meetings; revitalize the Reading Branch; plan for the 100th Anniversary; hold multidiscipline meetings; and outreach regarding the recent release of the PA Infrastructure Report Card.

Through the efforts of our dedicated volunteers, we are improving the services we provide our members. Our Social Committee has organized a fun event prior to our first dinner meeting to network and socialize on **October 2nd** at the **Philadelphia Union Game**. With HB975 signed into law, we are starting to assist members to receive PDHs by organizing monthly dinner meetings and technical group and institute meetings that are educational and relevant. Our October dinner meeting will be a PDH opportunity. This year our Reading Branch celebrates its 35th year Anniversary. Several volunteers have stepped forward to reestablish the Reading Branch and provide events focused on our Upper Montgomery County, Chester County and Berks County members. We will have a Special Celebration and induction of officer's ceremony also at our October dinner meeting. I will elaborate more on our other goals in future President's messages.

In order to be successful, we need time, ideas and financial support of all of our members. I would like to ask each member to consider volunteering for the Section in a small or large way. We are in need of a Chairperson for our Engineering Management Technical Group and an Assistant Secretary to serve on our Section Board. We have several committees that need additional volunteers including the 100th Anniversary Planning committee, Scholarship and Pre-College and College Outreach. We also are always in search of speakers who can assist our Technical Groups and Institutes by providing a 1-hour presentation that would provide a PDH to our members. If interested in serving in any of these opportunities, please contact me at [tbrady@louisberger.com](mailto:tbrady@louisberger.com).

Our website [www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org) has been revamped to better serve all of you. It will also contain photos of our events that you can download. Check it out!

In closing, I would thank you for this opportunity to serve as President of the Philadelphia Section. We have an awesome year ahead of us. The Board members and I look forward to working with you to continuously improve our Section. This is a great time to be a Civil Engineer. Get involved!

Sincerely,  
Thomas W. Brady, P.E.  
President, ASCE, Philadelphia Section

## National News

### FOUR GENERATIONS — THREE DAYS — TWO EVENTS — ONE FUTURE ASCE National Conference — Las Vegas, October 20-22

ASCE's 140th Annual Civil Engineering Conference brings all four generations together for three days of exciting sessions, two unique ways to connect (Hoover Dam Symposium and Community Service Project), and one sustainable future — headlined by **Andrew Winston**.

On Wednesday, seize the opportunity for an exclusive full day tour of a massive outdoor laboratory, the Nevada Test Site, or take a step on to the famous Hoover Dam.

On Thursday, immerse yourself in the Opening Plenary Session with Andrew Winston for an enlightening speech on how "going green" can help inspire innovation. Kick off the Conference with all four generations at the Ice Breaker Reception. In addition, get details for the week's celebratory luncheons and other special events on the conference website.

Make plans to attend Friday's Theme Party before closing out the Conference at the Closing General Session Luncheon. In Las Vegas, time is money so give a part of yourself to the local community. Be a part of this year's Community Service Project on Sunday and enjoy the camaraderie of working side by side with your peers for a worthy cause.

This is only a brief run-down of what awaits you as an attendee. Take a glance at what this year's Annual Conference has to offer your generation's future by visiting [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org).

### ...And Welcome New President Andrew Herrmann

**Andrew W. Herrmann, P.E., SECB, FASCE**, a Structural Engineer with nearly 35 years of active involvement at all levels of ASCE, has been elected the Society's President-elect for 2011. Herrmann will work alongside 2011 President **Kathy J. Caldwell, P.E., MASCE**, and succeed to the presidency in 2012. He will be inaugurated in late October at ASCE's 140th Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

You may recall that Mr. Herrmann presented the results of ASCE's National Infrastructure Report Card to our Section at our November 2009 meeting.

## ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2010-11 SEASON

At the Spring Social on May 14, 2010, the ASCE, Phila. Section's Officers and Board members were 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 Services

### TREASURER

Joseph Platt, Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.

### ASSISTANT TREASURER

Guy DiMartino,  
Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Cathy G. Farrell, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.

### DIRECTORS

Vicki L. Brown, Widener University ('09-'11)  
Spencer Finch, Pennsylvania Environmental  
Council ('10-'12)  
Soheila Rahbari, RGE LLC ('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.

### PRESIDENT, READING BRANCH

Please see the separate article and update  
on the Branch.

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

### President — Thomas W. Brady, P.E.

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

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### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

#### Editor of THE NEWS

Robert Wright

#### Staff Writers

James Markham Joe Syrnick

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Philadelphia, PA 19102

**COPY DEADLINE FOR  
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OCTOBER 14, 2010**

# ANACE\*

## How to Prevent Theft?

If you've ever visited a transportation museum and seen the relics that served as transit vehicles in olden times, you may have noticed that the vehicle interiors were very Spartan in accommodations. Part of this was related to the same sort of "code" we as Engineers follow today — reduction of maintenance. Part of it was the technology of the day. Part of it was economy — transit operators tended to be rich, and one way to get rich was to spend a lot less than you make (and at a nickel or so a ride...).

One such treatment that catches one's eye is the bare light bulbs that served to illuminate the passenger areas. Fixtures and covers were primitive and often considered redundant and unneeded. If you're of a certain age and rode the Broad Street Subway before the current fleet took over the line in about 1983, you will recall the glary lighting and "hot spots" of the bare bulbs that was tough on the eyes.

Even though it was a different era, there was still some vandalism and theft. Bare bulbs were easy targets for those who wanted to take one home and put it in his or her own lamp. One deterrent was that the bulbs burned continuously, particularly on subway cars, so they were hot to the touch. On trolley cars, which operated on the surface in most instances, lights were able to be turned off in daylight and the bulbs were therefore not always hot. Also, on subway cars, there was a backup emergency light system that only came on when power was interrupted, and these bulbs were easy pickins as well (at least in theory).

Transit operators recognized this temptation and came up with solutions to keep thieves from taking the bulbs. In Brooklyn, the trolleys and subway cars had a special mechanism in the light sockets that required insertion of a pin to free the lock if a bulb were to be removed. Otherwise, the bulb would not turn. Other subway cars built for the City of New York addressed the problem of the emergency lighting by using bulbs with left-handed threads in them. The unwitting thief would find that the bulb was useless to him or her when it was tried to be used in a home socket.

## New York City Cemeteries Face Gridlock

A while back, ANACE reported an obscure fact on New York City cemeteries. Another recently-reported item on this caught your Editor's eye, so here's more on a "dying" topic.

As reported in the *New York Times* in August, while we know the cost of living is expensive, particularly in New York City, the cost of dying is right up there as well. Cemeteries in the city, already limited by many factors, are running out of space. Where burial plots may still be still available, the cost has in some cases more than tripled in less than a decade. Aboveground mausoleums can fetch upward of \$3 million. Cemeteries are scrambling to create more space, and as plot prices have soared, the number of

cremations has also risen, with a quarter of New Yorkers choosing the less expensive alternative.

More than 50 years have passed since a major cemetery was established within the city, and no new burial grounds are planned. There are state laws limiting the profits on resold graves, but the fact that people would be willing to disinter relatives to sell the plots to others at a profit illustrates just how valuable burial plots have become.

Other major urban areas have taken measures to alleviate similar space crunches. London allows people to be buried upright, while cemeteries in Singapore and Sydney, among others, offer "limited tenure," cemetery-speak for digging up bodies after a certain amount of time so that the plot can be reused.

New York City is not now contemplating graveyard evictions, although the state did pass a law several years ago that allows cemeteries to take over empty plots bought more than 75 years ago if the owner cannot be reached.

By law, cemeteries in New York State must be nonprofit institutions. There are 35 privately owned cemeteries in the city and several dozen with religious affiliations. The closer to Manhattan and major transportation, the more crowded and expensive a burial ground will be. Farther away, particularly in Staten Island and parts of the Bronx, space is available.

While there is a space crunch in the city, there is more space in the suburbs, and cemeteries in upstate New York can barely give away plots, state officials said. Many New Yorkers who struggled and saved to live in the city end up buried elsewhere. Even as the broader real estate market languished in the recession, prices for graves in the city continued skyward. The state regulates the fees a cemetery can charge for services like excavation, but graves sell at market price. So burial plots are a cemetery's revenue-generator.

And, as is true in all real estate, it's about location. Just as the apartment-hunter pays more to be near a park or to secure a sweeping view, the address within the cemetery often affects the price tag. Being buried under a tree is more desirable than being out in the open. A plot that is easy to get to can be more valuable than one in the back 40. A neighborhood of ornate Victorian marble can cost more than an avenue of flat, mowable markers.

## One Way to Sell Color TV's

If you're under 40, chances are the words "color TV" may be a mystery to you. If you recall the word "in color" or "in living color" in the announcement of a TV program, by the same token, you're getting a little long in the tooth, as they say. Up until the early 1970's the standard TV set was black and white, which was fine since most of the programs were broadcast only in black and white anyway. Color TV's were much more expensive and the first home on the block to buy one usually got a lot of attention from neighbors who marveled at the new invention.

*Continued on Page 7*

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### Haahs Now A Fellow

**Tim Haahs**, President of TimHaahs, was elevated to the renowned Fellow grade of ASCE this summer.

### Nawn Moves Up at PSPE

**John Nawn** was elected to the position of Vice President, Southeast Region at the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) in July. He will be installed into office in September. John has been a member of PSPE for the last 20 years and is a Fellow in the National Society of Professional Engineers. Over the last four years, John has served as State Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee. His service to PSPE has also included four years as editor of the Delaware County Chapter Newsletter, three years as the Chapter President, and four years as a Chapter Director.

### Traver Weighs in on Katrina Anniversary

**Robert Traver, Ph.D.** was interviewed recently by Fox 29 (WTFX-TV) for his perspective on the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Rob served on ASCE's External Review Panel, a team of experts convened in November 2005. In February 2007, he and his fellow ERP panelists were awarded the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their efforts.

### Vuchic Moves to Professor Emeritus Status

**Vukan R. Vuchic, Ph.D.** retired from his professor chair at the University of Pennsylvania in July after 43 years on the faculty in the School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS). Dr. Vuchic was the UPS Foundation Professor of Transportation Engineering in the Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering and additionally was Professor of City and Regional Planning in the School of Arts and Sciences.

### Lowdermilk Takes Reins at Delco PSPE

**Dave Lowdermilk** has been elected to the position of President of the Delaware County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers.

### Another Walsh is Here!

Congratulations go out to ASCE, Section Director **Jennifer Walsh** and her husband of the birth of their second child, **Kiely Elizabeth**, on April 5. Kiely came in at a healthy 7 lbs, 9oz. and 20 inches long.

### Wright President of Engineers' Club

As of July 1, your Editor, **Bob Wright**, has added one more "hat" and ascended to the position of President of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia for a two-year term. Bob takes over from Past President and Section Member **Eric Flicker**. In the wings is Section Member **Mike McAtee**, now President Elect.

**He who has the fastest golf cart  
never has a bad lie.**

— **Mickey Mantle**,  
National Baseball Hall of Famer



## Environmental and Water Resources Technical Group

### Luncheon Meeting

Thursday, September 23

**SUBJECT: Remediation of the Lipari Landfill**  
(Former #1 U.S. Superfund Site)

**SPEAKER: Daniel Sirkis, P.G.**, Geo-Environmental Section Chief, Philadelphia District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**TIME: 12:00PM–1:15PM** (11:45AM registration)

**LOCATION: Department of Environmental Protection, Southeast Regional Office, 2 East Main Street, Norristown, PA 19401**

**COST: \$15 per person** (including lunch), \$5 students

**DIRECTIONS:** Directions to the DEP office (both by car or public transportation) can be found at <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/southeastregionalloffice/13778/directions/593147>. Parking is available in various lots.

The **Lipari Landfill** had significant quantities of hazardous materials which impacted the surrounding communities. The presentation will discuss the evolution of the clean-up program which included: slurry wall installation, groundwater treatment system, batch flushing, dual-phase extraction, injection galleries, and thermal oxidizer & biofilters for the treatment system offgas.

Attendees are eligible for one (1) Professional Development Hour (PDH) for attending this presentation.

Reservations can be made through the Section website ([www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org)). Payment can be made through the website via PayPal or via check following the instructions on the website.

## READING BRANCH HAPPENINGS

As you have seen in *THE NEWS* and may have heard over the past few months, things have been getting active with our Reading Branch lately. As the Branch celebrates its 35th anniversary this year, a new “crop” of officers has taken the helm, and we wish them luck in this endeavor:

President: **Daniel Klein**, The ARRO Group

Vice President: **E.J. Walsh**, McCarthy Engineering

Secretary: **Nick Johnson**, Great Valley Consultants

Treasurer: **Phillip Harter**, WorleyParsons

On June 13, the Branch conducted a social event at the Reading Phillies game, with about 30 attendees enjoying a nice afternoon of baseball, with a number of Philadelphia Section folks mixed with Branch members in attendance.

This segment will include other items of note concerning the Branch in future installments. One such item will cover the Branch's donation of several items related to the historic (and, unfortunately, no longer existing) Swinging Bridge to the fledgling Reading Railroad Heritage Museum in Hamburg, PA this summer. Look for more on this in the November edition of *THE NEWS*.

## Environmental and Water Resources Technical Group

### Luncheon Meeting

Wednesday, November 17

**SUBJECT: Overview of the Updated Chapter 102 — Erosion and Sedimentation Control Manual**

**SPEAKER: Mr. Domenic Rocco, P.E.**, Chief, Stormwater Section, Department of Environmental Protection, Southeast Regional Office

**DATE: Wednesday, November 17, 2010**

**TIME: 12:00PM–1:15PM; 11:45PM Registration**

**LOCATION: Temple University – Fort Washington Campus, Room 124-126, 401 Commerce Drive** (corner of Commerce Dr. and Delaware Ave.), Fort Washington, PA

**COST: \$20** (including lunch); Students, \$10

More information will be provided in the November edition of *THE NEWS*.

Tuesday, October 19

**ONE-DAY WORKSHOP: Geosynthetics for Sediment Control, Erosion Prevention and Stormwater Management**

This workshop, co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD), the Southeastern Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, ACF Environmental and our Section, will be conducted on **October 19 at Penn State Great Valley** in Malvern. Go to [www.acfenvironmental.com](http://www.acfenvironmental.com) for more information and registration.

## ...AND THANKS AGAIN TO OUR SPONSORS!

As you have seen, the ASCE, Phila. Section Sponsorship Program is off to a good start this year, with 12 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.

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



**Who knows what a PDH is?**

(See the article to the right.)

## Structural Engineering Institute

### Dinner and Technical Meeting

Tuesday, September 28

**SUBJECT: NJ Turnpike Interchange 6 to 9 Widening Program and its Impact on the Northeast Region**

**SPEAKERS: John Tan P.E.**, Director, The Louis Berger Group, and **Kevin Healy P.E.**, Project Engineer, New Jersey Turnpike Authority

**TIME: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**LOCATION: Municipal Services Building, 16th Floor, Conference Room Y** (15th Street and Kennedy Blvd., Center City Philadelphia)

**COST: \$30** (Students pay \$15), includes dinner, \$50 for those who require a PDH Certificate

The ongoing **NJ Turnpike Interchange 6 to 9 Widening Program** will extend the twelve-lane dual-dual roadway north of Interchange 9 southward to the Interchange 6 interconnection with the Pearl Harbor Memorial Turnpike Extension. It is using the most advanced technology available.

The presentation will provide an overview of the Widening Program and its current status, followed by a discussion of curved and complex bridges with unique structural elements. It will include a Preliminary Bridge Study and Standardization of Structural Details and the design and constructability implications including the PSE&G high voltage transmission lines parallel to the NJ Turnpike corridor.

Reservations are required as seating is limited. Please reserve through the Section's website: <http://www.asce-philly.org/>

For more information, please contact **Dr. Khan**, Chairman, SEI Philadelphia Chapter, (609) 332-1136; e-mail: [Mohidin@temple.edu](mailto:Mohidin@temple.edu). Attendees are eligible to earn two (2) Professional Development Hours (PDH).

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS ASCE, SECTION MEETINGS WILL HELP YOU MEET THESE

As you may be aware, 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.

The specific requirements for PE's, LS's and PG's are available on the Department of State's website at [www.dos.state.pa.us/eng](http://www.dos.state.pa.us/eng) for your information.

The Section's meeting program will be able to be counted toward your continuing education requirement, depending on the topic (and the Section will use its judgement of this to advise if a particular meeting may not be able to qualify). A verification program, including sign-in/attendance recording and “receipts”, will be implemented starting with the October meeting to help you obtain your professional development hours (PDH's).

## THE 2010 SPRING SOCIAL — “OUTTA HERE!”

An unseasonably warm day turned into a stormy evening (sounds like the start of a bad novel?), and any Phillies game that would have been scheduled for Citizens Bank Park then would have easily been postponed at best or even cancelled. The ASCE, Phila. Section chose that day to be at the Park and, fortunately, inside during the pounding rains to celebrate the conclusion of our 2009-10 season with our annual Spring Social in the Hall of Fame Club. More than 100 members and guests participated in the event, which featured behind-the-scenes tours of the Park in addition to the usual year-end festivities.

Outgoing Section President **Kristen Bowman Kavanagh** opened the official festivities for the evening once attendees had their chances to take the mentioned behind-the-scenes tours. After an invocation by Past President **Ruben David**, our semi-official “invocationeer,” dinner was served.

The evening later featured the traditional induction of new Officers and Board Members as a main order of business. 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. President Bowman Kavanagh later welcomed incoming President **Tom Brady**, who, after being hugged a few times by the Phillie Phanatic (by the way, not one of the “official” rites of installation of a Section President), took the gavel and closed the festivities with his remarks.

The Section’s first-place winners at the Delaware Valley Science Fairs were invited to attend and display and discuss their winning projects. The Grades 6–8 First Place winner, **Michelle Moffa**, an 8th-grader from Belhaven Middle School in Linwood, NJ, was present with her parents, and she was cited by Past President **Bob Wright** for her efforts. Michelle’s project had the lengthy and self-explanatory title of “*To Mix or Not to Mix – What Arrangement of Natural Materials Most Effectively Filters Water?*”. (Her Grades 9-12 counterpart, **Grace Reilly**, in the 10th grade at Academy of Notre Dame de Namur in Villanova, whose project was “*Which Bridge is the Strongest?*”, was unable to attend the Social.).

The Section Awards for 2010 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 2010 Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year, our Section’s highest honor, is **Michael J. Gabor**.

Mike recently retired from his position as Vice President and Practice Leader for Marine Engineering at Urban Engineers, which he held for the past 17 years. As a result of his 45 years of experience in the Marine Engineering and construction fields, few, if any, are as knowledgeable about our region’s port facilities as Mike. He has been involved in numerous projects

for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority, the Delaware River Port Authority, the South Jersey Port Corporation, the Delaware River and Bay Authority, the cities of Philadelphia and Wilmington, the Schuylkill River Development Corporation, and many other concerns.

Even with his busy work schedule, Mike has always managed to find time for community service and is on the Board of Directors of the Seaman’s Church Institute, the Maritime Academy Charter School, and the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation. He chairs the Maritime Academy’s Facilities Committee and assists Philadelphia City Sail, Inc., which offers hands-on maritime experience for economically disadvantaged youth.

Mike obtained his Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from Penn State University in 1961. His most recent honor was the receipt of an Outstanding Service Award from Delaware Valley Engineers Week in 2008.

Mike and his wife Pat maintain residences in Fox Chase and Brigantine, New Jersey.

### Young Civil Engineer of the Year

**Cathy Farrell** is our Young Civil Engineer of the Year in 2010.

Cathy is a Project Engineer in the Transportation group at Michael Baker Junior at the firm’s office in Horsham. She has been with Baker for the past seven years and specializes in highway design and computer-assisted Engineering. She has been a critical team member on local projects on the Route 202 Parkway effort in Montgomery and Bucks Counties, the replacement of five bridges in the Gustine Lake Interchange in East Falls, and streetscape improvements in the Washington Crossing Gateway Park.

Cathy graduated from Villanova University in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and returned to Villanova to obtain her Master’s degree in 2006. She is a registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania and is an active member of American Society of Highway Engineers in addition to ASCE. In our Section, she is completing her term as President of the Younger Member Forum and is our incoming Membership Secretary.

Cathy and her husband Tim live in Dresher.

### Engineering Manager of the Year

Our recipient of the Engineering Manager of the Year award for 2010 is **Charles J. Lawrence**.

Chuck is the Chief Engineer and Director of Engineering for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority, a position he has held for the past nine years. He has been with the Authority for 25 years. He is responsible for the development of plans, specifications and cost estimates for all port construction and rehabilitation projects, oversight of construction contractors and Engineering consultants, conduct of negotiations with government agencies and compliance with governmental regulations. He oversees a \$15

million capital program and a \$4 million operating budget to service ten port facilities owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In his career at the Authority, he has been in lead roles in numerous projects which enhance the competitiveness of our region’s port and promote the safe handling of goods and cargo.

Chuck received his Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from Geneva College in 1976 and recently earned a Master’s degree in Non-Profit Administration from Eastern University. He is an active member of several port-related agencies and has been involved in his township’s zoning and planning boards. He and his wife, Diane, have devoted considerable time and effort to CURE International, a Christian agency that builds and operates hospitals for disabled children in developing countries, and he has been able to use his engineering talents there.

The Lawrences have four daughters and reside in Limerick.

### Geotechnical Engineer of the Year

This year **Dr. Theodore A. Thomson, Jr.** received the Section’s Geotechnical Engineer of the Year honors.

Ted is with Duffield Associates at its office in Wilmington, where he serves as a Senior Project Manager. He manages geotechnical design and construction reviews, and has been a key part of efforts in these areas as well as wetlands and streambank stabilization, construction plan preparation and review, construction cost estimating and geotechnical project management. He has been at Duffield for the past twelve years and has been involved in a variety of geotechnical and site projects for the Port and Harbor of Wilmington, several river wharves on the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia, the Riverfront Marketplace in Wilmington, and various other undertakings.

Ted received his Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Delaware in 1993 and remained at Delaware where he was awarded his Master’s degree in 1994. He obtained his Doctorate with a geotechnical concentration from the University of Massachusetts in 1998.

Ted is a past Chair of the Section’s Delaware Valley Geo-Institute and is an incoming Director of the Section.

Ted lives in Wilmington.

### Government Service Award

We are proud to cite **Christopher Zearfoss** as the recipient of our Government Service Award for 2010.

Chris retired from the City of Philadelphia this past March after a 38-year career in City government, in which he served in several administrative and high-level capacities as a transit analyst and advisor. His most recent position was Senior Transportation Project Manager in the Mayor’s Office of Transportation, Utilities and Aviation. While his background is in transit planning and funding, he

*Continued on Page 7*

## NOVEMBER MEETING

*Continued from Page 1*

originally prepared this session as the Hal Hunt Lecture of the Deep Foundations Institute to focus on improvements in interactions in the construction industry, with a particular concentration on the use of levity and panache to enhance these often dry and uninteresting interactions.

Dr. Kulhawy will begin with a description of some basic communication tools, including critical writing skills, the importance of clear and precise punctuation, and the elimination of boring writing trends. Examples are used to highlight and explain the various basic communication principles. He uses a wide range of illustrations to explore civil, ground, and geotechnical engineering themes, in particular, which are applicable in the broader base of the technical and construction fields. Advertisements, cartoons, society publications, daily cartoon commentaries, and promotional works are used to portray a variety of communications possible using levity and panache, both positive and negative. Dr. Kulhawy will conclude with some suggestions to enhance our communication skills utilizing the tools described.

## CHANGES TO THE SECTION CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS APPROVED

As you may be aware, our Constitution and Bylaws were in need of "tweaking", having last been updated in 1992. Our Constitution/Bylaws Committee undertook the task starting in May 2009 and, after diligent work and coordination with ASCE National, presented the revised documents to our membership at the April 8 Section Meeting. A slight last-minute glitch with ASCE National prevented us from being able to take a vote on the documents at that time, as is required, so the action was deferred and taken at our Spring Social on May 14. (We were hoping not to have our Social include such a business item, but it was the most expedient way to do things, and, as it turned out, it was fairly quick and painless!)

Thus, our new Constitution and Bylaws are now in place and will be available for review on our website. Thanks to all who were involved in reviewing and voting for this to happen, in particular, the Constitution/Bylaws Committee (chaired by Past President **Kristen Bowman Kavanagh** with assistance from Director **Keith Yamatani** and Newsletter Editor/Past President **Bob Wright**).

## Sponsor Profile

### URBAN ENGINEERS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

From the bankruptcy of Lawrence T. Beck and Associates, Urban Engineers was born. Three of Beck's associates, **Robert C. Olson, PE**, **Edward J. D'Alba, PE**, and **K. Yervant Terzian, PE**, recognized the perils of ownership and the opportunity they could have in starting and leading a new organization.

On August 1, 1960, President Olson, Vice President D'Alba, and Secretary/Treasurer Terzian, joined by four employees formerly with Beck, a "lucky seven" in total, established Urban Engineers, Inc., an organization which today continues to grow and adhere to the Founders' commitment to quality, clients, projects, people and knowledge.

From its first office at 1619 Chestnut Street in Center City, Urban focused its early work on highway, building and bridge design. From the dissolution of Lawrence T. Beck, the Founders retained, and completed, several of Beck's existing contracts. Notable projects in the early years of the company included the Delaware Expressway (I-95) and the Philadelphia Planning Commission's urban renewal initiative, led by Edmund Bacon, whose design ideas helped shape the Philadelphia of today. Smaller projects were welcome too, like the mapping of underground utilities for the City of Philadelphia. This "shelf work" kept the firm busy when major projects were slow to come.

The Founders were intimately involved in all aspects of the business. Each principal leader was responsible for an area of the firm - Olson for Administration and Sales, D'Alba for Highways, and Terzian for Bridge and Building Design. Founder Edward J. D'Alba recalls, "We were the chief cooks and bottle washers at that time. While we promoted work, managed projects, and administered the business, we also took turns emptying the trash baskets."

Though the company and its projects began small, the exhilaration from early successes, while trying to keep the business afloat, created an "esprit de corps" that would prevail. Positive attitudes and diligent work by motivated people produced a solid foundation for growth. The small staff was well acquainted, and a "family" atmosphere prevailed. As the company expanded to a medium-sized firm, the Founders wanted it to expand in a controlled way, retaining the family-like work environment and the

commitment to quality and clients that existed when Urban was founded. Opportunities soon arose that enabled Urban to become involved in larger projects. Success on these projects would eventually lead to work across the country.

The passion and commitment to Urban's clients, profession, and community, held by the Founders, still exists today in the principal leadership of Executive Vice President **Joseph P. McAtee, P.E.**, and President **Edward M. D'Alba, P.E.** The Founders' desire to successfully compete against many of the biggest firms is driving Urban to greater heights daily. According to Founder Edward J. D'Alba, "Forward vision must look in all directions for it to be meaningful — you have to know where you have been, where you are, and where you are going."

Thanks to the groundwork laid by the Founders, it looks like Urban is heading in the right direction.

## SOCIAL EVENT — COME OUT FOR SOCCER!

The ASCE, Phila. Section is planning some social/family events in addition to the usual technical meetings and other gatherings this season. The first such happening will be an afternoon of major league soccer, as the **Philadelphia Union** take on the **Houston Dynamo** at **PPL Park** in Chester on **Saturday, October 2** at 4pm.

The cost is \$30 per person, which includes ticket, hot dog and large soda/small draft beer. The seats are located in Section 118. Reservations are due by **September 24**, and tickets are available on a first come first serve basis. More information and an event flyer are provided on our website ([www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org)).

## DIGITAL DELIVERY STILL WORKING — AND YOU CAN STILL "OPT OUT"

One of our more significant accomplishments last season was the movement to digital delivery of *THE NEWS*. We are pleased to report that both the electronic and "snail mail" options seem to be working smoothly.

As promised, if you decide that reading the computer screen is less enjoyable than the comfort of the hard copy, we're pleased to send you the paper version via the Postal Service as long as you let us know you want this and where you'd like it sent. Yes, we are still printing this and will be happy to send it to you. There is no deadline for asking for this — it's more of a "rolling" system that you can enroll (or un-enroll) in at any time. Please notify us at [info@asce-philly.org](mailto:info@asce-philly.org) or via mail to our address at the Engineers' Club so we can note your preference and add you to the correct list.

**Happy reading!**

## WHERE'S TOM?

ASCE, Phila. Section President **Tom Brady** has raised a challenge to our members. Each month, we will show a photo of Tom at a different location. You will be asked to keep track of the locations where Tom appears in the photos. The first photo was provided in the Summer edition. In April, you can send a list of your guesses to Tom and the participants will be entered into a drawing for a prize to be awarded at the Spring Social.

**Good luck!**



## TECHNICAL GROUPS/CHAIRS

Information on the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's Technical Groups is given below. President-Elect **Ann Tomalavage** will coordinate activities of the Groups. If you have any topics that you think would be of interest to the Groups, please feel free to pass this information along to the Group Chair.

### CONSTRUCTION

Dennis MacBride  
SEPTA  
1234 Market Street, 12th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
215-580-3404

### DELAWARE VALLEY GEOINSTITUTE

Theodore A. Thomson, Jr., PhD, P.E.  
Duffield Associates, Inc.  
5400 Limestone Road  
Wilmington, DE 19808  
302-239 6634

### ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

The Chair position is currently open (see below).

### ENVIRONMENTAL and WATER RESOURCES

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

### STRUCTURAL

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

### TRANSPORTATION and URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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

The Section is looking for an energetic, enthusiastic and driven individual to take on the **Chair of the Engineering Management Technical Group**. The basic duties of the Chair are the direction of the Group, the planning of a program of events for the season (meetings, tours, etc.), coordination with the Section Board and other Technical Groups, and related duties. Anyone who may have an interest or has questions about the position should contact President **Tom Brady** (contact information is given on page 2).

## ENGINEERS WEEK GOLF OUTING

The **11th Annual Engineers Week Golf Outing** will be held on **Thursday, September 30**, at the **Island Green Golf Course** in Northeast Philadelphia. Sponsorships, foursomes, and individual play are available. Registration starts at 8:00AM and clubs start swinging with a shotgun start at 9:00AM. Please visit the Engineers' Club website, **www.engrclub.org**, for more info.

## OCTOBER MEETING

*Continued from Page 1*

The Reflecting Pool is approximately 2,029 feet long and 167 feet wide, with a depth of approximately 18 to 30 inches and a capacity of 6,750,000 gallons of water. It was designed by Henry Bacon and constructed in 1922 and 1923, following the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial.

Using funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the National Park Service is planning to reconstruct the Pool. Its water supply system will be updated to eliminate stagnant water by circulating water from the Tidal Basin (currently, it is filled using potable water from the city). Paved walking paths will be added to the north and south sides of the Pool to replace worn grass and prevent further erosion. The Park Service expects the project to be completed in late 2011 or early 2012 at a total cost of \$30.5 million.

The Reflecting Pool carries with it many intricacies that have made the Engineering and construction of the project extremely complicated. Mr. Moore will discuss some of the nuances and considerations that were required and how they affected the ultimate design and construction of the rehabilitation of the Reflecting Pool.

Mr. Moore has been in the water and wastewater industry for over 20 years. During that time he has worked for government (as Chief of Sewer and Water), owned a small business that catered to the wastewater and water industry needs of several utilities, and now works for The Louis Berger Group Inc., spearheading its Mid-Atlantic Region initiative.

He has had the opportunity to see the water and wastewater industry from all perspectives, Government, Engineering, Construction (both management and actual construction), and financial, allowing him to fully comprehend all aspects of the Engineering projects to which he is assigned.

Directions to the Crowne Plaza can be found at <http://www.cpvalleyforge.com/location.asp>

## ANACE

*Continued from Page 3*

The TV program *Bonanza*, one of many westerns made in the early days of the medium, premiered in 1959 and was shown on Saturday nights. It later moved to Sundays. It was telecast on the NBC network.

The idea behind putting in on Saturday night, one of the lowest TV-watching times even then, was in part to market and sell color TV sets. *Bonanza* was the first network program to be filmed and broadcast in color on NBC. NBC was owned by RCA at the time. RCA made TV sets.

Saturday night was a night out, which is why TV viewing was so low. The marketing ploy was that the broadcasting of a color program on color TV's in showrooms, appliance store windows, and other displays would be seen by those out browsing, window shopping, or merely walking on the street, and some of them might actually be looking for a new TV, so... And it worked!

*\*ANACE — Almost Nothing About or Concerning Engineering*

## SPRING SOCIAL

*Continued from Page 5*

has been a critical part of numerous City and SEPTA projects over the years and has supported the Engineering portions of these efforts through his service in the preparation of funding authorization documents, financial plans, and grant applications for such significant projects as the Chestnut Street Transitway, the Center City Commuter Connection and the Airport High Speed Line. He has similarly been instrumental in the oversight of and assistance in various SEPTA programs and projects during his career.

Chris graduated from Lehigh University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1971. He is a resident of Center City.

The Section added a surprise and cited Past President **Bob Wright** with the 2010 Presidential Award, which he humbly accepted.

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**, **Jeremy Colello**, **Kristen Bowman Kavanagh** and **Bob Wright**), the Awards audio narrators, who once again stayed inside on a nice spring evening to donate their voices to the effort (**Kristen Bowman Kavanagh**, **Carol Martsoff** 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 2011 Social. We hope to have information on this early in the new year.

## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

**Scott Ceipitz**, Forum Editor

**Michael Wagner**, Forum President 2010–11

Urban Engineers Inc.  
530 Walnut Street, 14th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
215-922-8080

[mgwagner@urbanengineers.com](mailto:mgwagner@urbanengineers.com)

### Bowling!

Please join us on **Wednesday, September 29** at North Bowl for the annual YMF Bowling Social!

**LOCATION: North Bowl**, 909 N. 2nd Street, Philadelphia ((215) 238-BOWL, 3 blocks north of the Spring Garden stop on the Market-Frankford line) ([www.northbowlphilly.com](http://www.northbowlphilly.com))

**TIME:** 6–8 PM

**FOOD:** Appetizers will be provided for FREE!

**DRINKS:** Cash Bar

**COST:** Includes 2 hours of bowling and shoe rental: YMF Members pay \$15 at the door; Students pay \$5 at the door

**RSVP:** Please RSVP by Monday, **September 20** at <http://www.ymfphilly.org/rsvp.htm>

**CONTACT:** If you have questions, please contact **Adrienne Nikolic** ([NikolicA@bv.com](mailto:NikolicA@bv.com), 215-928-2225) or **Jen Reigle** ([JReigle@Pennoni.com](mailto:JReigle@Pennoni.com), 215-222-3000)



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