

**THE WALSH PRESIDENCY  
 — WHAT, PRESIDENCY 101 ISN'T A  
 COLLEGE COURSE?**

Our loyal following (it sounds better than “groupies”) seems to always look forward to the end of the season, when *THE NEWS* features its annual sendoff and “roast” of the standing Section President. You may know some of our “groupies” (a handful of people), and, yes, they scare us a little, too. This sendoff is done only because we have to – there is no option – blame it on tradition. The origin of this tradition is long forgotten, but it must continue. (Besides, we’ve never bothered to ask any standing Section President how he or she may feel about it anyway... so why start now?)

Please keep in mind that it’s all in fun, and all based on the facts as we know them. And we do this this time of year to look back and make a fair and balanced (we’re borrowing this slogan from a news network that should more often use the conjunction “or” instead of “and,” but we digress) assessment of the President, as if being in the spotlight of the Section Presidency isn’t enough exposure, and we may tell you a thing or two you didn’t know. As we caution the reader, however, this requires that we have paid close attention throughout the year because your Editor knew this time was coming, even though paying attention isn’t one of his strong suits. Since run-on sentences happen to be one of his few strengths, brace yourself for several of those, and here we go.

We vaguely recall there being warmer weather somewhere in the past (now that the polar vortex is done toying with us, maybe – still waiting for the polar bears to show up). It indeed seems like eons ago when President 101, **Jenn Walsh**, was installed on May 4, at the Franklin Institute, at our 100th Anniversary Gala/ Celebration/Spring Social, when President 100, **Jeremy Colello**, handed the gavel to her and she was sworn in in front of a room full of witnesses. She entered as only our sixth female President, but, interestingly, this has been an alternating “boy/girl” pattern since **Kristen Bowman Kavanagh’s** term in 2009-10. Of course, with the current score Men 95, Women 6, it will take some time for women to catch up to men in equal numbers as Section Presidents (and whenever it happens, *THE NEWS* will be there to report on it – we promise!).

Back to the weather, though, it was a little bit chilly that spring evening, particularly at your

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**APRIL DINNER MEETING**

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014**

**The Mansion at Villanova Conference Center**, 601 County Line Road, Radnor, PA  
 Cocktails 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, Meeting 7:30 PM

This meeting will follow the format used for the last four April Meetings — attendees will assemble in the main room of the Center for dinner and announcements, then break out to other rooms depending on which topic they want to hear. There will be a choice of three separate modules/ topics as described below.

**RESERVATION DEADLINE – FRIDAY, APRIL 4.** The cost per attendee is \$40, with a half-price (\$20) cost for government agency employees and students, for reservations received by this deadline.

**RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER APRIL 4.** Reservations received after the deadline and “walk-ups” without prior reservations paying at the door will be charged \$50 (government agency employees and students will be charged the regular \$20 rate), but will be subject to acceptance on a space-available basis. Please note that payment via PayPal will NOT be available after the reservation deadline.

**THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE.** Walk-ins and anyone without a reservation will be handled on a space-available basis.

Reservations can be made via e-mail at [info@asce-philly.org](mailto:info@asce-philly.org) or electronically through our website ([www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org)) and pay via PayPal. As noted above, the PayPal option will NOT be available as a payment option after the reservation deadline.

Advance payment can be made by check as an option to electronic payment. Checks should be made payable to “Philadelphia Section ASCE” and sent to ASCE Philadelphia Section, 215 S. 16th Street, Suite 16, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Checks will also be accepted at the reservation table at the dinner.

As always, guests will be welcome to attend the presentation without dinner at no charge. The individual modules will be subject to room capacity constraints.

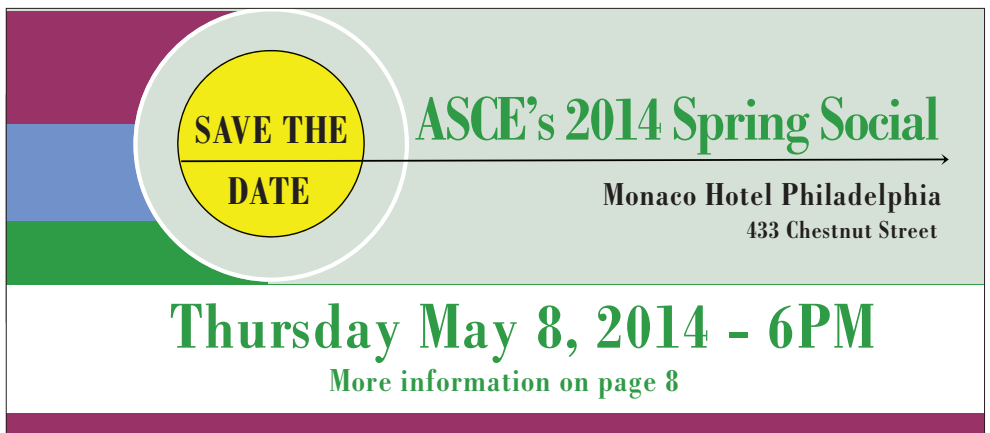
**SPECIAL FEATURES:**

**Life Members Night** – Newly-inducted Life Members will be featured and honored at this meeting as guests of the Section.

**Past Presidents Night** – Past Presidents are invited to attend this meeting as guests of the Section in appreciation of their service and assistance.

As noted above, the evening will start with dinner and three “breakout” sessions will follow. The sessions will feature these topics:

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**ASCE's 2014 Spring Social**

**Monaco Hotel Philadelphia**  
 433 Chestnut Street

**Thursday May 8, 2014 - 6PM**

**More information on page 8**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Happy Spring!!* I was beginning to think we'd never get here. ☺

As we wrap up the first of the next 100 years as a Section and as my Presidency enters its last month, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those that made this year exciting, interesting, productive, successful and most importantly, fun! For those who know me well and those who have gotten to know me a little better this year, you know that I have a passion for giving back. Growing up I was always taught that it's so important for us to give back to all those things that have inspired us and made us the person we are today. This includes the schools and universities that educated us, our communities that coached us in our favorite sport and guided us in other extracurricular endeavors, our churches that provide for our spiritual growth, our companies that employ us and provide us with the opportunity to take on the challenges of our profession every day and finally, our professional societies that provide an invaluable resource through professional development, networking, student outreach, philanthropy and serving the public good. Giving back can be in the form of serving in leadership positions, participating on a task within an organization or committee, or simply showing up to show your support and participating in a meeting or event.

And that's why I'd like to thank all the volunteers who contributed to the Section's Success this year and all the members who supported the Section with their attendance and participation. It takes everyone to make our Section successful!! The Section Board I've had the honor to work with are some of the most passionate, dedicated and energetic group of people that are always willing to do whatever it takes to get it done and get it done well. Specifically, but in no particular order, **thank you** to: **Joe Platt** for organizing our monthly Section Dinner Meetings. **Annmarie Vigilante** for stepping in several times to cover for me as the emcee at dinner meetings when I had a conflict and also for her help on the Spring Social committee. **Cathy Farrell** for taking care of all the correspondence, minutes and records. **Guy DiMartino** for handling all the finances and keeping us out of debt. **Kazi Hassan** for keeping up to date on all the membership information. **Troy Illig** for planning an exciting and fun Spring Social (that I hope to see everyone at on May 8th!!). **Andrew Bechtel, Spencer Finch, Ali Khan, Ara Mouradian, Marc Preim, and Keith Yamatani**, our **Directors**, that support the Board with a variety of tasks including email blasts, PDH credits and coordination with our Technical Groups and Institutes, just to name a few. **Dennis MacBride, Bob Sabanas, Ehsan Minaie, Eve D'Onofrio, Khalid Shaikh, and Bill Thomsen** for providing leadership to our Technical Groups and Institutes; **Ann Tomalavage** for her leadership in working with the committee to develop the 2014 Pennsylvania Infrastructure Report Card. **Chris Gray** for his leadership with the Younger Member Forum.

And last, but certainly not least, I'd like to recognize and thank **Bob Wright** for his long-time commitment and dedication to our Section that is unmatched by anyone else that I know. Bob is not only our Editor-in-Chief of *THE NEWS* but is involved in almost every important endeavor within the Section. He provides guidance and mentoring to so many people in a quiet and humble way and I think that is why he's known as "an all-around good guy." He provided invaluable support to me during the planning of the 100th Anniversary celebrations and continued that support throughout my Presidency!

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to the Section's success and I hope you will continue to stay involved. We are always looking for energetic, enthusiastic and passionate people to be leaders in ASCE and one of them can be you! Hope to see you at the Spring Social!!

Sincerely,  
Jennifer K. Walsh, P.E., PTP  
President, ASCE Philadelphia Section

## CENTRAL PA SECTION GEOTECHNICAL CONFERENCE

The Central Pennsylvania Section will conduct its **27th annual Geotechnical Conference** this year on **April 23-25** in Hershey.

Currently, 16 speakers are scheduled to present various interesting topics in the field. Among these presenters is our own Past Section President **Bob Koerner**, who will speak on Geosynthetic Applications in Unpaved and Paved Roads.

For additional information on registration, exhibits, and a full list of speakers and topics, please visit [www.stegmanengineering.com/asce-pa2014.htm](http://www.stegmanengineering.com/asce-pa2014.htm). For questions on registration, please contact **Jason Gardner** ([jgardner@gfnet.com](mailto:jgardner@gfnet.com)). For information about exhibits, please contact **Bruce Stegman** ([bruce.stegman@verizon.net](mailto:bruce.stegman@verizon.net)).

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### VIGILANTE RECOGNIZED AS WOMAN OF INFLUENCE

Section Vice President **AnnMarie Vigilante** was recognized along with 27 other women from the Greater Lehigh Valley as **2014 Women of Influence** honorees by Lehigh Valley Business. They will be formally cited as such at the second annual Women of Influence awards luncheon on Wednesday, May 21 at ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks in Bethlehem.

The women were honored for their influence in their companies, industries and communities. An independent panel of judges named the winners based on their career accomplishments, leadership, vision, community service and mentoring experience.

Congratulations to AnnMarie on this honor!

## ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2013-14 SEASON

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Joseph Platt, Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

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### PRESIDENT, READING BRANCH

E. J. Walsh, McCarthy Engineering

*\*Our Constitution recognizes only the immediate Past President as a part of our Board but, following tradition, we list the immediate three Past Presidents to acknowledge their service.*

### President — Jennifer K. Walsh, P.E.

Senior Project Manager  
McMahon Associates  
425 Commerce Drive, Suite 200  
Fort Washington, PA 19034  
(215) 283-9444  
[jwalsh@mcmahonassociates.com](mailto:jwalsh@mcmahonassociates.com)

### Secretary — Cathy G. Farrell, P.E.

Project Manager – Transportation  
Michael Baker, Jr. Inc  
201 Gibraltar Road, Suite 120  
Horsham, PA 19044  
(215) 442-5316  
[cfarrell@mbakercorp.com](mailto:cfarrell@mbakercorp.com)

### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

#### Editor of THE NEWS

Robert Wright

#### Staff Writers

James Markham Joe Synchron

#### SEND COPY TO:

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

**COPY DEADLINE FOR  
MAY 2014 ISSUE  
APRIL 14, 2014**

## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Amanda Kessler, P.E., Forum Editor  
 Chris Gray, P.E., Forum President 2013–14  
 TimHaahs  
 550 Township Line Road, Suite 100  
 Blue Bell, PA 19422  
 484-342-0200  
 cgray@timhaahs.com

### K-12 OUTREACH PROGRAM

The YMF has been improving and expanding its K-12 Outreach program this year. Our Outreach Coordinators, **Jesse Gormley**, **Brett Coleman**, and **Meredith Lis**, have been reaching out to and contacted by local elementary, middle, and high schools. These three coordinators as well as other YMF volunteers have been visiting the schools and giving presentations about Civil Engineering. The following are our scheduled events for the spring:

### NORTH PENN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF AMERICA – MARCH 21

The YMF presented an overview of the Civil Engineering profession to fifteen 5th grade students and provided a short presentation about Geotechnical Engineering and Reinforced Soil Foundations. The presentation was accompanied by a sandbox demonstration where the kids constructed a 12"x12" x12" soil foundation, one with reinforcement and one without reinforcement, and tested the strength between the two by standing on them.

### CARVER HIGH SCHOOL ENGINEERING CLASSROOM VISIT – MARCH 26

The YMF presented an overview of the Civil Engineering profession to approximately 64 students, highlighting experiences from various fields including Structural, Transportation, and Construction.

### MASTERY CHARTER SCHOOL CAREER DAY – APRIL 11

Three YMF speakers will offer guidance to the students regarding the Civil Engineering profession.

### DOWNINGTOWN STEM ACADEMY VISIT – APRIL 22

Ten female Professional Engineers plan to visit the Downingtown STEM Academy for an afternoon tour of the school and Q&A session with the students. The intent of the visit is to provide the students insight on the life of a woman Engineer. Additionally, the Engineering professionals hope to build a relationship with the Academy, and plan more visits in the future.

### WISSAHICKON TRAIL RESTORATION

Spring is finally here! Dust off your work boots and come join the YMF for a fun day of trail restoration in Wissahickon Park. We will be restoring the corridor from Kitchen's Lane to the Mt. Airy Bridge. Necessary tools will be provided. For more information and to sign up, please contact **Zachary Suralik** at **Zachary.Suralik@gmail.com** or **215-832-3577**. Please RSVP by May 7.

Date: **Saturday, May 10**; Time: 10AM to 2PM;  
 Location: **Kitchen's Lane Parking Lot**,  
 Kitchens Lane (off Wissahickon Avenue)

### ANNUAL PHILLIES GAME

The Olympics have ended, the snow has melted, and that means baseball season is in full swing! Once again, the YMF along with the Delaware YMF will be heading to South Philly this summer for a Phillies game and tailgate. Save the date for **Thursday, August 7** at 7:05 PM when the Phillies take on the Houston Astros. Stay tuned for more details regarding cost and tailgate info as the date gets closer.

### CRITICAL ISSUES SEMINAR

YMF will be hosting the annual **Critical Issues Seminar** on **April 30**, from 5:30 PM to 7 PM. This year's topic is titled "Maintaining and Modernizing Infrastructure." Panelists representing the Civil Engineering community will be discussing the impact of recent state legislation, innovative techniques of stretching budgets and approaches for Engineers to continue the momentum of awareness and investment in infrastructure. For more information, please visit the YMF website ([ymfphilly.org](http://ymfphilly.org)) or contact **Jen Reigle** at [jreigle@pennoni.com](mailto:jreigle@pennoni.com).

### CENTENNIAL BOOK UPDATE

To memorialize our 100th Anniversary season and cite the many local landmarks, facilities and efforts that have been brought "to life" by members of our Section over that time, we are creating a keepsake commemorative **Centennial Book**, which we plan to distribute this summer. To help offset the cost of printing, sponsorship opportunities are available for individuals and companies. All sponsors will be listed in the book. Two levels of sponsorship are available – Engineer (\$100) and Patron (\$50). If you are interested in sponsoring the book, please contact President **Jennifer Walsh** at [jwalsh@mcmahonassociates.com](mailto:jwalsh@mcmahonassociates.com)

Additionally, we are making a general call for information, particularly photos. If you have information to contribute, please contact **Tom Brady** at [tbrady@rkk.com](mailto:tbrady@rkk.com). Sponsorship and materials for use in the Book must be received by **April 30**.

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

As you have seen, the Section Sponsorship Program was once again popular this season, with 17 firms participating in it. We extend our special and collective THANKS to each sponsor for their financial commitment and support.

Sponsor logos have also been included in a special Sponsors section of our website, in addition to their business cards published in each edition of *THE NEWS*. On our website, we provide direct links to the sponsors' websites to allow folks to visit these and review potential employment openings and positions.

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.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS — DE NOW "IN THE FOLD"

As you may be aware, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists in many states are required to obtain continued professional development (CPD) credit to renew their licenses.

Those of us with New Jersey licenses will need to renew them by the end of April. As we know, New Jersey requires 24 professional development hours' (PDH) worth of valid instruction, training, etc. for renewal. Additionally, 2 of those PDH's need to be in the area of ethics (and one of the breakout sessions for this month's Section meeting can get you half that). If you, for whatever reason, manage to exceed the 24 PDH requirement, the good news is you can create a "stockpile" and carry over up to 12 PDH's into the succeeding licensure period.

And, us Delaware license holders need to take note — as we had mentioned a few months back, a recent law change now requires Delaware PE's to maintain continued professional competency starting with the next renewal period (current licenses expire June 30). These guidelines are available on the Delaware Association of Professional Engineers' (DAPE) website ([www.dape.org](http://www.dape.org)). License holders will be required to earn 24 PDH's during the next licensure period for renewal in 2016. Delaware's requirements will be slightly different from others to which you may be accustomed:

- No less than 3 PDHs and no more than 6 PDHs shall be related to professional ethics.
- No more than 9 PDHs shall be related to business or project management.
- A maximum of 15 PDHs may be carried forward into the subsequent renewal period.
- Licensees are responsible for maintaining records to support claimed credits and must maintain these records for a minimum of five years.
- Audits will be conducted of approximately 5% of licensees in 2016.

Also, there are some possible revisions to the professional licensure legislation in PA that are now under consideration. Information on this will be provided when it becomes available.

As you are probably aware, our Section's meeting program is generally able to count toward your continuing education requirement (meetings that the Section believes would not count will be prefaced as such in the meeting announcement) for many states (New York and Florida being two exceptions where coursework pre-approval by the state board is required). We continue to have a verification program in place to help our members obtain and track PDH's. Also, through our monthly meeting schedule, we generally offer at least a half-dozen opportunities for you to pick up PDH's. Over a two-year licensure period, this could amount to half of what one needs to meet many states' requirements, as is already the case for PA, NJ and now DE.



## APRIL MEETING

*Continued from Page 1*

### EVALUATION OF UNKNOWN BRIDGE FOUNDATIONS USING BOREHOLE ULTRASOUND & OTHER NONDESTRUCTIVE METHODS

*(sponsored by the Delaware Valley Geo-Institute (DVGI))*

*Presented by Joseph Thomas Coe, Jr., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Temple University*

It is estimated that design plans or as-built specifications are unavailable to determine foundation type, depth, and/or geometry for more than 40,000 bridges across the US. Bridge foundation geometry is an important input into a scour analysis, particularly the depth to the foundation bottom. These unknown foundation bridges (UFBs) therefore present a major risk to the public as it is often difficult to assess their vulnerability to scour-related failures. Moreover, foundations can be reused for bridge widening purposes, seismic retrofit operations, or reduced material costs in sustainable new construction projects. The uncertainty associated with UFBs prevents such practices. Several non-destructive testing (NDT) methods have therefore been developed to evaluate unknown foundations. The results from all tests are compared and recommendations are made regarding utilization of these methods for unknown foundations.

Dr. Coe has a background in Geotechnical Engineering with eight years of research experience in nondestructive imaging systems, instrumentation and sensor technology, field experimentation and data acquisition, laboratory scale models, and numerical methods. His research interests are related to nondestructive evaluation and rehabilitation of foundations, bridge scour, urban seismic hazards, geophysical site characterization, geothermally active foundations, and geomicrobiological processes, particularly as related to sustainable and resilient infrastructure systems.

### PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF LRFD DESIGNED STEEL GIRDER BRIDGES

*(sponsored by the Structural Engineering Institute Technical Group (SEIT))*

*Presented by Gergis W. William, Ph.D., PE, Research Associate Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, West Virginia University*

The empirical method of concrete deck design, permitted within the AASHTO LRFD bridge design specifications, recognizes arching action in concrete slabs resulting in a reduced quantity of deck reinforcement. Full-depth longitudinal cracks have developed within empirically designed bridge decks at the early age before opening the deck to traffic. Such cracks run along the entire length of the bridge over the top flange edges. Field measured data as well as calibrated detailed 3D finite element models indicated that stress concentration zones developed around the sharp edges of the clip angles protruding into the concrete deck as well as the haunch top of the stay-in-place forms are the main causes of the longitudinal cracks developed along the edges of the interior girders.

Dr. William has led several research projects involving long-term structural health monitoring of newly constructed, existing and rehabilitated highway bridges over the last decade. In addition to his position at the University, he serves as a Senior Project Manager at Dadson Consulting and Technical Consultant for AECOM.

### ENGINEERING ETHICS SEMINAR

*(sponsored by the Younger Member Forum)*

*Presented by Frederick M. Brehm, Esq. and Michael J. Zettlemoyer, Esq., Powell Trachtman Logan Carrle & Lombardo P.C.*

Mr. Brehm's and Mr. Zettlemoyer's practice draws on their Engineering and legal education and experience, and focuses on the representation of design professionals and others involved in the construction industry. They are both licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Their presentation will focus on several areas and case studies concerning ethics for Engineers.

Mr. Brehm is a shareholder at the law firm of Powell, Trachtman, Logan, Carrle and Lombardo. He received his law degree from Temple School of Law in 1996. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and Construction Technology from Temple University in 1986 and a Master of Management from Penn State University in 1992. Before he practiced as an attorney, he worked as a Civil Engineer Manager for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, serving as the Resident Engineer on complex highway and bridge construction projects and as an Assistant Construction Engineer at District 6-0, managing all new bridge and highway construction in Delaware County and parts of Philadelphia.

Mr. Zettlemoyer is an associate at the law firm of Powell, Trachtman, Logan, Carrle and Lombardo. He received his law degree from the Drexel University School of Law in 2012. He earned a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree in 2005 and a Master of Civil Engineering degree in 2007 from the University of Delaware, concentrating in Structural Engineering and Bridge Engineering. Before practicing as an attorney, he worked as a Structural Engineer, and has been involved in a variety of project management, structural analysis, and building design projects, as well as Forensic Engineering investigations.

The Villanova Conference Center is NOT on the University's campus. For directions, please visit [www.acc-villanovaconferencecenter.com](http://www.acc-villanovaconferencecenter.com).

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**Wisdom is the quality that keeps you from getting into situations where you need it.**

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— Doug Larson

## CONSTRUCTION AND TRANSPORTATION & URBAN DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL GROUPS AND ENGINEERS' CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA LUNCHEON MEETING

**TUESDAY, APRIL 29**

**SUBJECT:** Schuylkill River Parks Connector Bridge

**SPEAKERS:** Joseph R. Synchron, P.E., PLS, President and CEO, Schuylkill River Development Corporation (SRDC), and Lane B. Fike, P.E., Director of Capital Projects, SRDC

**TIME:** 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

**LOCATION:** Municipal Services Building, 1401 Kennedy Boulevard, 16th Floor, Conference Room Y

**COST:** \$15 (\$20 after Friday, April 25); Students \$10

Messrs. Synchron and Fike will discuss the design process and construction details of the award-winning Schuylkill River Parks Connector Bridge over the CSX Railroad. This multi-purpose trail bridge links Schuylkill Banks to Schuylkill River Park and the adjacent Fidler Square neighborhood.

Joseph Synchron has led SRDC since 2005, following a 34-year career with the City of Philadelphia Department of Streets, where he had been Chief Engineer and Surveyor since 1986. He served 18 years as a Commissioner of Fairmount Park. He is a graduate of Drexel University (BSCE 1969; MSCE 1971) and is a Registered Professional Engineer and Professional Land Surveyor. He is a member of several professional organizations including ASCE and the American Planning Association (APA). In 2008, Mayor Nutter named him to Philadelphia's City Planning Commission, where he is currently serving as Vice-Chairman.

Lane Fike came to SRDC in 2007 after a 36-year career with the City of Philadelphia Department of Streets, where he had been Design and Construction Project Manager since 1985. He is a graduate of Drexel University (BSCE 1970) and is a registered Professional Engineer. He is a member of ASCE. He has won numerous Engineering awards, including our Section's Structural Engineer of the Year honors.

Participation in this presentation entitles each attendee to one (1) PDH for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Professional Engineer Continuing Education Requirements. PDH certificates will be distributed at the end of the presentation.

Lunch will be served starting at 12:00 noon.

For reservations: Online: [register.engrclub.org](http://register.engrclub.org); E-mail: [reservations@engrclub.org](mailto:reservations@engrclub.org); Phone: 215-985-5703; Mail: Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, 215 S. 16th Street, Suite 16, Philadelphia, PA 19102 (checks payable to Engineers' Club of Philadelphia).

## WALSH PRESIDENCY

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Editor's perch atop the Franklin Institute getting our event photographer to capture the congratulatory message being broadcast on the Peco Building lights, but the arrival of the Aqua String Band warmed the attendees in the Rotunda into a frenzy, simultaneously becoming "2 Streeters" (whatever that is) and doing the Mummers Strut in the shadow of Ben Franklin's statue, without benefit of the usual Mummers outfits (wench dresses, parasols and gold boots). When all was said and done, we all left the Institute feeling good about ourselves and our 100 years of being around – and it was all Jenn's idea. You can either blame her or thank her. (And at least two attendees of the event – parents of one of our Science Fair Award winners – asked your Editor if this is how we always end our year, in which case they want to come back for this year's Social.)

What you may not know is Jenn's energetic role in spearheading the planning, organization and logistics of this event. More than one heart attack in the making was a consistent topic of discussion as Jenn tied all the loose ends together behind the scenes to make sure the event went off without a hitch. And trying to keep the string band part of this secret, well, she did it, but we're wondering if this would medically count as a stress test. Of course, it was a success, and, perhaps more importantly, Jenn survived and apparently is strong of heart in more ways than one.

For those of you who don't know Jenn, or haven't read her bio on our website, we'll save you the trouble and lay it out for your knowledge. She is a Senior Project Manager at McMahon Associates at the firm's Fort Washington office, and is part of the Traffic Engineering Group. Some folks think this is an oxymoron – they often wonder if there is any engineering that goes into traffic (and the short answer is "yes" – whether the traffic decides to follow it or abide by it is another question). She's been doing this sort of work for the past 20 years, handling general engineering/design, traffic signal design, and comprehensive transportation planning – as those of us in the business know, a generally thankless job with few compliments, many complaints, and any number of "experts" (i.e. those with valid driver's licenses) who are good second-guessers and can always do better than those who are paid to do it. She received her Bachelors and Masters degrees from Villanova, which makes her a proud Wildcat. As she notes in her President's message elsewhere in this edition, she believes it's important to give back, which she's been doing for quite a while.

Jenn grew up in the western suburbs and still calls it home. She'll tell you she's a Prendie girl, reflecting her high school years at Archbishop Prendergast. (Your Editor, a proud Bishop Neumann Pirate, is booing at this right now, since Monsignor Bonner, the boy counterpart of Prendie, was one of Neumann's many rivals...) She is very proud of her family and will tell you all about her two young children if you ask (and

even if you don't...) and her husband Nick. Somehow she finds the time to be a very active mom and participate in her kids' many activities. On top of that, you may not know that Jenn is also a Big Sister, having successfully mentored her charge to be an adult and mother (which now makes Jenn a Big Aunt? – we're not sure).

And, as if all of this isn't enough, this President stuff is nothing new to Jenn. Before taking on the presidency track in our Section, she served in several capacities including President at the Mid-Atlantic Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (MASITE), a professional group with at least as many challenges as our Section but having a much larger geographic area to cover (Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia and South Jersey). It takes a special person to handle a group presidency, with all the trials and tribulations associated with it, succeed at it, and then voluntarily agree to go back into the "shark tank" and take on another. If Jenn decides to keep up with your Editor and shoot for the head spot of a third technical society (as he is about to do this spring), he will warn her that this escalates from "special" to "in need of a mental evaluation." But it's not about your Editor...

The coronaries that did or didn't happen during the planning of our 100th Anniversary event may have been a precursor of what was in store for Season 101. While we've been fortunate that bad weather had not played a role in our meeting program for a good number of years, we congratulated the appropriate Presidents for being able to dodge that proverbial bullet (whether they have meteorological or other connections they used to do this, we don't know and we don't want to know). Jenn had a couple of near misses on this (December (you remember the "surprise" snowstorm that "whited out" the Eagles game) and February (another storm was predicted for the end of the weekend following the meeting, but it fizzled out)). Although we still have April coming up on our meeting schedule, we assume (or are at least hoping) that the polar vortex will have finally ended its attack on us by then and Jenn should experience no more skipped heartbeats.

Jenn was also able to be part of a unique happening when WTS, at its November meeting, invited the six female presidents of technical societies to showcase them and the strides women have made in technical societies. We're not sure when something like this will happen again, but we know Jenn was proud to be there. And we, as a Section, were just as proud.

With spring finally here (maybe), we can bring up an interesting floral comparison from last year. Then, someone who will remain nameless described Jeremy Colello as a "thorn between two roses" (Jenn and Past President Ann Tomalavage), a slight spin on an old adage. So it appears we're back to Jenn being a rose between two thorns, and in the coming season **Joe Platt** will assume the "thorn" role as he will be between Jenn and AnnMarie.

So, getting out of the flower garden, we think we've said enough about you, Jenn, and we wish you good luck, as you enter the hallowed halls of

the place that Past Presidents hang out. If you disappear somewhat next year, we'll certainly understand – you need some time to recover. As you pass the gavel of leadership (and a real gavel as well) to Joe Platt, we will be here to support him as needed during his year in the "hot seat". And, once again, your Editor will have to pay attention so he can write this column about Joe when the time comes – unless we somehow decide to end this tradition, but why would we? (Just like we continue to run on with our sentences, split our infinitives and dangle our participles, despite our Catholic school grammar instruction...)

## N-ASCE\*

### THE PANTSLESS SUBWAY RIDE?

No, this is not an April Fool's Joke and we are not making this up. You may have seen people without pants on the subway, and they may or may not have been part of this effort, but...

For one day each January, subway trains in cities across the world are filled with throngs of bare-legged riders. For the thirteenth year in a row, the No Pants Subway Ride has evolved from an obscure New York prank to a global event with several thousand dedicated participants eager to lose their pants and add a little humor to the commuters' day. Though its popularity continues to grow, a lot of people remain a little unclear on the purpose of the hilarious -- and quite deliberate -- display of undies that happens each year. So to help you better understand the origins of the day, we've gathered some facts you need to know about the history of the No Pants Subway Ride.

Though some assume the event supports a philanthropic cause, the day is actually dedicated to a fairly simple goal. Created in 2002 by the New York-based group Improv Everywhere, the celebration is focused solely on bringing a little humor to peoples' day. "It's meant to be a positive thing to make people laugh and smile," said Improv Everywhere founder **Charlie Todd** in an interview with USA Today.

The first ride in 2002 featured only 7 participants. Each pantsless member of the all-male group entered the train separately at seven consecutive stops, says the Improv Everywhere site. They acted as though they weren't aware of each other and said they just "forgot their pants" if asked. At the eighth stop, someone walked through the train selling pants for \$1. A portion of the stunt was captured by a group member.

In 2008, the No Pants Subway Ride expanded from New York to other US and international cities. The group invited a total of nine cities to participate in the event that year, with rides taking place in Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Portland, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Toronto, Washington, D.C., and Adelaide, Australia.

This year's No Pants Subway Ride had over ten thousand participants in 60 cities worldwide, having

*Continued on Page 8*



## FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING

February 28, 2014

Sonesta Hotel, Center City

### Delaware River Port Authority Capital Program Update

by Robert Wright, Editor

February usually finds us somewhere lost in South Jersey for a joint meeting with the South Jersey Branch of ASCE. Inevitably, trying to schedule such a meeting and not having it occur during Engineers Week, when there are other events that need to be planned around, got more than a little tricky, and South Jersey was not planning a February meeting, so... Thus, we tried something different this year – a joint meeting with the Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS), conducted at lunch time (when WTS’ Philadelphia Chapter usually has its meetings). We kept the New Jersey theme to some extent, though, as the topic of the meeting would focus on the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA). And, instead of having to cross a bridge spanning the Delaware, we’d get to hear about them.

For our fifth meeting of this season, the meeting day was a cold one and still another impending snowstorm was being touted by the local weather prognosticators (and fortunately, it turned out to be less than predicted), coming a couple of days after the meeting. Despite the winter weather (and by this point we unfortunately had become accustomed to cold and snow), a nice-size crowd came in from the polar vortex to the Sonesta Hotel in Center City to warm up, have a good lunch, and hear an interesting program.

Chapter President **Carol Rose** settled the crowd down, once the networking was wrapping up and folks were moved into the dining area, and introduced the featured speakers for the day as well as Section President **Jenn Walsh** and various representatives of WTS’s sponsor firms. As lunch wound down, President Walsh took the podium and introduced the speakers.

First up was **Michael Venuto**, the Chief Engineer and Director of Engineering for the Authority. He began with a brief history of DRPA’s four Delaware River bridges – the Ben Franklin, Walt Whitman, Betsy Ross and Commodore John Barry – and a status of current and planned projects on each. The oldest of the group, the Ben Franklin, cost \$45 million to build when it was opened in 1926, and by contrast, the recent full stripping and repainting project on it cost \$80 million. The current redecking of the suspension spans of the Whitman is nearing completion, but its main towers will need repainting (\$70 million) and cable dehumidification systems will be installed in its anchorages (\$21 million). Major work on its toll plaza is also being planned.

Less impactful work scheduled for the two newer structures (Ross and Barry) was outlined by Mr. Venuto. The Ross will be resurfaced (\$10 million) and several smaller projects will be undertaken on each bridge. Resurfacing is also being planned on the Ben Franklin (\$15 million) but this must wait until completion of a PATCO project currently underway, and he indicated that

the second part of the presentation would provide more detail about that.

Mr. Venuto closed his segment and handed off to **John Rink**, the General Manager of the Port Authority Transit Corporation (PATCO), a DRPA subsidiary which operates the Lindenwold rapid transit line, locally known as the “High Speed Line.” He presented a short background on current projects, which include the in-progress complete overhaul of the 120-car fleet and the major track replacement and structural rehabilitation of the trackage on the Ben Franklin Bridge, a \$100 million effort. This work recently started and involves single-track operation over long weekends (after AM peaks on Fridays through early Tuesday mornings) to allow work to be performed.

Two train failures in the single-track stretch during the first Monday outage have resulted in some public backlash, and this schedule may change once it is reviewed. It is anticipated that there will be around-the-clock single-tracking this summer. Mr. Rink noted that the construction contractor has incentives in its contract to complete the work ahead of schedule, and it may look at an advanced revised timeline to possibly close one track for 60 days and the other for 50 days if this can be made to work. This work will also involve the closure of the adjacent vehicular lane for contractor staging, so it will have an effect on general traffic on the bridge. This is why the resurfacing of the roadway deck highlighted by Mr. Venuto cannot be scheduled until the trackwork is completed and all lanes available to traffic.

Mr. Rink emphasized that PATCO has been in operation for 45 years. As such, much of its electrical infrastructure and cable must be upgraded and/or replaced. The Westmont viaduct will have structural rehabilitation performed, similar to what was recently completed on the adjacent Collingswood viaduct. Another major project will be the replacement of all track and switches in the Lindenwold yard. The well-publicized escalator difficulties are being addressed, and efforts are underway to provide elevators in all stations with a target completion in 2016.

The PATCO fleet, dating to 1968 and 1980, is being completed overhauled. Mr. Rink noted that an 8-car train is due on the property soon (the initial two cars have been delivered), and will begin testing prior to being introduced into service. PATCO’s trains are usually 6 cars maximum, but 8-car trains can be operated. With roughly 20 cars off the property and at the rebuilding facility at any given time, the fleet cannot support 8-car trains currently.

A short question and answer period followed.

Presidents Rose and Walsh thanked the speakers and gave them each tokens of the Chapter’s and Section’s appreciation for their presentation.

A report on our March Section Meeting will be provided in the May edition of *THE NEWS*.

## HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE — “YEAR 101”

As we have done each edition this season, we once again look back to provide opening dates of significant local Civil Engineering projects and achievements for your reference and knowledge (and whatever other extracurricular activity for which these may provide a benefit...).

**April 3, 2004 – Citizens Bank Park** opens for its first Phillies game, a pre-season match against the Cleveland Indians. On April 12, the first regular season game was played on a damp, dreary day, with the Phils losing to the Cincinnati Reds, 4-1, before a sellout crowd which included your Editor. (On April 14, the Park would have its first rainout... which probably should have happened on April 12!)

**April 12, 1909 – 95 years to the day before the beginning of regular season baseball at Citizens Bank Park, Shibe Park** opens for its first major league baseball game. The park, the first steel and concrete baseball stadium in the United States, featured many modern amenities for its time. The Shibe brothers, who built the Park, included a furniture store within it (since they were furniture retailers – not because baseball fans had any particular reason to go furniture shopping). The first game was played by the Athletics, who beat the Boston Red Sox, 8-1. The Phillies, the “other” team in town, would continue to play at Baker Bowl, a half-mile east of Shibe Park, until the Bowl was condemned during the 1938 season. At that point, the Phils moved into Shibe and shared it with the A’s, until the A’s moved to Kansas City in 1954. At the end of the 1953 season, the Park was renamed after longtime A’s part owner and manager Connie Mack. The venerable ballpark remained the home of the Phillies through the 1970 season.

**April 20, 1895 – Franklin Field** opened for use by Penn’s football and soccer teams. The modern (for its time) stadium would add its upper deck in the 1920’s to increase seating capacity.

**April 28, 1984 – the Center City Commuter Rail Connection** (also known as the **Tunnel**) opened for partial service. Trains on the Paoli line were extended from their terminus at Suburban Station one stop east to Market East. SEPTA offered free rides between Suburban Station and Market East to show off the modern new station. On November 10, the Tunnel would be connected to the former Reading Railroad system and open for full service. (Wait, this one has nothing to do with sports...?)

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES TECHNICAL GROUP

### MAY DINNER MEETING

**SUBJECT: Prioritization of Water Main Replacement Methods**

Please note that this meeting, originally scheduled for **March 20**, was postponed and has been rescheduled for **May 15**. The meeting information and details will be provided in the May edition of *THE NEWS*.

**TECHNICAL GROUPS/CHAIRS**

Information on the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's Technical Groups is given below. Director Keith Yamatani will be coordinating the activities of the Groups. If you have any topics that you think would be of interest to the Groups, please feel free to pass this information along to the appropriate Group Chair.

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Dennis MacBride  
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haascn@drexel.edu

Dr. Mira Olson  
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**Baker**



## SECTION SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Section is pleased to announce that Section Scholarships were recently awarded. The judges were able to “wade” through a total of six applications and arrive at a decision on two candidates for awards.

**Aaron Williams**, a junior at Villanova University, and **Cameron Connors**, a sophomore at Widener University were selected to receive Student Scholarships. Each of these awards was \$1500. Cameron was able to attend our March meeting and be recognized and awarded accordingly.

Thanks to the Scholarship Committee for handling this somewhat difficult task. The Committee is chaired by **Ernie Hanna**, with assistance from members **Andrew Bechtel**, **Cathy Farrell**, **Kazi Hassan**, **Allie Sedor**, and **Bob Wright**.

The Delaware Valley Engineers Week/ASCE Undergraduate Scholarship was awarded to **George Zimmer**, a junior at Villanova University, at the Engineers Week Awards Luncheon on February 21. The amount of this award is \$2000.

Congratulations to all of our Section Scholarship recipients!

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## N-ASCE\*

*Continued from Page 5*

adding Shanghai and Hong Kong in 2013. Over 4,000 people participated in New York alone.

The 5th Annual No Pants Subway Ride hit a major snag when it was brought to a halt by a police officer. The train on which the participants were riding was taken out of service and all passengers were asked to exit the train. Eight people were handcuffed and taken into police custody. The charges were eventually dropped since it is not illegal to wear underwear in public in New York City (something to keep in mind for your next visit to the Big Apple?).

So, the next time you see someone without pants on the subway, maybe they’re just celebrating the No Pants Ride a little early (or are continuing to celebrate this year’s).

Thanks to the *International Business Times* for this information.

*\*N-ASCE – Not always something concerning Engineering...*

## SPRING SOCIAL

As noted on page 1, the **Spring Social** will be conducted on **May 8** at the **Hotel Monaco**, 433 Chestnut Street (at 5th Street). The cost per attendee will be \$70 and a choice of dinners is available. Please consult our website ([www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org)) for reservations and more information. More details will also be provided in the May edition of *THE NEWS*.

## 2014 SECTION AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED AT SPRING SOCIAL

After taking our 100th Anniversary year off, to focus on all things associated with it, we are returning to our usual custom with our Section Awards program. The Awards will be presented at our Annual Spring Social and Dinner Dance on May 8 at the Hotel Monaco. More information and details on the Social will be included in the May edition of *THE NEWS*.

A total of six Award recipients have been nominated for these honors and approved by our Section Board of Directors. The honorees are:

**Ruben David** – Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year

**Kazi Hassan**, Pennoni Associates – Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer of the Year

**Bill Petersen**, Schnabel Engineering – Geotechnical Engineer of the Year

**Chris Gubeno**, Urban Engineers – Engineering Manager of the Year

**AnnMarie Vigilante**, Langan Engineering – Transportation Engineer of the Year

**Jesse Gormley**, Pennoni Associates – Community Outreach and Service Award

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

When we return in the 2014-15 season, in the October edition of *THE NEWS*, we will present more information on the awardees as well as a detailed report on the Social. (Or you could just attend the Social and not have to wait until October...!)

# the news



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