



**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS & SESSIONS**  
**GEOTECHNICAL AND STRUCTURAL**  
**ENGINEERING CONGRESS**  
**FEBRUARY 14-17, 2016**  
 Phoenix, AZ

The **GEO Institute** and **Structural Engineering Institute** are hosting this first-of-its-kind event! And, you can be a part of the excitement.

This joint conference has combined the best of both Institutes Congresses into one unique event. This will take the place of the separate 2016 Congress for each Institute.

Submit an abstract or full session proposal by **April 7**. For more information please contact [www.geo-structures.org](http://www.geo-structures.org).



### PROUD "PARENTS" OF A HIGHWAY...!

YMF has teamed with ASHE Delaware Valley's Young Members Group to **Adopt A Highway!** We are very excited to become "parents" and begin taking care of the 2-mile stretch of Bethlehem Pike between Lafayette Connector and Butler Pike in Ambler. With 4 dates to be chosen between the spring and fall to keep our roadway segment tidy, our first pick-up date is scheduled for **April 25**, beginning at 1:00 PM. Please contact **Jesse Gormley** ([jgormley@pennoni.com](mailto:jgormley@pennoni.com)) if you would like to volunteer and help keep our roadway clean! For insurance purposes with PennDOT, our pick-up on April 25 will be limited to volunteers 18-years of age and older. Please **RSVP by April 10** to allow us to pick up enough vests and supplies from PennDOT for our big day. We will also plan to meet up at **Fireside Bar & Grill** after the pick-up is complete, to cheers to a job well done. Hope to see everyone there!

## APRIL DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

### THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2015

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

This meeting will follow the "breakout" format used that has been the theme of our April event for the last five years. Attendees will assemble in the main room of the Center for dinner and announcements, then move 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 – THURSDAY, APRIL 2.** 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 2** – 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 at the close of 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. This may be subject to room capacity constraints in the event of a large turnout for 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.

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

The featured "breakout" sessions will consist of the following:

**Remembering Karl Terzaghi:** "The Father of Geotechnical Engineering" (sponsored by the Delaware Valley Geo-Institute (DVGI))

**SPEAKER: Robert Koerner, Ph.D., PE,** Professor Emeritus, Drexel University; Director Emeritus, Geosynthetic Institute

This presentation follows the book written by Professor Goodman of the University of California at Berkeley in 1999 and is still available through the ASCE Press in Reston, Virginia. The various sections include the heritage of Dr. Terzaghi, his initial work experiences, his immigration from Vienna and "The Ultimate Challenge" he faced, his later success in America, and the Terzaghi legacy. Some personal and professional anecdotes and advice, as well as final remembrances will be offered from the standpoint of Dr. Koerner based on his own past personal experiences, particularly



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Just as I start to get the hang of things around here, I see the sign for my exit ahead. Fortunately, I still have a couple more months to go.

As everyone is aware, the 2014 Report Card of Pennsylvania's Infrastructure has been the most successful Report Card prepared to date, attracting a lot of attention in the media and generating opportunities for ASCE to get our message out. Most recently, **Ann Tomalavage** did an on-camera interview with **NBC10** focusing on the grade given to Pennsylvania's Bridges. If you haven't seen it

yet, the video is posted on our website. We hope this story will lead to similar stories regarding the other grades in the Report Card.

Building on the infrastructure theme, on **Monday, May 11**, members of ASCE from throughout the state will have the opportunity to participate in the 2015 PA Infrastructure Day. This event will allow us to speak directly with our legislators about the growing infrastructure needs of Pennsylvania. Whether you are a seasoned professional or you have never been to Harrisburg, ASCE will guide your day and make sure you are properly prepared. Additional details can be found elsewhere in this edition and on our website and I ask everyone to seriously consider attending this event. The greater the presence we can bring to the Capitol, the louder our voice will be.

Finally, as I mentioned last month, our March Section dinner meeting was held in a new venue with a slightly different format than most were accustomed to. While there were some small hiccups throughout the night, the feedback was generally very positive. I would like to thank everyone who came out to hear a tremendous presentation and made that event successful. Over the summer, we'll work on the timing and flow of the evening with Maggiano's, and hopefully build upon its early success.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Platt, P.E.  
President, ASCE Philadelphia Section

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

**REMEMBER, PA PE'S EXPIRE IN SEPTEMBER!**

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

As a reminder, those of us with Pennsylvania licenses will be up for renewal this year, as current licenses will expire on September 30. Renewal will require that the license holder can be able to demonstrate that he/she has earned the required 24 professional development hours' (PDH) worth of valid instruction, training and/or education in the licensing period (starting October 1, 2013). This includes up to 12 PDH's that were earned prior to that, not applied to the last license renewal, and carried over into the current licensure period.

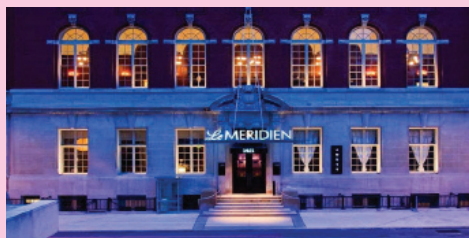
You are likely aware that our Section's meeting program is generally able to count toward your continuing education requirement (meetings that the Section believes would not count are prefaced as such in the meeting announcement) for many states. New York and Florida are two exceptions where coursework 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.

Also, you may have noticed that you can earn up to 5 PDH's by choosing to attend up to 5 on-demand webinars offered by National as a free benefit of your membership. There is a list of over 60 such webinars from which you can choose. You will receive login information for these webinars once you renew your membership.

And for those of you who don't yet have PE after your name and may be considering "taking the plunge" for an upcoming PE exam in the future, please check ASCE's live exam review courses. This allows one to interact with instructors during live webinars and access free on-demand recordings 24/7 until the exam date. The courses reference codes specified by NCEES for the exam. You can feel confident with the most comprehensive and convenient way to prepare for and pass the exam. Please visit [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org) for more information on available courses.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**ASCE's 2015 Spring Social  
Thursday, May 14 • 6 PM**



**LeMeridien Hotel**

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*\*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—Joseph Platt, P.E.**

Senior Project Manager  
Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.  
Sanatoga Commons  
2500 E. High Street, Suite 650  
Pottstown, PA 19464  
(610) 326-3100  
[jjplatt@trafficpd.com](mailto:jjplatt@trafficpd.com)

**Secretary—Cathy G. Farrell, P.E.**

Assistant Department Manager – Transportation  
HNTB CORPORATION  
680 American Avenue, Suite 100  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
(610) 290-5108  
[cgfarrell@hntb.com](mailto:cgfarrell@hntb.com)

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Editor of THE NEWS**

Robert Wright

**Section Outreach Coordinator**

Nha Truong

**Staff Writers**

James Markham Joe Syrnick

**SEND COPY TO:**

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

**COPY DEADLINE FOR**

**MAY 2015 ISSUE**

**APRIL 10, 2015**



## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Kristin Leese, P.E., Forum Editor

Drew Sirianni, P.E., Forum President 2014–15  
Pennoni Associates  
3001 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
(215) 222-3000  
dsirianni@pennoni.com

## ADVANCED DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, INC. FACILITY TOUR

Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. (ADS) hosted the YMF for a tour of their pipe manufacturing and distribution facility in Swedesboro, NJ on March 16. The 70-acre facility was constructed 8 years ago and runs three pipe manufacturing lines for PVC and HDPE pipes, ranging in diameter of 4" to 42". The Swedesboro location holds the company's largest supply yard and was nearing 80% to 90% capacity at the time of the YMF's visit. The yard typically holds between 9 to 12 weeks' worth of supply products. 73% of the pipes manufactured at the facility are comprised mostly of recycled material, and all of all the scrap and extra material produced during the manufacturing process are recycled. The factory also fabricates pipe junctions and fittings. ADS is known in the industry for its iconic green shipping trailers and during the site visit the YMF was able to experience the full manufacturing process, from ground-up recycled HDPE, to completed pipes being placed in the shipping trailers. After the facility tour, ADS

## 2015 SECTION AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED AT SPRING SOCIAL

Our Section Awards will be presented at our **Annual Spring Social and Dinner Dance on May 14** at the **Le Meridien Hotel**. More information and details on the Social will be included in the May edition of *THE NEWS*.

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

- **Jeff Knueppel**, SEPTA — Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year
- **Chris Gray**, TimHaahs — Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer of the Year
- **Amanda Kessler**, Amtrak — Young Government Engineer of the Year
- **Angelo Waters**, Urban Engineers — Environmental/Water Resources Engineer of the Year
- **Don Gusic**, Pennoni Associates — Transportation Engineer of the Year
- **Les Toaso** – Government Service Award
- **Kolleen Backlund**, DiGioia Gray 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 from our summer vacation, 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...!)

invited the YMF members to the Village Pub & Restaurant for an hour long product & information presentation which fulfilled the requirements for one PDH. The tour was attended by nearly twenty individuals including three students from Widener University.

## CANSTRUCTION 2015

The YMF will once again be participating in the annual **CANstruction Philadelphia** competition held this year on **April 17**. The team is currently fundraising to support the purchase of cans for use in the structures. The completed structures will be on display for one week in **The Shops at Liberty Place** from April 18 through 26. Upon De-CANstruction, all the cans of food used for the event will be donated to Philabundance. Donations to the CANstruction team can be made via PayPal at the following website: [www.ymfphilly.org/canstruction.htm](http://www.ymfphilly.org/canstruction.htm).

## SPRING HAPPY HOUR MARCH 4

*2nd Story Brewing Company, Philadelphia*

The YMF hosted its Spring Happy Hour at 2nd Story Brewing Company in Old City on March 4. 2nd Story offered a large variety of its own hand-crafted beer as well as a large selection of delicious appetizers. Despite the "spring showers" that evening, the event was well attended by approximately 50 members and guests.

*Continued on Page 8*

## ASCE CONTINUING EDUCATION

### WIND LOADS FOR BUILDINGS AND OTHER STRUCTURES

ASCE National will be offering this short course as part of its Continuing Education series. It will be conducted on **Thursday, April 23** and **Friday, April 24** at the **Wyndham Philadelphia Historic Hotel**, 400 Arch Street, Center City. The cost is \$1365 for ASCE members, \$1595 for non-members. Successful completion of the course will result in the attendee earning 1.4 CEU's. The course instructor will be **Jon Raggett, PhD, PE**.

This seminar addresses wind effects, provides guidelines for assessing design wind loads for buildings and other structures, and offers a discussion of the advantages of wind tunnel testing. It is based on the ASCE publications Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures (ASCE 7-10) and Significant Changes to the Wind Provisions of ASCE 7-10. While much of the instruction focuses on assessing wind loads, a portion of the seminar is directed to review wind damage experience of the past thirty years and lessons learned from the experience. Discussion in the seminar will focus on the new ASCE 7-10 Standard, a copy of which will be provided to each attendee.

**Who should attend?** The class is intended for Engineers, architects, building officials, and others involved with the design, construction, operation and maintenance of buildings and other structures.

Please visit [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org) for more information and registration details.

## NOTES FROM OUR REGION 2 DIRECTOR CHRIS MENNA

Oh, what a winter we've had. I think that we're almost out of it. It wasn't so much the moisture this time, but rather the bitter cold, ice, and frigid temperatures. Spring is upon us and this is a time to renew, reflect, and move forward.

I am happy to report that our Region 2 Board did an outstanding job this past January in Miami at the Management and Leadership Conference. We all participated throughout the conference, with our greatest success culminating in the Region 2 Breakout. The dome challenge competition was, by far, the highlight, and people are still talking about it. It was nice to see all of the fun, camaraderie, and leadership happening before our eyes during that time. If you have a moment, take the time to see a fun picture of yours truly with our YMF on its website. The picture is from the Miami conference. Since then, we have been busy working on many issues. Some of them include:

**1) Working to fine-tune our finances.** Our Finance Committee will be looking to find ways to get the most out of limited allotment. In order to maintain the same level of service and value to our members, we are looking at cost cutting as well as different venues to bring in more income.

**2) Establishing a new committee** within Region 2, the Committee on Website Development, Student Interaction, and Diversity. New Governor **Christina Casole** will head up this committee, with support from Past Governor **Bob Efimba**, as well as some up and coming volunteers.

**3) Planning our next Assembly**, to be held in the fall at Bucknell University.

**4) Our Pennsylvania Legislative Committee** has **continuously worked to support the ongoing momentum** of the 2014 PA Report Card. In addition, we will support Infrastructure Day in Harrisburg on May 11 (see the separate article on this).

**5) Planning our Regional site visits** for the remainder of this year.

**6) Looking at opportunities to increase** our level of participation on National Committees.

**7) Considering the opportunity to combine** a Region Wide Younger Member Group event with the Assembly.

On my end, I continue to gain experience as National Board Member during my second year of service. I will be presenting the Audit Report to the National Board for the second time at the end of March, and I am pleased to say that all is in order and we are quite healthy as a society.

As I prepare to represent Region 2 at the upcoming OPAL Celebration and the National Board Meeting, I'd like to reiterate our pledge to be the best Regional Board that we can be. Send us your questions and concerns. And, let us know about your geographic entity successes and challenges. We are here to serve you. My Governors and I hope to see you sometime soon.

## MARCH JOINT DINNER MEETING

March 11, 2015

Maggiano's Little Italy, Center City

### Comcast Innovation and Technology Center

by Robert Wright, Editor

Our sixth main Section meeting of the season and the first of "ours" in 2015 put us in Center City on a nice springlike day. With Daylight Saving Time in effect, the added benefit of daylight was a nice touch, allowing us to arrive at the meeting before it got dark. Despite the biggest snowfall of the season occurring only six days before, which was almost entirely gone from the streets, roughly 75 brave souls ventured into a new venue for us, Maggiano's, to hear about what will become the next tallest building downtown. From the reactions received during and after the meeting, it appears many of us are already looking forward to the next meeting at this fine restaurant.

Re-starting what has been a tradition, our friends and colleagues from the South Jersey Branch of ASCE's New Jersey Section joined us as a meeting co-sponsor, and for the first time this was hosted by our Section. President **Joe Platt** got everyone settled to start dinner, requiring a bit of an effort to pry folks from the networking, bar and appetizers, and he called Branch President **Brad Sumerville** to the podium for a few announcements and updates on the Branch's happenings. Next up was Past President **Ruben David**, this time wearing the "hat" of Temple University (where he is an adjunct professor), to bring Temple Student Chapter President **Jacob Nichols** to front and center to present information on the Chapter's activities. Following this, Younger Member Forum President **Drew Sirianni** took the stage to update all on the Forum's items and introduce the evening's speakers with President Platt.

**Tom Friese** of Pennoni Associates began the featured presentation with a background on his role as overall project manager and lead for Pennoni's effort, which includes civil/site Engineering, geotechnical work, transportation design and traffic Engineering. He highlighted the key contributions of two Pennoni Engineers in the audience, Harry Laspee and Mark Celoni, each of whom had knowledge and experience from previous projects in the area and the utility situation that would be encountered that would prove to be valuable as project design commenced. He also showed a video that was a press release for the Center, also known as T3 (the existing Comcast Center is called T1), that was produced by the Foster + Partners architectural firm, with renderings of the skyline with T3 and the building's interior.

T3 is owned by Comcast and Liberty Property Trust. Mr. Friese explained that T3 will be 59 stories (over 1100') in height and will offer 1.5 million square feet of office space. A new underground connection/concourse will be provided from the current end of the basement level of T1 and will continue under 18th Street into the basement of T3. This will extend the public passage west to 19th Street, at the entrance to the relocated Four Seasons Hotel (to move from

its current location two blocks away, at 18th Street and the Ben Franklin Parkway). The Hotel will have 200 rooms on the uppermost floors of T3, with a high-end restaurant on the 59th Floor. NBC 10's studios will relocate from the station's existing building on City Avenue into a new state-of-the-art facility on the lower floors. T3 will have an extended "lantern" structure atop it as its "signature" feature. The office floors will be grouped into 3-story segments, each having an open atrium finish and setbacks.

**Alan Decktor** of Pennoni addressed the challenges faced with T3. One of the early items was the creation of the new concourse extension and connection, which had to stay within existing property lines and avoid adjacent buildings, one of which was a historic church immediately abutting the site, as well as within the rights-of-way of the involved streets. Several test pits were located and dug to precisely define known steam and SEPTA railroad tunnels. Utility coordination was extensive and included monthly meetings and even more test pits to pinpoint utilities, often found in places where they were not supposed to be. A full year of effort was spent on the evaluation of options that ultimately led to the chosen alignment. In addition to the test pits, 3-D scans and ground penetrating radar were used to develop clear pictures of the utility lines' locations and depths. This led to the recommendation to raise the grade of 18th Street by 2' to clear the utility lines and SEPTA tunnels, and allow the connection to "snake" through this myriad of facilities on a skewed alignment.

**Jim Karmolinski**, Project Architect with Kelly/Maiello, addressed the specific design of the tunnel connection. He reiterated the staggering level of complexity needed for such a short tunnel, and noted that this followed the Edmund Bacon planning concept of pedestrian linkages via the Center City concourse first developed during the construction of Penn Center in the 1950's. This was related to the importance of the now-SEPTA Regional Rail system to move people in and out of the office complexes. The previous "violation" of the gentlemen's agreement to have no building taller than William Penn's hat, which resulted in the Liberty Place building in the late 1980's, understood the impact of office buildings on the street level and concourse, which was what would distribute the workers and users between mass transit lines and the buildings. Thus, street-level improvements were imperative. On the T3 site, this would include a redeveloped Cuthbert Walk in the right-of-way of former Cuthbert Street, which would need to be retained and remain open because of key utility lines it contains. He added that the tunnel connection was complicated by its being constrained in all directions, which made the design particularly challenging. Because of its confining feeling, an attempt to daylight at least one part of it has been accomplished.

**Andrew Blasetti**, the Project Structural

Engineer for Thornton Tomasetti, gave an overview of the building structure. The substructure consists of concrete caissons supporting a 10' mat foundation with 600 tons of rebar. The foundation was produced in a single pour over 10 hours on a Saturday. The superstructure measures 1121' 6" to the top of the lantern, which extends 210' above the hotel roof. The building has a high-strength (10 ksi) concrete core with a steel braced frame and typical floor bays of 30'x50'.

The lantern is not merely an architectural feature. Mr. Blasetti explained that it will house the building's cooling tower and ventilation system. Additionally, the rooftop building maintenance units that will be used for top-down service, such as window washing, will be hidden in an enclosure within the lantern when not in use. He added that wind tunnel tests were performed, using a model of Center City, to determine the aerodynamic effect of the building. This was tested at 10-degree angle increments to account for varying wind direction.

Several insightful questions were posed by the audience and ably addressed by the presenters.

President Platt closed out the presentation and thanked everyone for coming, and he presented tokens of the Section's appreciation to each speaker for a job well done.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### PENNONI CITED FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Past National President and Past Section President **Chuck Pennoni** was recognized by the Delaware County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) as the recipient of its 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award. He was cited for his more than 50 years of experience in Civil Engineering, Planning and related disciplines. He has been on the Engineering Advisory Boards of Widener University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Drexel University and served as the Interim President of Drexel, his alma mater, for one year. He is a graduate of Drexel and received an honorary doctorate from the school in 1992. He was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering in 2000.

We congratulate Chuck on yet another honor earned during his distinguished career!

### FARRELL MOVES TO HNTB

Section Secretary **Cathy Farrell** has joined HNTB as an Assistant Department Manager – Transportation at the firm's office in King of Prussia. She was previously a Project Engineer for Michael Baker International at its office in Horsham. Congratulations to Cathy on her new job!

### DENNY UN-RETIREES?

Last month we reported that **Charlie Denny** retired from the City's Department of Streets in November. He has recently returned to work as a Senior Associate with JMT at its office in Center City. Welcome back to the working world, Charlie!



## THE PLATT PRESIDENCY – SMOOTH, QUIET, PRODUCTIVE – OUR “STEALTH” PRESIDENT?

Just like the swallows return to San Juan Capistrano and the buzzards make it back to Hinckley, OH, every spring, the April edition of THE NEWS does something we can't quite explain also. Maybe it's instinct, maybe it's tradition, but each year at this time we offer our summary and “roast” of the standing Section President. We know better than to try and “buck” this tradition, lest our loyal followers (the tens of them) rise up and revolt, so we'll offer what we can to keep the revolting (in more ways than one?) hordes away.

Some of you may ask why we do it, but, as noted, it's not that we want to, it's more that we have to, and we've never bothered to ask any President whether he or she would like to have it or not. When your Editor inherited the captain's chair of THE NEWS, it was one of the “musts” that came with the job. So the effort continues, such that it is, although those of you who may recall when our esteemed previous Editor did these, he tended to use a lot of words that had readers grabbing their dictionaries. Your current Editor tries to avoid that (his style of preference is run-on sentences...), but no promises.

And we offer the caution that this is all in fun, but it is based on the facts as we know them. While we try to be fair and balanced, we also may have heard something whispered down the lane, third- (or more) hand, etc., so we can't verify everything, but we'll leave this up to you, the reader. Part of this has required that we have paid close attention throughout the year since we knew this was coming, but, as you may have noticed, your Editor isn't exactly the best at paying attention, so... Your Editor having been a Section President, albeit way back in the last century, realizes that this position brings with it a certain amount of exposure and “in the spotlight” notice (and being the current President of another organization, your Editor is enduring a bit of déjà vu in this respect...), but there may be a thing or two you don't know about our President that we will attempt to reveal here. So, climb into the “Back to the Future” DeLorean (it is 2015 after all – and just WHERE are those hoverboards??), strap on your seatbelt and let's take a ride.

Joe Platt is a tough study. He does what he does well but he does it in a quiet way and sometimes you hardly know he's there. Kind of a “stealth” President (hence the title above). This “under the radar” operation has worked well for our Section, but it has made it a bit tough to find out information on him to include in this article. (And we wonder if this is intentionally so...). He could almost be in the witness protection program (and we hope he isn't or we're blowing his cover). But, anyway, you may already know that he serves as a Senior Project Manager for Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. (TPD) at the firm's satellite office in West Chester. He has a variety of public and private clients and has worked on various projects involving transportation planning, highway design and traffic signal

design, and he serves as the Township Traffic Engineer for several municipalities. While many of us know that municipal work is often enough to rattle even the calmest of individuals, with its short deadlines, angry residents, often-difficult clients, and other “niceties”, it doesn't seem to have taken any noticeable toll on Joe's demeanor.

As mentioned, we started to collect some information (some might call it “dirt”) on Joe a few years ago. Not finding much, we sent out some feelers to his friends and co-workers asking for similar intel. We went so far as to check Facebook, where there are literally no secrets, but “nada” there. When it started to appear that there was little such information out there, we called off the dogs and started scratching our heads – it looks like we only have the facts. So, we can only work with what we have...

Your Editor, being a seasoned product of the local Catholic school system, can usually tell another “parochial” somewhat quickly – there are some telltale signs such as decent penmanship (which usually degenerates over time – in the case of your Editor, it was at best so-so), knowledge of otherwise-obscure history and geography facts, the ability to write, and punctuality. Some of us continue to wear weird plaids, harkening back to our “school uniform” days. While another sign is putting a cross and “JMJ” at the top of each sheet of paper used for writing, notes, etc., it appears that many of us have found a way to break that habit (and we will probably get some Purgatory time for that...). In any event, Joe has confessed to going to Catholic school through 5th grade, and those being the formative years, the habits have been impressed upon him. He will tell you that he is a strong believer in early arrival at events (15 minutes early is equal to being on time), and that's a good thing when one can actually do it given other things going on in life.

And Joe does have other things going on, with a wife and young daughter at home in Delaware County not far from where he grew up. Even with his family and his busy work life, he has time for other pursuits. You may know he is an avid fisherman and a diver, but you may not know he's also a pilot. This covers a number of transportation modes, by the way, but we don't necessarily think that's his motivation.

As far as his start, he grew up in Chester and Brookhaven, the oldest of three children, and carries on his family tradition of service as an active member of his local volunteer fire company as well as a member of the Knights of Columbus. He stayed local when it came to college – he could've gone anywhere, but he went to Widener, where he graduated in 2001 with his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. He has PE licenses in PA and VA. Interestingly, he is also an IMSA Level II Traffic Signal Field Electrician as well as an IMSA Traffic Signal Inspector, so he can handle the “circuit” of design, inspection and maintenance, not something just anyone can do.

(If this is starting to sound like a resume, well, like we said, we use what we have...) So those of you looking for the “real dirt” might as well skip ahead to the last paragraph.

In our Section, Joe became active in the Younger Member Forum, holding various positions which culminated in his service as Forum President in 2007-08. During this time, he managed to get noticed by those at our Section's “adult table” and was nominated to become Section Treasurer for the 2005-06 season, taking the reins from Dave Hanly. It was all either uphill or downhill from there, depending on your perspective, and he moved to the presidential track, becoming Vice President in 2012-13.

At our 2014 Spring Social at the Hotel Monaco, Joe was sworn in as Section President. After our record cold winter with the late-season snow events (not quite last year's “polar vortex” but still c-o-l-d), it may be difficult to remember that almost-summerlike evening in early May, but that's when it got started. Interestingly, though, the LinkedIn web service, to which many of us subscribe, offered its congratulations to Joe on becoming Section President just a couple of months ago, in mid-February – we're not sure if it just took that long for the news to travel (and if so, we thought the Internet was much more instantaneous...), or if that's when Joe decided to add it to his profile. In any event, either way, on May 14, he's being replaced, so...

Joe's contributions have been valuable and constant. In the view of your Editor, who has held a number of positions in several organizations, the Treasurer's job is generally among the more thankless. Your Editor has served for a very brief period as an Acting Treasurer of an organization, and that was enough, but he has also held this position in his Friday bowling league for the last six years – so he knows how thankless it can be. Joe survived his stint as our “money guy” quite well, and the reward for his service is, not surprisingly, more service, which explains his rise to the presidency. Along the way, however, his diligence and contributions have been recognized, as he has received both our Section's Young Engineer of the Year award in 2008 and the Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year honors the following year. Some very impressive awards...

So, as we see this is turning into a third typewritten page (which is about par for the course on these sendoffs), we realize that we have managed to impart a little “dirt” – maybe not as much as you might have hoped, but, as stated, it was a tough assignment (and we didn't have that much ammunition... maybe there is none?). In any event, we thank Joe for his service to our Section and offer him the usual reward of being honored as a Past President in a month or so and adding him to the “Past-ure” of the 100 Section Presidents before him (yes, 102 seasons, 101 Presidents, if you think we can't count, please check our website's list of Section Presidents). His term as the “thorn” between two roses – his predecessor, **Jenn Walsh**, and his

# N-ASCE\*

## MONOPOLY CELEBRATES ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

If you tried to find someone who hasn't played the game Monopoly at some point in their lives, it might be a difficult task. The game emerged out of the Depression in the early 1930's and by 1933 a somewhat formalized board game had been created, with the Parker Brothers firm first producing and marketing it in 1935. Several people, mostly in the Midwest and near the East Coast, contributed to the game's design and evolution, and this is when it took on the 4x10 space-to-a-side layout and the familiar Community Chest and Chance cards and property "deeds". The original version of the game in this format was based on Atlantic City, known as America's Playground. Those of you familiar with this shore town will recognize the street names as well as the famous (and most expensive property on the board) Boardwalk. By the 1970s, the idea that the game had been created solely by Charles Darrow had become popular folklore: it was printed in the game's instructions and even in the 1974 book *The Monopoly Book: Strategy and Tactics of the World's Most Popular Game* by Maxine Brady.

Many of us had strategies for how we would acquire properties as we rounded the board. The railroads and utilities were usually nice things to have – you couldn't build houses or hotels on them, but the more you owned, the higher the rent got, and there were Community Chest and Chance cards which directed you to each of these (and often had the "lucky" card selector having to pay an even higher rent for the pleasure of the visit). Also, the Short Line is remembered at best as the last railroad one passes going around the Monopoly board before hitting "Go" and going around again (or, for those players not owning and developing the Park Place/Boardwalk "complex", a nice stopping point before hopefully vaulting across them to avoid paying the rent or the Luxury Tax in the space between them).

Interestingly, none of the four railroads on the board (in order, Reading, Pennsylvania, B & O, Short Line) exist as such today. The Pennsylvania Railroad was merged with the New York Central Railroad to become Penn Central in 1968. The Penn Central, Reading and five other small Northeast railroads were mashed together and became the Consolidated Railroad Corp. (also known as Conrail, at first called ConRail) in 1976. Conrail was broken up and piecemealed to Norfolk Southern and CSX in 1998. The B & O (Baltimore & Ohio), arguably America's first railroad, dating to 1829, was gradually folded into CSX with its sister line Chesapeake & Ohio (C & O) in the mid-1980's. The Short Line was an electric trolley line for the most part, running between Atlantic City and Ocean City, which quit in the late 1940's. The Monopoly board hasn't changed to reflect any of this, fortunately.

Technically, only one of these railroads (the Short Line) even operated in Atlantic City after

the game was popularized. The Pennsylvania and Reading each served the town until the mid-1920's, when they combined their competing lines from Philadelphia into the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines, which itself survived as a separate railroad until being folded into ConRail. The B & O came no closer to the city than its line through Philadelphia.

\*N-ASCE – not always something concerning engineering...



## 2015 PA INFRASTRUCTURE DAY - MAY 11

Members of the Pennsylvania ASCE Sections are invited and strongly encouraged to attend the **2015 PA Infrastructure Day on Monday, May 11** in Harrisburg. Infrastructure Day serves as an occasion for Engineers to talk to legislators about the facts regarding Pennsylvania's rapidly aging infrastructure.

This will be a day-long event, starting with orientation and registration and followed by meetings with individual legislators in the Capitol. Lunch will be on your own.

More information about how to sign up as a participant will be coming soon. The deadline for registration will be April 11 to allow time to arrange appointments with the legislators.

We hope you will be able to attend.

### What is Infrastructure Day?

Formerly known as Engineers' Legislative Day, the name Infrastructure Day was changed in 2012 to reflect the unified interest of all participating Engineering organizations and individuals in our Commonwealth's infrastructure, as well as their united concern about the future of that infrastructure.

### What is the goal of Infrastructure Day?

Civil Engineers are stewards of the nation's infrastructure, charged with the design, construction, operation and maintenance of our vital public works. Inherent in that responsibility is the obligation to report on the state of the infrastructure and advise on the steps necessary for its improvement.

Infrastructure Day serves as an occasion for Engineers to talk to legislators about the facts: Pennsylvania's infrastructure is rapidly aging, and many parts are operating far beyond their designed capacity. Investment in infrastructure has declined over the last 40 years nationwide, but Pennsylvania suffers from this decline more than many states because its infrastructure tends to be older.

Maintaining and managing our infrastructure is often viewed as a cost, but it is more accurate to define it as an investment in the future of the state. Infrastructure investment is a powerful job creator, and it is essential to Pennsylvania's

economic health and to the well-being of Pennsylvania residents.

### Why is infrastructure important?

Infrastructure has a direct impact on our personal and economic health, and the infrastructure crisis is endangering Pennsylvania's future prosperity. For the safety and security of our families, we can no longer afford to ignore aging water and waste water systems, antiquated dams and inadequate stormwater facilities. As a society, we must become better stewards of the environment through the use of sustainable infrastructure practices. The quality of life for this and future generations depends on our willingness to rise to these challenges.

*I have never participated in this event before and am concerned about what to do and say. Will there be guidance?*

Yes, white paper briefings will be provided in advance of the event for your review and familiarization. Then on the morning of the event the event organizers will provide a briefing where the key points will be presented and you can ask questions. Also, the schedulers will do their best to team you with an experienced team leader.

*My time is limited – do I have to participate all day?*

No, the sign up form will ask for your specific availability and you can choose to participate in just the morning or just the afternoon sessions or both. Please note that the schedule will be dependent on the individual legislators so your local legislator's availability may not coincide with yours.

## ...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.

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Information on the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's Technical Groups is given below. 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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## PLATT PRESIDENCY

*Continued from Page 5*

successor, **AnnMarie Vigilante** – was a great one, and, as usual, the proverbial bar has been set high for AnnMarie. We're sure she'll do well and we look forward to next year this time, when tradition will once again dictate that we do this for her, giving us 11 months or so until then to do some digging.

## YMF

*Continued from Page 2*

### WEST PHILADELPHIA SOUP SQUAD

On March 9, ten YMF members prepared "creamy carrot and ginger" soup for elderly and immobile West Philadelphia citizens in conjunction with the West Philadelphia Soup Squad, organized by Klein JCC. Three Klein JCC employees guided the YMF members through the process as they peeled, chopped, and cooked the soup; labeled individual containers; and packaged the soup for delivery the following day. The YMF donated several of the ingredients for soup, which yielded approximately 80 servings. While the soup was cooking, the volunteers had the opportunity to get to know each other a little better by playing a few quick games.

### ASCE YMF MOCK INTERVIEW PROGRAM

The YMF completed the pilot run of its Mock Interview Program this past February. This training program was meant to give college students the opportunity to have their resumes critiqued, sit through a mock interview and receive feedback on the interview. A committee of four YMF members was created and received training on how to conduct a proper interview. This information was then used to work out the

logistics of the program. Students were invited to submit a resume to the YMF which was the first step of the program. Once submitted, the resumes were divided up and distributed to the committee members for review and comments. A total of nine students submitted resumes and were interviewed between three different sessions. The duration of each interview ranged from 30 to 60 minutes. Valuable feedback was collected from both the students and the interviewers. The YMF is very excited to implement a few changes and continue this program in the future. A special "Thank You" to all of the volunteers, and to Pennoni Associates and Urban Engineers for hosting the interview sessions.

## APRIL DINNER MEETING

*Continued from Page 1*

having an immigrant father from Austria in the same time frame.

**The 11th Street Bridge** – Successful Re-sequencing During Construction (sponsored by the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI))

**SPEAKERS:** **Shane R. Beabes, PE**, District Chief Engineer – Bridges, AECOM; **Raghu Krishnaswamy, PE**, Deputy Structures Department Manager, AECOM, and **William F. Alko, PE**, Technical Leader, AECOM

The 11th Street Bridge was part of an overall design-build-to-budget project let by the District of Columbia Department of Transportation. The project, awarded based on a \$260 million best-value procurement, included the construction of three main river bridges over the Anacostia River, as well as extensive ramp reconfigurations on both sides of the river to reconnect the Anacostia and Southeast Freeways. As a major project partner, AECOM contributed to roadway,

bridge and pedestrian facilities design, drainage design, traffic analysis, and signage and signal design. The bridge is a 916' five-span continuous, seven-girder, steel bridge with a steel framing plan consisting of curved, tangent, horizontally kinked and splayed I-girders with K-type cross frames. The bridge was analyzed using a two-dimensional (2-D) grid model for the originally proposed full-deck width construction. However, after the structural steel was fabricated and substantially erected, the sequence of construction was changed to three stages.

The revised sequence included a five-girder system with deck, a two-girder system with deck, and a longitudinal deck closure pour. The re-sequencing of the bridge construction required a re-analysis to check strength and serviceability requirements for the redistribution of loads in the structural steel. Critical to the success was accommodating the revised deflections and relative fit-up of the girders and deck in the closure bay.

### Resolution of Engineering Ethics Issues

**SPEAKERS:** **Anthony Potter** and **Michael Zettlemoyer**, Powell Trachtman Logan Carrle & Lombardo P.C.

The presenters will provide an overview of Engineering ethics guidelines, resolution methods for issues that may arise, and pertinent case studies and examples.

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



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