

VOLUNTEER AT THE PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE CARNIVAL

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia will be sponsoring a booth at the **Philadelphia Science Carnival** again this year! The Carnival is a highly visible outdoor event that provides opportunity for exchange between children, teens, families and local Scientists/Engineers! This all-day affair will take place on **Saturday, May 2**. The goal is to provide family-oriented science entertainment with a hands-on activity or an interactive demonstration to get kids excited about all types of Engineering! This is a great outreach opportunity to interact with kids and teens of all ages.

The Engineers' Club is looking for volunteers and activities. If you are interested in participating or have any questions feel free to contact **Emily Scholl** at eascholl@mccormicktaylor.com.

SPRING SOCIAL & DINNER DANCE

Our 2015 Spring Social will be held at the **LeMeridien Hotel**, 1421 Arch Street, Center City (across Arch Street from the Municipal Services Building).

COST: \$80 (\$50 for government agency employees), which includes two drink tickets and wine service during dinner.

Reservations will be open through **Friday, May 8** and can be made through our website.

There is a choice of dinner entrée to be selected when you register –

- New York Strip Steak/Pommes Puree with Bordelaise Sauce
- Mustard Crusted Salmon with Puy Lentils and Champagne Beurre Blanc
- Chef's Selection of Vegetarian Entrée

Tables of 10 can be reserved.

Parking is available at several garages in the area of the Hotel, and the Hotel offers valet parking at its door for \$18.

Thursday May 14, 2015



ASCE's 2015 Spring Social

Celebrate our ASCE Section with Drinks, Dinner and the 2015 Awards Ceremony!

*6 PM Reception
7 PM Dinner*

Reservations & add'l Event & Parking Info at:

www.asce-philly.org





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, has time flown by this year! It seems like just yesterday I was writing about how successful our PA Report Card press event was and using this message to outline all the great things the Section had planned for the year.

Working alongside a great group of volunteers that comprise the ASCE Philadelphia Section Officers and Board of Directors this past year has been a very rewarding experience for me. Through their dedication and hard work, it made my job pretty easy (this is probably what led our Editor to thinking I was being "stealth"). I would like to thank each and every person on the Board, those involved with the Section's technical groups and the YMF for all the work that you did and all the great things we were able to accomplish. I thought I had a good feel for what the Section does, but this past year opened my eyes to so much more.

Later this month, I will be given a new role as Past President. While I anticipate that role to be a little less taxing on my e-mail account, I'm not ready to fade away quite yet. There are still a couple things that we have been working on this past year and I will continue to work with the upcoming Officers and Directors to see those projects come to fruition.

Finally, I would like to wish our incoming President, **AnnMarie Vigilante**, the best of luck next year. She'll have a great group to work with and hope her time as President is as rewarding as mine.

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 for more information on available courses.

MEET OUR NEW WEBMASTER (A LITTLE BELATEDLY...)

Joe Natale has taken on the role of our Section's webmaster, following the relocation of **Jeremy Chrzan**, who had been serving as our web "guru", last fall. Joe took over this spot in February and has been handling all things web for us since then.

Joe is a Structural Engineer at Parsons Brinckerhoff. After working for five years at the Delaware Department of Transportation and earning his PE in Delaware, he is currently a member of our YMF Board and is an active member of our Section. For PB, his focus is on bridge design and transportation projects. He is also an avid technology enthusiast and photographer, and is happy to serve our Section as the new webmaster. Thanks, Joe!

**Character is like a tree and
reputation like a shadow.
The shadow is what we think of it;
the tree is the real thing.**

— Abraham Lincoln

ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2014-15 SEASON

PRESIDENT

Joseph Platt, Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

PRESIDENT ELECT

AnnMarie L. Vigilante, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services

VICE PRESIDENT

Guy DiMartino, Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

SECRETARY

Cathy G. Farrell, HNTB

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Angelo Waters, Urban Engineers, Inc.

TREASURER

Marc B. Preim, STV

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Jennifer Reigle, Pennoni Associates, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Kazi Hassan, Pennoni Associates, Inc.

DIRECTORS

Andrew Bechtel, College of New Jersey ('13-'15)

Spencer Finch, Langan Engineering & Environmental Sciences ('14-'16)

Don Gusic, Pennoni Associates Inc. ('14-'16)

Troy Illig, PB ('14-'16)

Ara Mouradian, Gannett Fleming ('13-'15)

Keith Yamatani, DiGioia, Gray & Associates ('13-'15)

PAST PRESIDENTS*

Jennifer K. Walsh, McMahan Associates Inc.

Jeremy D. Colello, HNTB Corporation

Ann M. Tomalavage, Malarkey Consulting, Inc.

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—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
jplatt@trafficpd.com

Secretary—Cathy G. Farrell, P.E.

Assistant Department Manager – Transportation
HNTB Inc.
680 American Avenue, Suite 100
King of Prussia, PA 19406
(610) 290-5108
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

SUMMER 2015 ISSUE

JUNE 26, 2015

SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION – 2015–16 SEASON

At our upcoming **Spring Social** on **May 14** (see the separate article on this for more information), our Section's officers and Board members for the coming season will be officially installed. This slate was recommended by our Nominating Committee and adopted by our Board. They are as follows:

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

President Elect: **Guy DiMartino**, Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

Vice President: **Cathy G. Farrell**, HNTB, Inc.

Secretary: **Angelo Waters**, Urban Engineers, Inc.*

Treasurer: **Marc B. Preim**, STV

Membership Secretary: **Nha Truong**, City of Philadelphia Water Department

Directors:

Andrew Bechtel, College of New Jersey

Briana Earle, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services

Spencer Finch, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services**

Don Gusic, Pennoni Associates Inc.**

Kazi Hassan, Pennoni Associates, Inc.

Troy Illig, PB**

Past Presidents:

Joseph Platt, Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

Jennifer K. Walsh, McMahon Associates Inc.***

Jeremy D. Colello, Pennoni Associates, Inc.***

*Serving the remaining one-year term of Cathy Farrell

**These positions have one year remaining to serve in their current terms.

***In accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws, only the immediate Past President will serve on the Board, and only for a one-year term. We show the most recent three Past Presidents as has become our tradition.

We will also be welcoming back **Jennifer Reigle**, Pennoni Associates, Inc., as Assistant Treasurer, a non-voting position.

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

ASCE NATIONAL CONVENTION – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

What is being billed as the “new flagship” ASCE National Convention will take place from **October 11-14** in New York City's Times Square. A topical cross-disciplinary program is being scheduled through which you will be able to earn as many as 24 PDH's through enlightening sessions and technical tours to sites around the Big Apple. Look for more information coming your way this summer.

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

COLLEGE STUDENT SCAVENGER HUNT

The YMF will be hosting a scavenger hunt for local college students on **Saturday, May 2**. This event will not only allow the students to wander the city in search of certain buildings and landmarks, but will give them the opportunity to network with other students and young Engineers from a variety of local universities. The event will begin at noon at the west entrance to City Hall. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing including good walking shoes! Please contact event coordinators **Adrienne Donaghue** (donaghueag@cdmsmith.com) or **Paige Glassman** (PGlassman@Pennoni.com) with questions or to RSVP.

CRITICAL ISSUES SEMINAR

This year's **Critical Issues Seminar** will focus on the topic of **P3 Projects**. The annual panelist-led discussion will be held on **Wednesday, May 6** at **Ladder 15** in Center City Philadelphia. Come support the panelists and learn about the latest innovative project delivery process, enabling private funding to support public projects. The panel of speakers will include **Dale Witmer**, AICP (PennDOT), **Frederick M. Brehm, Esq.** (Powell, Trachtman, Logan, Carrle, & Lombardo, PC) and **Jeffrey D. Given, PE** (Loftus Construction, Inc.). Happy Hour will begin at 5:00 PM and the discussion will follow from 6:00–7:30 PM. Please RSVP by **May 4** via the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/2015CIS>. Attendance to the event is free, and all eligible attendees will earn 1 PDH!

MANAYUNK BRIDGE AND IVY RIDGE TRAIL CONSTRUCTION TOUR

Led by the City of Philadelphia Department of Streets, in coordination with AP Construction, a tour of the **Manayunk Bridge and Ivy Ridge Trail** project has been arranged by the YMF. Described as the “crown jewel” of the Delaware Valley trail network, this reuse of the iconic Manayunk railroad concrete arch bridge will serve as a landmark trail connection between the Philadelphia neighborhood of Manayunk and Lower Merion Township across the Schuylkill River. The tour will be held on **Tuesday, May 19** at 5:00 PM with a Happy Hour to follow. Please RSVP by **Monday, May 18** via the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/ManayunkBridgeTour>. Tour participants should meet at the parking lot at the corner of Dupont and High Streets in Manayunk and wear proper protective gear including hardhat, vest and construction grade work boots.

ANNUAL PHILLIES TAILGATE AND GAME

Take me out to the ballgame! Attendees at this year's **Phillies Tailgate and Game** will get to see

the Phightin' Phils take on National League East Division rivals, the Atlanta Braves. This year's event will be held on **July 30**, and will be \$24 per person which includes tailgate food and snacks, and a ticket to the game. Stay tuned for additional game-day information and a link to RSVP.

GETT EXPO

The 15th annual **Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology** event was held on **Saturday, March 21** at Great Valley High School. YMF volunteers **Niki Eno**, **Briana Earle**, **Paige Glassman**, **Eloise Gibby**, and **Amanda Kessler** represented the Civil Engineering profession during the two hour Expo session. Over 60 girls from grades 5 through 12 participated in the Paper Tower Challenge. Working as individuals or teams, the girls were given a piece of paper, 1 foot of masking tape and a paper clip. They then had to construct a tower that would stand on its own for 5 seconds without being attached to the table or floor. In addition to the activity, the YMF representatives chatted with the young, eager audience about the field of Civil Engineering. This event was a huge success and we look forward to participating again next year.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ON THE YMF BOARD?

The YMF will be hosting our annual **Election Happy Hour** in May. If you are interested in joining our Board, please review the list of appointed YMF Board positions on our website (ymfphilly.org) and e-mail President **Drew Sirianni** (DSirianni@Pennoni.com) with the position(s) that may interest you. The 2015-16 Board Members will be announced at the annual Happy Hour. Additional event details will follow.

SECTION SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

We are happy to report that Section Scholarships were awarded to three deserving students. After the Scholarship Committee reviewed the seven good applications submitted and weighed all factors, the selected recipients of Student Scholarships were **Cameron Connors** of Widener University and **Danielle Schroeder** of Drexel University. **Megan Earley** of Penn State University was selected to receive the Section Member Scholarship. Each of these awards is worth \$1000. All recipients were invited to be honored at our April Section Meeting but only Cameron was able to attend and be recognized. Incidentally, Cameron is a “returning” honoree, having won a Student Scholarship last year as well.

Thanks to the Scholarship Committee for handling this always difficult task, made so by the caliber of the submissions. The Committee is chaired by **Andrew Bechtel**, with assistance from **Don Gusic**, **Kazi Hassan** and **Bob Wright**.

The Delaware Valley Engineers Week/ASCE Undergraduate Scholarship was awarded to **Samantha Schneider** of Drexel University, at the Engineers Week Awards Luncheon on February 20. The amount of this award is \$2000.

Congratulations to all of our Section Scholarship recipients!

APRIL DINNER MEETING

April 9, 2015

Villanova Conference Center, Radnor, PA

Breakout Sessions

by Robert Wright, Editor

For our April Section meeting, we returned to the “country” with a trip to the Villanova Conference Center where, as we have been doing for the past five years, we hoped to enjoy a nice dinner on a nice spring evening. We got one of those, as the weather did not cooperate and was more like early March with a slight chill and dampness. That was not enough to deter roughly 90 attendees from coming out for networking in the great space of the Center’s Mansion, an enjoyable buffet dinner, and the choice of three topics that were offered:

REMEMBERING KARL TERZAGHI: “THE FATHER OF GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING”

(sponsored by the Delaware Valley Geotechnical Institute (DVGI)), presented by Past Section President Robert Koerner, Ph.D., PE, Professor Emeritus, Drexel University; Director Emeritus, Geosynthetic Institute

THE 11TH STREET BRIDGE, WASHINGTON, DC – SUCCESSFUL RE-SEQUENCING DURING CONSTRUCTION

(sponsored by the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI)), presented by the AECOM team of Shane R. Beabes, PE, District Chief Engineer, Bridges, Raghu Krishnaswamy, PE, Deputy Structures Department Manager, and William F. Alko, PE, Technical Leader

RESOLUTION OF ENGINEERING ETHICS ISSUES

presented by Anthony Potter, Esq. and Michael J. Zettlemoyer, Esq., both of Powell Trachtman Logan Carrle & Lombardo P.C.



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 27** to allow time to arrange appointments with the legislators.

We hope you will be able to attend.

Please check our website for more information and the registration form.

Section President **Joe Platt** managed to corral everyone from the Mansion side of the Center to the dining room, welcomed them, and opened the meeting, unfortunately without benefit of a microphone given some technical difficulties. He offered a few announcements and then dispatched all to the dinner buffet. As dinner would down, President Platt returned to the podium and brought up Section Director/Scholarship Chair **Andrew Bechtel**, who cited the Section’s scholarship recipients for this season (please see the separate article on this).

Younger Member Forum President **Drew Sirianni** was welcomed to update all on the Forum’s busy schedule of events for the coming weeks.

Next up was Membership Secretary **Kazi Hassan** to welcome and honor the newest of our Section’s inductees into the esteemed Life Member classification (please the separate article on this). Those in attendance were presented with their Life Member certificates.

Another custom of sorts at our April meeting is Past President Night. Past Presidents were invited to attend as guests of our Section and 11 of them were able to attend and receive a complimentary meal in appreciation of their service. President Platt called them to the front to be cited. (Please see the separate article on this.)

President Platt then closed the business part of the meeting, his last as President, by thanking everyone for their assistance in the operation of our Section and giving him the opportunity to serve and lead our Section. With that, he closed the main portion of the meeting and dispersed attendees to the three breakout sessions.

2015 PA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM –REMINDER/CALL FOR PRESENTERS

The 9th Stormwater Management symposium is being conducted by the Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership (VUSP). The Symposium is scheduled for **October 14-15**. The purpose of the Symposium is to advance the knowledge and understanding of sustainable stormwater management for those dealing in all aspects of planning, design, construction, maintenance and operations, and regulatory compliance. A workshop for non-Engineers will be held preceding the Symposium.

The Symposium organizing committee is seeking presenters for the sessions. Interested authors are encouraged to submit a brief abstract of not more than 200 words by May 30. Electronic submittal is required. Symposium registration fees are reduced for the authors. Symposium details will soon be up on our website www.villanova.edu/vusp.

For information on joining the VUSP contact **Dr. Robert Traver** through the VUSP webpage, www.villanova.edu/vusp.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

ACE MENTOR PROGRAM NAMES BROWN TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Eastern Pennsylvania Affiliate chapter of the national ACE Mentor Program has named former ACE student participant and current mentor team leader **Kevin Brown, Jr.**, to its board of directors. Brown is a construction manager with Urban Engineers.

“Kevin embodies the mission of ACE and the power of the program to shape lives and careers,” said ACE Eastern Pennsylvania Affiliate Director Tiffany Millner. “His roles with ACE as a student and a mentor add an exciting and unique perspective to our board.”

Kevin represents the full circle of ACE mentoring and career development. He attended George Washington Carver High School for Engineering and Science, where he was a student participant in the ACE Mentor Program. His experience prompted him to become the first in his family to attend college. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Civil Engineering from Widener University. We congratulate Kevin on this appointment.

GRAY NAMED ASSOCIATE

TimHaahs recently named **Chris Gray** as an Associate of the firm. Chris will continue in his current role as Director of Operations, leading the firm’s production staff. He has been with TimHaahs for 10 years, developing from a quality Project Engineer to an invaluable Project Manager with a thorough understanding of all aspects of parking structure restoration, design and construction. Congratulations, Chris!

NEWLY-INSTALLED LIFE MEMBERS HONORED IN APRIL

Life Membership in ASCE is a major milestone in a member’s tenure. To achieve Life Membership, one must:

- have reached the age of 65,
- have paid dues for a minimum of 30 years, and
- have had 10 years continuous membership immediately preceding the attainment of Life Membership

Life Members are exempt from dues and need only pay a small service fee to receive ASCE News and Civil Engineering magazine.

For our “Class of 2015”, we are proud to have welcomed a total of 12 newly-minted Life Members to our ranks:

Martin Ballod; Angelo Capuzzi; Nicholas Cirilli; Danold Erb; David Friedman; Joseph Hackenbrecht; Richard Haneiko; John Interrante; David Sands; Richard Schmehl; Lawrence Tenny; Kenneth Yerger

We were pleased to be able to have **Messrs. Capuzzi, Haneiko, Sands and Schmehl** in attendance at our April Section meeting as our guests for their citation and congratulations.



Science Fairs chief judge **Chris Rood** presents the Grades 6-8 First Place award to **Maya Parekh**.

CONSTRUCTION TECHNICAL GROUP LUNCHEON TOUR THURSDAY, MAY 14

SUBJECT: Tour of Dilworth Park

SPEAKERS: **Andrew Scott, PE**, Senior Vice-President, Urban Engineers, Inc.; **Introduction by Steve Bussey**, Vice President of Parks and Streetscape Operations, Center City District

TIME: 12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM

LOCATION: Dilworth Park – West of City Hall

COST: No cost

Dilworth Park, on the west side of City Hall, is the city's lively new centerpiece, with a lawn, tree groves, Garces cafe, and fountain, which converts to an ice skating rink in winter. It is designed as a high-quality gateway to public transit and as a civic place with programmed activities for the public. This tour will focus on some of the challenges that were addressed during the construction of the plaza. We will discuss construction of the fountain, the structural glass pavilions, underground utilities, and structural changes to SEPTA's Market Frankford Line.

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.

Please note that this tour is limited to 20 people and is currently closed to reservations. However, wait-list spots will still be accepted on a first come-first served basis.

For reservations, please contact **Dennis MacBride** at dmacbride@septa.org no later than May 7.

Notice that the stiffest tree is most easily cracked, while the bamboo or willow survives by bending with the wind.

– Bruce Lee

DELAWARE VALLEY SCIENCE FAIRS — WE WENT, WE REVIEWED, WE JUDGED, WE SELECTED...

In many ways a harbinger of spring, the Delaware Valley Science Fairs happens annually to showcase the “best and brightest” from several local science project competitions. While April Fool's Day, its schedule for this year, was not a particularly springlike day at the start, our Section's judging contingent made the trip to the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, as we have done for the past 22 years (!), to review the efforts of local students who have gotten this far. We are hopeful that we are able to recognize and encourage some future Engineers who we believe are deserving of special recognition. Our team of intrepid, esteemed and (or?) knowledgeable judges spent the day at the Fairs and reviewed most of the over 1000 individual student efforts to find those with some Engineering potential.

Even though the projects are classified into various science disciplines, including Engineering, our judges often find that they must review many projects in other areas such as physics, earth sciences, environmental sciences, and mathematics that may touch on Engineering (or sometimes are merely misplaced). The quality of many of the entries makes the decision even that much more difficult as well.

After a lot of reviewing (involving a good deal of walking around the expanse of the Expo Center), our judges managed to sort through a number of well-prepared projects and come up with two winners in each of the categories of Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12.

The winning students and their projects were:

GRADES 6-8 FIRST PLACE

MAYA PAREKH

7th Grade

Springhouse Middle School, Allentown

“Build Bridges and Blow Them Away!”

GRADES 6-8 SECOND PLACE

MEGAN CHEN

6th Grade

Newark Charter School, Newark, DE

“Eggitecture”

GRADES 9-12 FIRST PLACE

JESSICA OLSEN

10th Grade

Marine Academy of Technology/
Environmental Science, Manahawkin, NJ

“The Effects of Varying Ratios of Portland Cement, Sand and Gravel on the Strength of Concrete”

(if this sounds familiar, Jessica won Second Place in this category last year, with her similar project, “What are the Effects of Acid Rain on Concrete With Varying Ratios of Portland Cement, Sand and Gravel?”)

GRADES 9-12 SECOND PLACE

NICOLE WARGO

11th Grade

Springside Chestnut Hill Academy, Philadelphia
“Filtration System Using Natural Materials to Purify Water for Developing Countries”

Past Section President and “chief judge” **Chris Rood**, our long-time coordinator of the Section's

efforts and judging for the Fairs, attended the award ceremony on April 2 and presented commemorative plaques and checks to the winning students (\$100 for each First Place and \$75 for each Second Place winner). The First Place winners were invited to attend the Spring Social, as we usually do, and we hope they will be able to attend so the rest of us can see the engineers of the future and allow them to display their winning efforts.

Last year, we noted the specific absence of a truss bridge among the winning efforts. It is usually a popular topic in the competition. We are proud to say it has returned, in our First Place Grades 6-8 project (which is not necessarily related to destruction of bridges, but you'll need to attend our Spring Social to find out more!).

You may also be detecting a trend, as all of our winners this year are female, but we'll leave any further deduction to you, the reader.

Thanks to the students and to those who participated in this event, including Section Judges **Chris Rood**, **Ruben David** and **Bob Wright**, with assistance from **Chris Menna**.

More information on the Fairs can be found at www.drexel.edu/dvsf.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING INSTITUTE (SEI) JOINT MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 21

SUBJECT: Ethical Foundations for Engineering and Construction

SPEAKER: **Ted Smulski**, DEDC Consulting Engineers

TIME: 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM

LOCATION: DoubleTree Hilton Hotel Philadelphia-Valley Forge, 301 W. DeKalb Pike, King of Prussia

COST: ASCE/SEI and ACI members: \$50 in advance, \$55 after the deadline and at the door; Others: \$60 in advance, \$65 after the deadline and at the door

RSVP: Due by 5:00 PM Monday, May 18 – please visit www.epdaci.org for registration and payment options

The SEI Technical Group will conduct this joint meeting with the Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware Chapter of the American Concrete Institute (ACI). It will provide an overview of professional development hour (PDH) regulations, Codes of Ethics, public perceptions and ethical theories, and will help participants to develop an ethical framework for making decisions and build character for consistent ethical behavior.

PDH certificates will be distributed at the end of the presentation.

For more info, please contact **Debra Smulski** at debsmulski@aol.com or (302) 765-3732.

N-ASCE*

WHY COMMUTER TRAINS AREN'T GETTING ANY LESS CROWDED

If you ride a train to work or even occasionally for whatever purpose, like many of us, you're finding there's less space on the trains these days. Locally, ridership on trains on SEPTA and New York's three commuter rail operators continues to grow and has exceeded or approached record levels over the past several years. Those growing numbers cause crowding at rush hour, and beyond. But the railroads say stubborn physical and political constraints will probably prevent them from adding seats or service any time soon.

As the economy recovers and bridge and tunnel tolls keep rising, riders are flocking to transit, even despite the decreases recently experienced in gasoline prices.

In New York, the Long Island Railroad has capacity issues and can't simply add more trains because of limited track space. It has nine branches that converge on a three-track bottleneck beneath the East River that it shares with freight and Amtrak trains. Most of those trips end at Penn Station, where track space is at a premium. Trains can't be any longer since they already "max out" at 12 cars and many outlying platforms can only accommodate 8 cars, which adds minutes at each stop and clogs the schedule, which means fewer trains.

The morning rush runs more trains in a shorter span of time than the evening rush. To add more service in the morning, there needs to be more space in the rail yards for trains to turn around and line up one after the other, ready to go. But the existing yards are overtaxed and the railroad has tried to buy land for rail yards near Huntington and in Suffolk County, where local homeowners and elected officials have stopped them.

New York's Metro North Railroad has six fewer branch lines and more rail yard space than the Long Island Railroad, but it, too, has short platforms and is bursting with passengers, especially on the New Haven Line. Metro-North would like to add double-decker trains, which carry more people and are used by commuter lines around the country, including the LIRR and New Jersey Transit. But clearances on the approach to Grand Central Terminal, which is a four-track tunnel beneath Park Avenue built in the 1870s, restricts car height to 14 feet 11 inches.

New Jersey Transit, the connector between that state and New York Penn Station, has dozens of double-decker trains that fit through tunnels under the Hudson River. The problem is the number of tunnels – two – which carry all of the Amtrak and commuter train traffic between Manhattan and points west. Peak period track slots into and out of New York City are all filled, and no additional trains can be added into the city during peak hours. If something goes wrong then trains become quickly backed up.

The obvious solution is to double capacity by building another tunnel. That's what the Access to the Region's Core (ARC) tunnel was designed to do before New Jersey Governor Chris Christie killed it in 2010. Amtrak is working on a substitute called the Gateway Tunnel, but that's a decade or more away. That leaves commuter rail riders to pack into trains not designed for standees, the way subway cars are. And while most subway rides last 15 to 25 minutes, commuter train rides can be more than two hours one way. NJ Transit is trying to alleviate crowding by buying more double-decker trains and beefing up the light rail system that siphons off riders to the PATH train. This reinforces and supports NJT's effort to spread the ridership on different modes.

Closer to home, SEPTA has an advantage of four good through tracks serving its busy Center City stations. However, trains from 13 separate branches must share those four tracks, and schedules are already very tight in peak hours, so the addition of any trains is difficult. Additionally, the constraints that SEPTA faces include the vehicle fleet and parking availability at outlying stations. The fleet is old (two-thirds of the electric cars have reached age 40) and already at maximum use in the peak hours. Parking lots generally fill early each day and expansion has been thwarted because of concerns about additional traffic in station areas.

SEPTA is investigating the purchase of bi-level cars which would expand capacity on some runs, but the procurement process is often lengthy, thus the cars would likely not be on the property for another 5 years, and new electric locomotives must be purchased to pull these cars and replace the elderly and unreliable electric locos currently in use.

And that would seem to be the message, for now, from the railroads to their combined annual ridership of 245 million: If you don't like standing on a jammed commuter train, try other ways of getting to work while we figure out how to add capacity.

Thanks to the *American Public Transportation Association* for this information.

OR, IF YOU DECIDE TO DRIVE AND AVOID THOSE CROWDED TRAINS...

What not to do when trying to talk your way out of a traffic ticket

Thoughts go through our minds when we see the flashing lights of a police car in our rear view mirrors. What did I do (so I know where to start my excuse list)? How much will the ticket cost? How much will my insurance go up? And where is my registration and insurance card?

In 2013 Insurance.com published a list of the most common excuses that drivers use. Nearly half of the drivers surveyed used one of these – I didn't see the speed limit sign, I'm lost and unfamiliar with the roads, I didn't know I was speeding. Of course, these being the most common, the police have heard them as well. Thus, if you want to get out of that ticket, you

need to be more creative, coming up with something the officer hasn't already heard too many times, something heartfelt and sincere, and something that doesn't insult the officer's intelligence. And it's something that you need to come up with usually in a hurry given the immediacy and urgency of the encounter.

So don't use these.

A 67-year-old man was pulled over in Alberta for doing 180 kph in a 100 zone. His excuse was that he was trying to dry off his freshly washed car. The judge agreed to help him keep his car clean by suspending his license for 45 days and fining him \$800.

A 40-year-old man in England was clocked at 103 mph, more than 40 over the limit. When pulled over, the man explained that he didn't realize he was going so fast because his dyslexia makes it difficult for him to read the speedometer. He was banned from driving for three years.

In Des Moines a 36-year-old woman faked her own death to avoid payment of \$500 in outstanding traffic tickets. She forged a letter from her mother advising the local courts that she died in a traffic accident and included a phony obituary made to look like it was right out of the local newspaper with the letter. She almost got away with it, but a month after her alleged death she was stopped again for a traffic violation. She is facing a 5-year prison term.

A police officer offered what he thought was the most original excuse he had heard. He related that he stopped a man for speeding and asked the man why he was in such a hurry. The man replied that he couldn't see the speedometer, even though it was clearly visible to the officer from outside the car. The man sheepishly added that he obviously had his head so far in an unprintable orifice that he couldn't possibly know how fast he was going. The man got off with a warning and a chuckle from the officer.

Thanks to *Roads & Bridges* for this information.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES TECHNICAL GROUP PLANNING

The Environmental and Water Resources Group will be having a Steering Committee meeting on **May 11** in Blue Bell to plan its program for the coming season. If you have any topic or speaker suggestions or would like to join the Committee, please contact **Eric Lindhult** at (732) 570-8086 or elindhult@whitmanco.com.

PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF

- Strategic Consulting
- Program Management
- Planning
- Construction Management
- Design
- Operations & Maintenance

For career opportunities and/or information, please visit pbworld.com



TECHNICAL GROUPS/CHAIRS

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.

CONSTRUCTION

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

DELAWARE VALLEY GEO-INSTITUTE (DVGI)

Robert M. Sabanas
GAI Consultants, Inc.
1055 Westlakes Drive, Suite 200
Berwyn, PA 19312
610-640-7456
r.sabanas@gaiconsultants.com

ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

Ehsan Minaie
Intelligent Infrastructure Systems
One Drexel Plaza
3001 Market Street, Suite 200
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-254-7740
eminaie@iisengineering.com

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES

Eric Lindhult
Whitman
7 Pleasant Hill Road
Cranbury, NJ 08512
732-390-5858
elindhult@whitmanco.com

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING INSTITUTE (SEI)

Fred Baumert
Keast & Hood Co.
400 Market Street, Suite 1250
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215-625-0099
fbaumert@keasthood.com

TRANSPORTATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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

Pennoni
PENNONI ASSOCIATES INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
www.pennoni.com

Milliken
Milliken Infrastructure Solutions, LLC

master locators
Underground Utility
Locating Experts
Phone: 800.495.4248
www.masterlocators.com

kmi
consulting, inc.
KMI Consulting, Inc.
120 E Lancaster Avenue, Suite 105
Ardmore, PA 19003
610.896.1996 | www.kmijnc.com

DIGIOIA GRAY
& ASSOCIATES
Consulting Engineers and Scientists
www.digioiagray.com
Great Career Opportunities!
Pittsburgh, PA (headquarters) Pottstown, PA Tempe, AZ Roanoke, VA Charlotte, NC

Our Services:
Transportation
Traffic and Planning
Construction Management
Facilities
Water/Wastewater
Environmental & Natural Resources
JMT
JOHNSON, MIERMAN & THOMPSON
Engineering A Brighter Future®
jmt.com
Philadelphia, PA
Allentown, PA
Trenton, NJ
Newark, DE
Offices strategically located throughout the United States

Integrated Engineering and
Environmental Solutions
LANGAN
ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

JBC
ASSOCIATES, INC.
JBC ASSOCIATES, INC.
Construction Management
120 S. Warner Road, Suite 100
King of Prussia, PA 19406
610.992.9090
Fax 610.992.9099
www.jbcassociates.com
"Success is in the details. We handle them for you."

URBAN
ENGINEERS
Formulating Excellence
Founded 1960 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified | Employee-Owned
www.urbanengineers.com
Additional Offices: 530 Walnut Street
PA, DE, MD, NJ, NY, CT, *TX Philadelphia, PA 19106
*Non ISO Registered V: 215.922.8080

STV 100 Years
1818 Market Street, Suite 1410
Philadelphia, PA 19103-3616
T: (215) 832-3500
www.stvinc.com

DREXEL UNIVERSITY
Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering
Part-Time and Full-Time Graduate Study
(funding available for full-time study)
Structural Engineering Sustainable Engineering
Geotechnical/Geosynthetics Engineering Hydraulics, Hydrology &
Architectural Engineering Water Resources
Environmental Engineering Air Quality
Dr. Charles Haas Dr. Mira Olson
Head, Civil, Architectural & Graduate Advisor
Environmental Engineering (215) 895-2987
haascn@drexel.edu mira.s.olson@drexel.edu

UNDERGROUND SERVICES, INC.
Richard A. Horenberger, P.E.
President
SoftDig
Subsurface Utility Engineers
610-738-8762
800-545-1531
DIRECT LINE: 610-617-6267
CELL: 610-761-1303
EMAIL: rhorenberger@softdig.com
24 Hagerty Blvd., Unit 11
West Chester, PA 19382
Offices in PA, NJ, NY, MD and TX

Proud to Support
ASCE Philadelphia
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
• Structural Engineering & Inspection
• Civil/Highway/Utility Engineering & Inspection
• Traffic/ITS/Electrical Engineering
• Survey & ROW
• Construction Services
• MEP
Naik
GROUP
1818 Market Street, Suite 3110 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
☎ 215.861.9314 📠 215.568.1349 🌐 www.naikgroup.com

Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL
Innovation Done Right...We Make a Difference
Philadelphia Office
1818 Market Street, Suite 3110
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Horsham Office
201 Gibraltar Road, Suite 120
Horsham, PA 19044
MBAKERINTL.COM

We are currently seeking professionals in various disciplines and locations. Visit us at www.TrafficPD.com to check out our openings.
Services:
• Transportation Planning
• Highway, Streetscape and Trail Design
• Bridge Design and Inspection
• Traffic Signal System Design
• Environmental Services and Permitting
• Construction Management and Inspection
T&D
TRAFFIC PLANNING AND DESIGN, INC.
www.TrafficPD.com | 610.326.3100

VUSP
VILLANOVA URBAN STORMWATER PARTNERSHIP
www.villanova.edu/VUSP

OVER AND OUT...

As we conclude another successful season and our Section's extended summer vacation is in sight, the publication of *THE NEWS* is completed. (While we like to think of this as a somewhat sad occasion, we realize there will probably be some dancing in the streets...) As has become our custom, the busy and dedicated staff of *THE NEWS* will put our pens, blue pencils and keyboards down, with the promise that we will be extracted from the garden briefly to grind out a short summer edition toward the end of June. We know that some of you (OK, probably most of you) will wonder why we need a break and from what, but this is what we do, and it works, so we'll keep doing it. Thus, this is our last full edition of *THE NEWS* until we start up again in the fall.

We hope our legions of fans will be able to bear with (or without?) us until then. If not, and you find yourself in need of a *NEWS* "fix", you can always catch up the issues you missed in the archives on our website.

We wish you a good summer and we'll be here to welcome you back in September.

THANKS AGAIN TO OUR SPONSORS !

As you have seen, the Section Sponsorship Program was once again popular this season, with 17 firms taking part and supporting us. 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, where a direct link is provided to each sponsor's website to allow folks to easily visit and review potential employment openings and positions. In addition, their business cards are published in each edition

PAST PRESIDENTS HONORED IN APRIL

It has become another in a series of Section traditions to honor our Past Section Presidents at our April meeting. Each April, we invite them to come out, be recognized, and enjoy a dinner courtesy of the Section (not necessarily in that order of priorities!) to cite their contributions to the Section. We are always happy to see them, and many of them are in attendance at Section meetings when their busy schedules permit.

This year, we were pleased to see 11 of them taking the time to be at the April meeting:

Robert Koerner, 1975-76
 William Malarkey, 1983-84
 J. Richard Weggel, 1989-90
 Klaus Fuelleborn, 1992-93
 Robert Wright, 1993-94
 William Thomsen, 1994-95
 Faruq Siddiqui, 1999-2000
 Thomas Branigan, 2000-01
 Chris Rood, 2001-02
 Ruben David, 2002-03
 James Markham, 2007-08

Thanks to **Kazi Hassan** for contacting the Past Presidents and getting them to come out.

of *THE NEWS* to show their commitment and support.

Of course, the key to success is repetition (or something like that), so we'll be contacting current sponsors later this summer to see if they'll go again in the coming season. We hope the program will be as successful then as well.

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

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**.

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 additionally will be citing three Section members who have received National and Regional ASCE honors at this time — **Anthony Bartolomeo**, winner of the 2014 President's Medal; **Robert Traver**, recipient of the William H. Wisely American Civil Engineering Award, and **Ann Tomalavage**, recognized for her chair of the 2014 PA Report Card effort.

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...!)



PHILADELPHIA SECTION
 AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

215 S. 16th Street, Suite 16, Philadelphia, PA 19102
 Telephone/Reservations: (215) 985-5703
 Web site: <http://www.asce-philly.org>
 National ASCE Central Number Toll Free 1-800-548-ASCE